



Dear friends, we are heading to the end of another great year, and also the end of our first decade in the USA! This year Pierre-Henri turned 21, we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary, and altogether have a lot to be thankful for. In June we celebrated the wedding of our niece Tania in South Africa, and spent a delightful week in the Cape, entertained by relatives and friends, and Niels also introducing Maxine to the joys of our SA family, Karoo, Koue Bokkeveld and of course precious Stellenbosch! We are extremely grateful for our Du Toit family whose hearts and homes embraced us for unforgettable times. Also Jan Coetzee, who rescued Lydia and Pierre-Henri after hair-raising flight changes, to spend a delightful night at his home. Sharing days with Oupa Nellis and Ouma Gerda, and childhood friends the boys haven't seen for almost a decade, was indeed very precious. In May we took up our voting rights as 'SA citizens living abroad', and took part in the SA elections in Los Angeles - joined by Matie friend Wesley Loftie-Eaton, and also making use of the opportunity to visit Dieter at UCSD. August brought the annual Microscopy Conference, this year in Hartford CT, and end of summer brought the delightful visit of Helen Taylor, our Stellenbosch friend now studying at Oxford. Timing was perfect to attend the performance of Liz Prior with the New Century Chamber Orchestra. I was further delighted to join Bel Canto Choir for 3 performances, and again sing with Amelia, my music teacher and friend since childhood. What a joy, also to spend time with my parents at home in George and a week at Vleesbaai... unforgettable times. Pierre started working for Ascentis in June, and the boys are now all full-time students with little time to pursue other major interests. I took up Shaolin KungFu and Niels spent many hours flying quadcopters as part of his PhD research on autonomous cinematography (also biking to Burning Man with his drone). We spent a weekend camping at Shelter Cove and hope to dust off skis and snowboards soon. Hiking in the nearby hills remain a favorite pastime. We are indeed mostly quite focused on work, research and studying, and if we have been quiet through the year, we surely think fondly of all our dear friends throughout... and everywhere...



May the new year bring you much joy, prosperity and peace, and may you share a wonderful holiday with family and friends!

Much love ~ Pierre, Lydia, Niels, Dieter and Pierre-Henri.