

Family News 2008

It was late June and the house was again invaded by our family from Frankfurt, Coralie, Jens and Julian (11), Finola (9) Eliana (7) Jowan (4) and Judson (nearly 1). The trampoline was in full use and we celebrated as Jowan had his 4th Birthday. We were able to join the family for a few days in St Ives, Cornwall and grab some wonderful sunny moments on the beach, between the showers.

As July began, Charles' mother was called to her heavenly home, she was 98 and ready to go. Ben returned from Chad for the funeral, cousins arrived from Switzerland and Charles' sister Carolyn was with us, as she had come quickly from New Zealand when she realised that Mum was rapidly failing in health.



Summer is always a time when friends seem to come from around the world. We had two lots of friends from Australia including Harry & Doreen Westcott and their family. Joyce writes, "I calculated that I had 30 different people staying in the house, some overnight, but most for 3 or 4 days at a time. I changed many beds and cooked lots of meals – it was fun and I was given supernatural strength and peace."



In September we visited Bulgaria and enjoyed every minute of our time spent with Craig, Milena, Gillian (17) and Tegan (12) – we entered into their



life and had fun. We ministered in various gypsy churches, took the girls shopping and sampled Milena's delicious cooking. Charles cheered on the Jutvari football team as they both won and lost, and even watched a Motor Racing event.



At the end of November we spent a week in Frankfurt with the family – we were there particularly to see Finola dance in a wonderful ballet presentation of a Han Christian Anderson fairy tale – it was brilliant.

The year always ends with the White birthdays – Reuben was 8 in October and Iain's birthday in November. Jo has her birthday just before Christmas – and as we began this letter with a new baby, so we end with another, as earlier in the year Jo announced that she was expecting a baby. Jo has been very well during her pregnancy and we continue to believe God will give her all she needs in terms of health and strength as she adjusts to this new member of the family who is due to arrive at the end of January.

And so to Boxing Day, when Iain and Daniel ran in the 4 mile Clevedon Boxing Day Run and came through together in 28 minutes 18 seconds. We then returned to the White's for Molly's 11th Birthday, had brunch and cake and watched Molly have fun with her new iPod.

Our life is never dull – rather fun and full. We praise God for his goodness, protection and care with so many comings and goings.



Stop Press: Sunday 18th January at 8.06am, Jo gave birth to a son, **Theo Jack**, weighing in at 5lbs 15oz (2.693kg) – mother and baby are well. We praise God for the safe delivery of our sixteenth grandchild.