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Dearest friends and family,

The past year has been one of change and unrest in the world. We all watched as events unfolded in Israel and Ukraine, wars and rumors of wars. Closer to home, I don't believe our nation has, since the Civil War, been so divided. The politics of our day and nation are polarizing, turning family members against one another across the dinner table. And worst of all, we have watched as America has become a post-Christian nation. It's hard not to think of Isaiah's prophetic words, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" It is hard not to become discouraged in these dark days.

But we can take heart! Just a few chapters later, Isaiah writes: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end..."

A thrill of hope – the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! I am hopeful, knowing as I do what is to come. The Almighty is on His throne and in complete control. I have read the end of the Book, and we win! So rather than being discouraged at the events taking place around us, we should see them as the signs that they are of the Savior's imminent return! Come, Lord Jesus!

As we enjoy this Christmas season, we think of 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 in the past year seen marked improvement in the frequency of the migraines with which she has long suffered. Treatments and medications from the neurologist that she began seeing a few years ago are working. Migraine days are few each month, praise the Lord!

She enjoys reading and plows through several books a week, and she is always working on a big jigsaw puzzle on her puzzle table. When one puzzle is done, it sits for a day or two and then she's working on a new one. And she has tropical fish – a lot of them in two big tanks.

Jordon and Amanda still live nearby and are doing well along with their furry feline children, Scooby and Penny. Jordon continues to work as a professional drone pilot working in the oilfield service industry. Amanda still works with her dad as chief engineer of Crawford Broadcasting's four Denver radio stations. She is busier than ever with the many projects and never-ending problems and issues that arise. She is a tremendous resource for Cris as he works in executive management of the company.

Our son Gary and his son Kayden (8) live in the Ft. Worth area. Gary is home schooling Kayden.

Our granddaughter, Sara (27), lives in Arkansas with her two kids and our great-grandkids, Persephone (5) and Atlas (2). Of course Phyllis and I are much too young to be great-grandparents.

Cris is in his 42nd year with Crawford Broadcasting Company and still loving it. He is grateful to have Kingdom work to do even as he works to support his family, and he knows it is both a blessing and a calling of God. He continues to enjoy flying whenever he can and amateur radio, visiting with friends near and far, from home, from our cars and from our mountain cabin. For those of you who are amateur radio operators, you can find him on 7166 kHz on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7-8 AM Mountain.

We continue to split our time between our home in Aurora and our mountain home near Grand Lake, Colorado. We are members churches in both communities, love both our church families and look forward to worshipping with one or the other every Sunday. Our mountain church, Stillwater Community Chapel, is thriving and growing under the leadership of the “new” pastor (he’s been there almost two years now). Cris was able to come off the elder board and has been grateful to have some time to catch his breath with new leadership in place. We are excited to be part of the growth and many positive changes taking place there.

We had yet another great vacation in August in Lake City, Colorado, the tiny place in the San Juan Mountains where we have been vacationing every year for decades. We did some ATVing, fishing and porch sitting. The past two years we have stayed in a new vacation home rental, far different from the tiny, rustic cabins we were in for decades before. Amanda and Jordon have the whole upstairs suite to themselves, and Phyllis and I have our own space downstairs. It’s quite the place, a real blessing, and we look forward to returning this coming summer.

We have been blessed to spend a lot of time at our mountain home near Grand Lake, Colorado. We have enjoyed an abundance of wildlife and spending time with Amanda and Jordon, who have a mountain home right next door and on the same acreage. It’s so nice to get out of the city and relax far away from the crowds, enjoying the mountain air, scenery and sounds. Last year, Amanda helped me frame a new deck on our mountain home and Jordon did his magic helping me install the composite decking. We spend a lot of time on that deck in warmer weather.

As we move through the Advent season in anticipation of the celebration of our Savior’s birth, we are reminded that Jesus came to bring salvation, peace and good will. If your world, like that of so many, has been anything but peaceful, look to Him. You can have this peace and assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Spicy, too!)



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