

Alida Anderson & Colin Lowe  
December, 2009

*All the wonder of the ages came to earth in that one night  
All the mercy of the Father came to earth in that one life  
All the power, all the glory, all the beauty, all the light  
Came to earth in one amazing gift one amazing night!*

And with the words of that song, we celebrate the gift of this amazing child—this amazing King—this amazing life that He was, that He is, and that He gives!

We find ourselves in the middle of one amazing year that's still impossible to sum up; a year of incredible change and exciting new beginnings. In this year—from summer 2009 to summer 2010—our story will include new jobs, new degrees, new houses, new names, and new relationships, and we're so excited to be in the middle of it now, watching some pieces laid out behind us and others stretch out ahead. Of course, that's not to say that the first six months of 2009 were boring—Colin arranged a full score for Foothills Alliance's Easter show in addition to his full-time and part-time jobs; Alida finished the second year of her MFA; we traveled back and forth between Calgary and L.A. several times; and we were generally both so busy that we barely had time to sleep—but this year's adventures really kicked into high gear in June.

Colin was unexpectedly laid off after six years at WhiteIron Digital, and within three days, was hired fulltime at DelTech Productions, a smaller video production company that he had worked for as a freelance camera operator for a number of years. The move to DelTech wasn't a difficult decision to make—Vic Delamont, the owner, is not only a good employer, former pastor and university teacher, and fellow musician and arranger who happens to hold multiple degrees, but also a good friend. The transition has meant increased responsibilities and a wider variety of duties. The adventure of working with a smaller company and having a greater hand in client development and company growth is proving to be an exciting challenge and utilization of Colin's skills.

Alida will finish her MFA in Producing at CalArts on December 18, and has had a busy, productive year, working in the Public Affairs office and continuing as Resident Producer of one of CalArts' spaces, as well as producing several shows and taking a full course load. This last semester has been a little lighter, class-wise, but that has been more than compensated for by working on her final project, a written exploration of the faith-based theatre community in North America. By the end of the semester, that project will be the first draft of a book, and then we'll see where it goes from there! She spent the summer in Calgary, working for Calgary Arts Development, an advocacy and support organization that acts as a liaison between the arts community and the municipal government. It was a great learning experience and provided her with many significant contacts and relationships that will be greatly appreciated as she reestablishes herself in Calgary's professional arts scene following graduation.

We enjoyed four months in the same city this summer, and had the opportunity to spend some vacation time with both our families. In July, we once again participated in the 60 km Weekend to End Breast Cancer—this time with Alida's sister, Esther; her mom, Sharon; and Colin's mom, Nancy—and our team raised over \$12,000 for breast cancer research. We spent a few days in Drumheller with Colin's parents, during the weekends of the Canadian Badlands Passion Play, which Colin sang in (although after being on staff as the production manager last year, Alida decided to take this year off). He was also contracted to do a recording of the choir and orchestra for 2010 promotional materials, which added an extra measure of involvement in the project. In August, we drove to Colorado, along with Alida's parents, her brother Carl, and Esther and her husband Justin, for a cousin's wedding, many of us still with pink hair from the breast cancer walk. Colin got to meet the Erickson side of the family (Alida's mom's side), and Alida saw aunts, uncles, and cousins she hadn't had seen since high school.

The last three months of the year have been busy, but have gone quickly, as we've been counting down to the end of the long-distance part of our relationship. While this has been the longest stretch we've gone without seeing each other, it's also the last one, and that has made it go by much faster. We're looking forward to being finished with this phase of our relationship when Alida moves back to Calgary after finishing this semester. We're planning to be in Calgary for the next few years, but our entire relationship has been an example of God's plans trumping ours, so we may very well be as surprised as anyone by what happens next.

We're also looking forward to being at one church, rather than three. In the spring, Colin stepped back into his role as the director of Foothills Lutheran's choir for one more season, and Alida has been involved at Emmanuel Church in Burbank, but we've chosen Foothills Alliance as our home church, and after Christmas, our commitments at the other two churches will be fulfilled. Starting in January, Alida will be on staff part-time at Foothills Alliance as the Theatre Coordinator, and we'll both be able to focus our ministry there. Colin has already been involved there for the past several years, in addition to his ministry at Foothills Lutheran—this year, he composed and arranged an original score for full orchestra in this year's Christmas production and arranged original music, written by the worship arts pastor, for a double string quartet for the Easter show—and he's looking forward to getting involved in the worship ministry in a more regular way than just the holiday productions.

Oh yes; we're also looking forward to planning a wedding this year! Unofficially, we're planning for a summer 2010 wedding, and we've already begun to craft a unique day that reflects our artistic personalities, as well as our love for God and each other. Stay tuned for more information—including an engagement announcement, because that's still the next step, before the rest of the planning gets underway!



This is a year of "Wow!", and it's exciting to be in the middle of it, seeing God's faithfulness and provision through these good times, as well as the hard times. As in any season of change—even the good changes—there is uncertainty, trepidation, adjustments, and a sense that so much of life is out of our hands and out of our control, but we know in Whose hands it is secure, and we rest in that knowledge as we plan for, dream about, and ultimately wait and see what comes next.

We're both back in Calgary this year, and we'll have new phone numbers within weeks of sending this letter out, so we'll send out an update as soon as possible. In the meantime, please feel free to email us at [colinglowe@gmail.com](mailto:colinglowe@gmail.com) or [alida@alidaanderson.net](mailto:alida@alidaanderson.net), or send us mail at Colin's parents' house (the easiest place for us both to get mail these days):

Merry Christmas!