

# Christmas letter 2003!

December 22, 2003

Dear friends,

When I look back on the year, which just passed by, there are two things that stand out more than anything – our vacations and the birth of Alexander.



In January / February we went on a 2 week holiday to Sharm El Sheikh on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. It was fun to see and feel the sun again in Egypt compared to the cold weather in Sweden. No clouds, some wind, and the warm wonderful Red Sea to swim and to dive in. When I was in Sharm last time, in 1994, there were around 15 hotels and 5 diving centers with only around 30 boats. Now, some 9 years later, there are over 300

hotels and around 40 dive centers with over 300 diving boats. The town has grown, but not for the better. But one thing is the same, the wonderful corals under the water with all the fish. I simply love diving in Ras Mohammed or at the Strait of Tirana. Both places are counted to be one of the ten top places to dive at in the world. My diving center was [Colona](#). If you want to dive, this is the place to visit. Of course Christoffer collected some small shells at the beach which he brought with him home. If you ask him, this was the best holiday we ever have had, since his two cousins, Isabella and Fredrik, with my brother-in-law, were with us. It was a shock to come back to Arlanda airport outside Stockholm again. It was -19 and we had just left +30 C in Egypt.

In Egypt, Edith went to visit The Monastery of St. Catharine, which is one of the places the United Nations would like to conserve for the future. I was there in 1994. It is also the place where the legend tells us that Moses received the Ten Commandments on top of mount Sinai and they also have the "burning bush." When you climb to the top, you have to go up for some stairs. I counted to over 2.600 of them – around 9 km to the top – and then see the sun rise. The Monastery has got some old Bible manuscripts that the Greek Orthodox church refuses the rest of the world to read / study them. The monks have an interesting way to bury their deceased. After three years they separate the skull from the rest of the body and then the tourists can see all the bones in different rooms.

Of course I had a long holiday during the summer. The first two weeks of my vacation, Christoffer and I went to visit my mother in [Osby](#). It was fun! We helped her with all kind of things, including building some "bird-houses" to put in the trees. Of course we had to paint them in various colors so that the birds could find which their house is. We went to Denmark for a day and Christoffer even managed to get his 67-year-old grandmother swimming in a lake one day.



The next three weeks I spend with Edith relatives from Romania visiting us here in Sweden. The first half we were in [Uppsala](#) / [Stockholm](#) seeing the sights - the castle, the parliament, the old town, visiting [Skansen](#) (an out door museum in Stockholm) and all the sights here in Uppsala including the cathedral and the castle. The second half we went down to [Växjö](#) visiting some other relatives together with going to Öland (an island west of the main land) and we got some days again together with my mother in Skåne.

Before the summer ended we went on a trip to Romania visiting some relatives. It is fun to be there, but hard to get there. The trip takes between 15-19 h depending on the various connections. The flight to Budapest in Hungary is not hard, but the train or the

car ride to Cluj-Napoca in Romania takes time. One year we took the airplane from Budapest to Cluj, but then we had to wait around 8 hours at the airport – not fun at all. The relatives are doing fine since the parents have a farm where they produce all kind of food - vegetables and meat. (Christoffer's favorite activity this summer was to run around on the farm trying to catch the chickens to put them into their cage.... He was soooo happy when he got one and he went around petting them even if he did not like how they smelled!)



On October 25, 2003, the second main event of the year took place. It was the day when Christoffer got a little brother and Edith and I a new son. It is so fascinating to see a baby being born, especially if it is your own. It is so wonderful to see and to hear the first breath of a little baby. The family of three has now become a family of four. Through the autumn there has been a discussion in our family of what name we should give the newborn baby. For a long time he did not have a name, but finally even Christoffer agreed that he could be called Alexander. All of us are doing fine, even if the mother in the family would like to have some more sleep... (The father simply sleeps, no matter what...)

This year I have started with a new hobby – genealogical research. I don't know why I started it or what my goal is, but I guess it was just for fun. Through the help of the Internet and talking to people it is possible to reach quite far back in history. On my mother's fathers side I have reached as far back as 1420 and on my mothers mother's side, I have reached as far back as 1795. I have discovered some interesting things about my far distance relatives, but that is totally different story. On my father's side, on the other hand, it is more difficult since he was adopted. We have started on making a family tree with Edith's relatives also, but we have to ask her parents for more details next summer when we are in Romania.

Edith is still working at [Uppsala University Hospital](#) as a nurse on the dialysis ward, but she is on maternity leave at the moment. I am also still working as a probation officer for [Kriminalvårdsverket](#). This year I have, besides writing personal case study for the courts and handling clients, been involved with a lot of cognitive behavioral programs at the jail here in Uppsala and at various prisons.

It has been a fascinating year, which soon ends. I thank God for looking after us and protecting us so far, and pray that He will watch over us during the year, which lay in front of us. If you are nearby Uppsala, please stop by to visit us. Always good to hear from and to see old friends!

[/Peter.](#)

Ps. Pictures of the kids and our trips can be found at our [homepage](#)!

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