

# Heiss Holiday Humberg

Next year's Christmas poem is almost guaranteed to be more tame—we won't be adding to our family or taking many big trips. It just worked out that this year was action-packed so this poem makes us seem like we're regular globe-trotters. Rest assured, however, that there were many boring days and weeks at home. I blogged about them on Heissatopia, so there's evidence if you want to go read it...but a poem is so much more fun, so enjoy! Click the links to find out more.

Two thousand and nine was quite busy, but  
summer found me in a pregnancy rut—  
Too hot to stay in and too hot to go out  
(But that's what life in Egypt is kind of about).

To start the year off, Uncle Dave got a visa;  
We took him to Luxor, Saqqara, and Giza.  
After he left we tripped off to Morocco,  
Swinging by Spain to pick up a taco.

We galloped on horseback, at night, through the desert—  
One slip proved Andrew no equestrian expert;  
His horse took a spill and sent Andrew flying.  
He vowed that, with horses, he was done trying.  
But just one month later he went out again  
While Rach and I serviced the leprosarium.

We two left for Greece, leaving Andrew at home  
To study and work and read tome after tome.  
He worked hard and got A's in each of his courses  
(Making up for the mishap he had with the horses).

And then we moved on into summer vacation.  
Ain Sokhna became our most prized destination;  
We went several times, even taking our Naanii—  
We snorkeled (she gave us kid-free opportunity).

On our way up to Alex we got stuck on our path.  
A train wrecked at our platform—we saw the aftermath.

And then Uncle Patrick came out for a while,  
We traveled through Israel in poor-student style.

Earlier this summer Rachel turned two!  
She's learning numbers and letters and beasts at the zoo.

Our family's grown bigger; we now total four—  
In October we welcomed sweet Miriam al-Noor.  
Relief Society brought us eight meals (aren't they awesome?)  
And Grandma's still here to nurse us postpartum.

Uncle Jacob and Grandpa flew out mid-December  
To travel 'round Egypt, meet our new family member.

We have six meager months left in this Egyptian nation  
So we've begun sending grad school applications  
To Arizona, California, New York and Quebec.  
We're crossing our fingers. Where will we be next?  
Two-thousand and ten's an uncharted frontier.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

Love from,  
**Andrew, Nancy,  
Rachel & Miriam**

