

The Monk Chronicles

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This year, we bid a fond farewell to Andy as he left to serve his two-year mission in the Czech Republic. He entered the Missionary Training Center on October 14 and flew to Prague on December 14. His first area is the city of Olomouc in eastern Czech Republic.

You may remember that Andy toured Europe with the Norwalk Youth Symphony in the summer of 2008. They visited four cities: Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Salzburg. Andy liked Prague the most and was astounded when he received his assignment. While he was preparing and waiting for his mission call, Andy didn't express any preference about where he'd like to go, but later he confided that if he had allowed himself to hope for a particular place, Prague would have been it.

Shortly after receiving his mission call, Andy contacted his mission president and received permission to take a violin with him. He won't be playing it much, but he will be able to play it in the right circumstances. We're sure that Andy will be able to touch many with his talents.



If you're interested, you can read news from Andy at www.elderandrewmonk.blogspot.com, where his weekly emails will be posted. His contact information is posted there as well.



The rest of us are doing fine. We have survived 2009 and are looking forward to 2010. Ricky is a senior and will graduate next June. He applied to BYU and is anxiously waiting for his acceptance letter. Michelle is a sophomore and I think she is secretly looking forward to being an only child once Ricky leaves for college. Suzie is in her junior year at BYU and although her major in Civil Engineering is a five-year program, she is planning to complete it in four years. Those of you who know Suzie will recognize that some things never change.

Suzie, Ricky and Michelle are all still involved in music. Suzie (viola) is getting a music performance minor at BYU and Ricky (cello) was recently accepted into the 2010 "All-Regional" orchestra and is busy preparing for his All-State audition. Michelle (violin) is taking lessons from the same violin teacher that Andy studied with and is working diligently with the goal of surpassing him before he returns from his mission.

We wish you the very best of the holiday season and look forward to hearing from all of you.

Love, Richard, Ann, and children