

## Easter 2001

Dear

What's the difference between contentment and satisfaction?

Hi! It's Easter season again, and I'm taking the opportunity to stay in touch. Here are some highlights of my year:

***Climbing four Colorado Fourteeners with my brother-in-law Dale.*** We hiked Mt. Harvard for our first Fourteener of the year. Then in August, along with six others from Dale's work, we scaled Sunlight, Windam, and Eolus, three of the most isolated Fourteeners. We rode the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge coal train to reach Needleton, then climbed into the Chicago basin. This was our base for hiking Sunlight and Windam one day, and Mount Eolus and its shoulder, North Eolus, the next day. The beauty of that area cannot be adequately described or photographed – but only experienced.

Speaking of mountains, the Great Smoky Mountains' fall colors dazzled me in October when I ***accompanied Dad and Mom as a driver on their trip to Lake Junaluska in North Carolina*** for their college reunion. I got to see most of my relatives on Dad's side during that trip. In fact, I've been able to see the Charlotte Keepers (my cousin and his kids and their families) each of the last three years, thanks to two weddings and this trip!

I spent most of 2000 without a roommate – except for six weeks last fall when I really ***enjoyed having a full house, as my friends Danny and Sheri, with their two girls Faith and Joy, stayed with me*** in my condo while their new house was completed. It sure seemed a quiet and dull place to come home to after their sounds and company during those weeks! That experience factored into another living change that I'll mention later...

I made four business trips between November and February, two out of four for training. This is a part of the changes for me at work (still Flextronics– no name change to report this year!) as I begin to learn about and gain experience in another part of the IC (chip) development process. Happily, two trips included ***visiting friends while traveling***. During my Nov/Dec trip, high school classmate Brent Hanson met me for dinner in Sunnyvale. He and his wife Rosemarie soon head back to Kenya?, where Brent encourages and trains church members to reach out to those with AIDS. My next visit happened quickly and out of the blue. Seven days after I first heard we had bought a company in San Diego, I was in San Diego helping the new group on a project. Despite the last minute nature of the trip, I got to visit Shanna Wenger, a friend from Loveland. She had just come through an accident that totaled her car. Thankfully she came out not too badly, with a burn on one hand and the other hand's wrist strained. How timely that I could drive her to church in my rental car! I even got to meet the family she lives with, Kevin and Brooke, and their son Coby, but was not able to meet her boyfriend Eugene, currently living in Palm Springs.

**Weddings and births yearly remind us to celebrate life.** My newest nephew, Joel, arrived on January 15<sup>th</sup> to Dale and Sarah. I recently spoke with Dale and was happy to hear that Marcy, their two-year-old, gets along well with her brother. Jeannette, whom I visited on my south-to-east road trip last year, married Bobby Russ on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and everything worked out for me to fly there (Nashville) in the middle of one of my training trips.

Ah yes, **the living change!** I almost forgot. But how can I? I'm writing this from my new home (note the new address), only a block from my former condo, but quite distant from it in other ways. Because I so enjoyed having the Armendariz family live with me, I mentioned to my close friend Mickey the idea of sharing a duplex. (Actually, I got that idea from Mickey's Father-in-law.) If I started to tell how it all happened, it would take me pages and pages. For, as any of you that have heard the details know, God worked out an incredible number of particulars to get us from there to here – here, where my roommate Mark has just walked out the door to get a video at the ten-seconds-away Blockbuster.

I met **Mark Kubichek** in the College and Career Sunday School class at my church. (I started attending Faith Evangelical Church in October, to be around my sisters and nieces, Jenny, Emily, Sammie, Rachel and Jamie.) The timing worked out just right so that Mark moved into the new house rather than moving into my condo and then moving again. Mark is the choir director (that's *five* choirs!) at Thompson Valley High School, which is just a couple blocks away. I envy his commute! It has been a blessing to have him as a roommate and friend. We put on a housewarming party in March, and Mark did a lot of cooking and baking for it. We had more people here than may ever be in the house all at once again!

And what of **contentment versus satisfaction?** A recent popular song captures the tension between the two:

*One more day  
One more time  
One more sunset maybe I'd be satisfied  
But then again  
I know what it would do  
Leave me wishing still for one more day...<sup>1</sup>*

It seems to me that I can do one of two things with this tension: seek to diminish and ultimately have no desires, as in nirvana, or to seek and ultimately find an infinite fulfiller of all my desires, as Jesus claimed to be. I want the beach<sup>2</sup>. What about you?

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<sup>1</sup>**One More Day** by Steven Dale Jones/Bobby Tomberlin

<sup>2</sup>See C.S. Lewis quote in my Easter 2000 letter.