

Giezendanner Ohio News



We wish everyone all the best in 2010 – be healthy, happy and at peace always

Another year and another sweet addition to the Giezi family. 2009 has surely been another eventful year. So much has happened – Nadiah was born, Sarah is going through the TERRIFIC-two and started school, Obama is president, swine flu emerges, H1N1 vaccination dilemma ...

One of the things that remained constant in our lives is our continued contact with our family and friends – be it through phone calls, skype video, postcards and letters. Thanks to everyone for taking the time and effort to be a part of our lives despite the distance and obstacles. We appreciate your love and friendship very much.

Here's wishing everyone:

Prosit Neu Jahr! Selamat Tahun Baru! Happy New Year!

The Giezi Family

Sarah grew from becoming the baby of the family to a big sister when Nadiah was born. Nora was

all psyched up about having the baby earlier (not on due date) and for labour to be shorter (like within 5-6 hours). Boy, was she misled... after 13 hours of contraction, all natural (yep no epidural) birthing method, we welcomed Nadiah on May 21 at 7lb, 11oz and 21in.

Sarah has been a terrific big sister so far. She is always there for Nadiah and never fails to entertain, give hugs and kisses whenever she can. People warned us about possible jealousy but till now, we are truly blessed that both sisters are in love with each other.

Sarah now goes to a toddler programme twice a week (since she was 19 months). She loves school a lot and is always enthusiastic about the activities they have – she is always on her feet dancing and clapping during music, so eager to start on art projects, enjoys story time and always volunteer to help clean up. She has truly blossomed since attending school.

Life with two kids has proven to be

2009 in a Flash

- We welcomed Nadiah in May and... we are now the Magnificent 4
- US swore in its first African American President – Omama (as Sarah calls him)
- Sarah attends toddler programme
- Discover Swiss roots in Berne and Vevay...INDIANA (of all places)
- Take cover! H1N1 is here...

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

~ Desmond Tutu



Sisters and friends forever...

challenging for us, especially being away from family, but we have learnt to be a stronger family unit as we draw strength from each other. As Stefan always say, "Two kids are double the joy, triple the diapers and half the sleep." And when night falls and the kids are asleep, we look back on our day and are always grateful for the gifts we have in our lives. We cannot imagine our lives without them in it.

Givaudan

Givaudan is feeling headwind as well and sales results were down due to the destocking of clients during this economic downturn. During such challenging times, Finance is busier than usual: special reports, support of Group initiatives to control costs, inventory and Receivables. We had a very small reduction in force, which is never easy to implement, and was in my view a clean up from the integration of Quest.

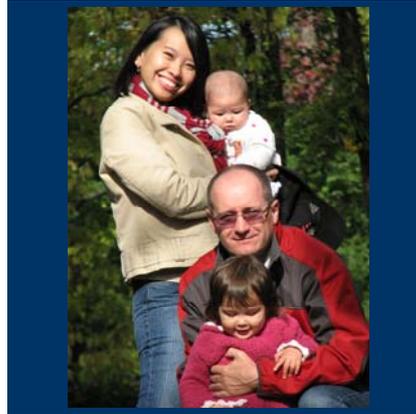
In addition we started our SAP implementation that is interesting but requires lots of work and oversight. It is not about changing systems, this is a true business transformation project. And systems delivered will never look as great as presented on a slideshow.

Stefan has a great team and we were able to cope with all the projects and extra work. We learned for sure a lot during this time and hopefully the bottom is reached and we shall emerge stronger.

Life in the USA

Our life in the US continues to be one of great fun and adventure. Cincinnati is truly a fantastic place to raise children. There are a lot of things to do and places to go with the kids if you want to. Each season brings new activities. Toys and books are so readily available and affordable, compared to say Switzerland. We must say that it is just so easy to spoil kids with all the material possessions if we lose track of

what is truly important for them – our constant love and attention. The economy remains volatile but there are a few positive indicators that it is slowly picking up. For example, due to the \$8K tax credit for new homes, we



have now seen 7 lots being sold in our neighborhood. Yay! New neighbors moving in soon. The "cash for klunkers" scheme which involved the government giving car buyers up to \$4.5K for them to trade in their low mileage or fuel guzzler car for a more fuel efficient ones saw car sales hitting the roof within weeks.

We witnessed as well that the public sector was hit hard due

to the declining tax income. As such, towns and counties have to reduce service and manpower to avoid raising taxes.

Travel

We didn't do much traveling this year since getting back from Singapore in January. We were pretty much homebound awaiting the arrival of our second baby in May. With Nadiah being so young, we were busy setting a routine for her and Sarah. However, we managed to have a couple of long weekend getaways exploring our neighbor state – Indiana. Of all places, we discovered a rich Swiss heritage in Vevay and Berne. Stefan was all excited throughout the whole trip. He stopped short of wearing a Swiss T-shirt and a hat to announce to everyone that he is truly a Swiss.

We will be traveling quite a bit in the last month of the year – first stop to Switzerland for St Nicholas season and Christmas and then to Singapore for the New Year. We are really excited about spending time with our families and anxious about traveling with our daughters. Wish us LUCK!



Keep in touch!

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