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# Hughes

December, 2013

Dear

**M**erry Christmas! Quite a year. Most of it's been really positive but one trial is recent and we're still recovering. Health has been building but with ups and downs and one of the downs really dipped in October. While I felt pretty good I was coughing and didn't have much energy. That's past now but I'm still playing catch-up.



**B**e that as it may, we're here to celebrate the birth of our Lord. These cards are late, some might not even be mailed until after Christmas, but they're going out with the love and joy of the holiday season. Don't have to be early, don't have to be perfect, just get there...



*Karen & Shelley*



*Amy, Sarah, & Sandra*



*Chaz*



*Gary & Joel Goodwin*



*with Dan Hale, Meghan McCarrey Towns*

**T**he theme both Sandra and I are feeling most strongly is friendship. This has been a year of friends more than places, enjoying people and experiencing good relationships.



**S**andra, of course, is never happy unless she's been to the beach recently so our first trip was back in February when one of her co-workers offered her the use of his time-share. Terry joined us a day later and we finished up the weekend. Our only regret was



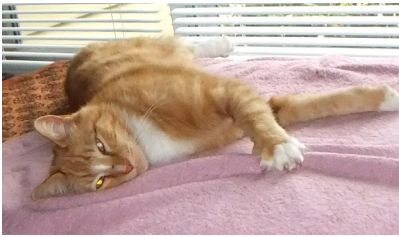
that the Internet connection wasn't up to giving us a good feed of our church service back home ([www.citybiblechurch.org](http://www.citybiblechurch.org)) but the rest of the weekend was a blessing.

**T**ook another trip to Mexico to get some dental matters taken care of for Sandra. I told them this was the first time I'd been down there I hadn't been sick, either dealing with bad teeth or in



recovery. Once again, having them all out seems to have been the right move for me. Not easy, but it's been paying off. I'm posing with Alex, son of the clinic's founder.





Wound up with a couple new toys. Richway International makes a product they refer to as a *Biomat* which is a far-infrared heating pad in various sizes. I had infra-red saunas recommended a few years back for helping deal with mercury detox but never saw my way clear to purchase one. The mat can be spread out, rolled up, moved, and placed wherever it's most convenient. Was starting to have some joint trouble in elbows and shoulders and this more than took care of it. Sandra wanted a smaller one too and we'll probably pick up an even more portable model come tax time. Friends (and cats) seem to enjoy the one we leave set up in the living room.

Another beach trip in July. We took a room at the Hallmark Inn in Newport. After a day Patty and Sarah McCarty and Amy Goodwin joined us. Was a nice get-away for all of us. (Brrrrrr, I can see myself shivering in that bracing beach breeze!)

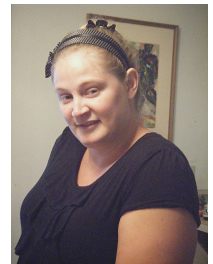


A couple weeks later Amy and her brother Joshua joined me at the Oregon Christian Writers conference. A nice refreshing, challenging time, although I really didn't do a thing in terms of trying to pitch any of my books to an editor or agent. Felt like more just look and learn.

Shayne has done unbelievably well. After he proved himself at the yogurt place he applied at the Mall 205 Olive Garden which is quite close to the Bible College. He'd no sooner gotten on there than he started breaking just about every performance record they had. He's done so well he was able to get back into the college and has been working his way through. Although it's been touch and go for him financially, it all represents breakthroughs and we're very proud of him.



Had a change of kitty's although we have yet to own one. Our neighbors with the orange cat moved so we (very reluctantly) said goodbye to the perfect pet, one we never had to feed. Then one of the ladies from the Bible college asked if we'd take care of hers. Popeye needs to be fed religiously and isn't shy about letting us know when he thinks it's time. (He can read too- he started up fussing just as I wrote this). There's even a litter box in the garage for those few Portland nights it seems too cold to put him out. Sandra thinks he's a lot of work but he spends a fair amount of time curled up in her lap too, so it probably evens out. There's also a little dog named Chewie in her morning walk and a few blue herons she sometimes gets close enough to snap a picture of.



James



Tasi Visoky



Gary Spencer Patty Dennis



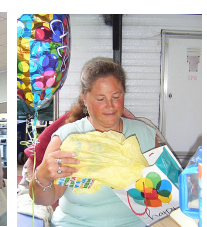
Patty & Kent



Ryan Roland



Shayne



Janice

*For unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon His shoulder: And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and Peace there shall be no end...*

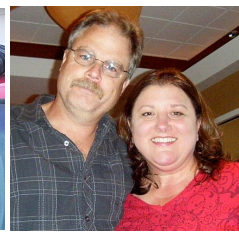
Denise and Patty

John, Rayeann, Gary

Mark & Kathy

Jay Visoky

Martin & Jacquie



Work continues. I'm still doing repair and Sandra is still at the library. Nice to have a job these days!