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Dearest friends and family,

As we enter this Advent season, our thoughts turn to the birth of our Savior and Lord, and we are also reminded of all the dear people that have been a blessing in our lives. We trust that each of you is doing well. For us, the past year has been one of challenges and blessings, a year that has drawn us closer to the Lord and renewed our thankfulness that He is on His throne and sovereign over all.

Phyllis has been doing better of late. We thank each of you that has kept Phyllis in your prayers throughout the year. Phyllis remains an avid reader, plowing through several books each week. She does a lot of adult coloring with pencils and markers, producing some gorgeous works. She enjoys doing really challenging jigsaw puzzles, and she always enjoys keeping up with friends and family on Facebook.

Daughter Amanda and her husband Jordon have enjoyed their first full year in their new home, which is in a subdivision a couple of miles north of us. Amanda and Jordon are active in the Edge Church, serving on the security team. Jordon continues to work with his dad building custom homes, and Amanda with her dad as chief engineer of Crawford Broadcasting's four Denver radio stations. Both Amanda and Jordon are licensed Amateur (HAM) Radio operators, and they have a nice HF (shortwave) and VHF/UHF station set up at their house from which they can communicate with hams all over the world as well as with local ham radio friends. They enjoy shooting. Guns and radios are always great gift ideas for them! And I'd better not forget their two cats, Scooby and Penny, who rule the roost at their house.

Son Gary continues to live and work in the Ft. Worth area. We don't hear from him a lot but we pray for him daily. Our granddaughter Sara just turned 18 (!!). She will graduate this spring. Grandson Sean is now 16 and driving (!!). Sean lives in Lewisville, Texas. He was able to come spend a week with us over the summer, and we enjoyed having him up to our mountain cabin for some "extreme" ATVing and other fun activities.

Cris is in his 33rd year with Crawford Broadcasting Company and still loving it. He looks forward to going to work every day and is grateful to have Kingdom work to do there. In 2016, he put eleven new FM signals on the air. It was one of the most challenging times for him at work, but what a blessing! Cris continues to enjoy amateur radio, visiting over the airwaves with friends near and far. In the summer, he loves to fly fish and ATV. In the winter, he snowmobiles and occasionally gets up on skis.

We stay very much amused by our "fur baby," Spice, who is a one-eyed gray tabby that we have shared our lives with for four years now. She is leash trained, travels with us, and "owns" our mountain cabin. She has a serious toy mouse addiction.

We continue to worship and serve at our home church, Redeemer Baptist in Aurora. Cris teaches adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings during the school year, and he also teaches the men's group several times a year. It's been a great blessing to be part of the Redeemer church family for the past 12 years.

Over the past year, we spent a lot of time at our mountain home and property up near Grand Lake, Colorado, and this gave us the opportunity to spend a good bit of time worshipping at Stillwater Community Chapel, which is just a mile from our cabin and where we have attended on summer Sundays for the past 17 years. We very much like the pastor and church family there, and what a beautiful place to worship!

Over the summer, we spent a good bit of time making improvements to our mountain home, upgrading the plumbing, the deck and doing a lot of work removing stumps, slash and other debris from the 1-1/2-acre property. We now have remote temperature monitoring and some web cameras in place so we can keep an eye on things when we're not there (we had one freeze-up December of last year when the pilot blew out on the furnace in a

windstorm). Cris has also upgraded his ham radio station there. Amanda and Jordon have helped a lot with all the work, and they came up and stayed at their cabin on the same property on alternate weekends, an activity made much more attractive to them when we put in a microwave link supplying high-speed internet to their cabin! Phyllis has become an expert at keeping the fireplace in our cabin fed during cold weather, and Cris has gotten pretty good at splitting logs. He has a new snow blower this season with which he hopes to keep a set of paths open between cabins, garage and LP tank.

With all the political rhetoric of the seemingly endless 2016 election season plus so much bad news coming in from across our community, state, nation and the whole world every day, it's easy to get discouraged. There is so much hate, so much strife, and many people are wound really tight so that it takes very little to set someone off to do something unthinkable. Almost daily we see shootings, knifings and other assaults set off by seemingly nothing. Thankfully, there is hope for our nation and this dark world!

We are reminded at this time of year that Jesus Christ came some 2,000 years ago, born in a stable in Bethlehem to bring hope, salvation, peace and good will. That was a long time ago, but His invitation is still open. If people will only look to Him they can have this hope, peace and assurance of eternal life. It is our prayer as we celebrate the Savior's birth that you know Him and His peace!

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas!

Cris & Phyllis Alexander
(and Spice, too)



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