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Dearest friends and family,

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 continued to struggle with health issues over the past year. She suffers with headaches almost daily with seldom a reprieve. She also received a diabetes diagnosis this year. Thankfully, she is able to manage this condition with diet for the time being. She has had increasing issues with hips and knees, which limit her mobility to some degree. Still, she has been able to keep up with her daily chores, and she continues to enjoy reading, puzzling and crafts.

Our daughter Amanda and her husband Jordon live in a subdivision a couple of miles north of us, which is very handy! Amanda and Jordon are active in their church. Jordon continues to work with his dad at Lighthouse Builders building custom homes, and Amanda with her dad as chief engineer of Crawford Broadcasting's four Denver radio stations (four AM and four simulcast FM signals). Both Amanda and Jordon are licensed Amateur (õHamõ) 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 are the ones in charge at the Hopp 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 20. She is married to her husband Zack. No great-grandkids yet. Grandson Sean is now 18 and graduated last spring, and grandson Kayden is 18 months old.

Cris is in his 35th year with Crawford Broadcasting Company and still loves his job. He looks forward to going to work every day and is grateful to have Kingdom work to do there. He 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. This year, he got back in the cockpit after a 25-year absence. It took just a couple of flights with an instructor to get comfortable again, and he quickly transitioned back into the high-performance aircraft that he flew back in the day. He and Amanda enjoy flying together and often post videos of their adventures on Youtube. If you're looking for entertainment, take a peek at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7eqwp7c>.

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

We continue to spend as much time as we can at our mountain home and property up near Grand Lake, Colorado. Cris has a ham station up there (of course!). In the summer, we enjoy sitting on the deck, watching critters, ATViing and fishing. In the winter, we mostly sit by a crackling fire Phyllis is very good at keeping the fire going and the house toasty warm. Cris is on the elder board at our mountain church, Stillwater Community Chapel, and he and Phyllis help out with sound and video when able. We have a lot of good friends at Stillwater and love being part of that fellowship. When at home, we worship at Redeemer Baptist Church, and Cris serves on the administrative team there,

Without a doubt, we live in a very polarized society these days, very likely as much or more as in the 1860s. It's hard to understand all the political rhetoric. This year's mid-term election season seemed to never end. There's so much bad news coming in from across our community, state, nation and the whole world every day. It's easy to

get discouraged in a world like this. 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! The people who dwell in darkness have seen a great light!

We are reminded at this time of year that Jesus Christ came to earth over 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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