



Sometime in December, 2013

# Merry, Merry Christmas!

and a

# Happy New Year!

to one and all.



It's Christmas again, and again we celebrate the coming of the Messiah, like those wise men pictured above. They came from the east (not New York - perhaps one or more hailed from Persia?) seeking Him, somehow knowing the Hebrew scriptures foretelling His coming (Daniel 9:24-27), and they rejoiced to see the star (Matthew 2:10) which provided guidance. So much has changed in the intervening years, but it's still true: those who seek the Messiah today are also wise, for He has accomplished the remission of sin for all who choose to place their trust in Him (John 11:25, Acts 10:43). Are you wise?

You no doubt noticed the crude sign captured on the front of this year's card. We have no idea where the sign originated, but Larry saw it in a discard bin at a local charity a couple of years back and rescued it. It adorns our front lawn each Christmas in front of a rather large bush, which the Global Warming Authorities favored with a pretty coating of ice on December 6 - that's still fall here, with temperatures in the 70s on December 4 for all our fellow Yankees. We share some December Texas fall color at right.



What are our biggest news items?

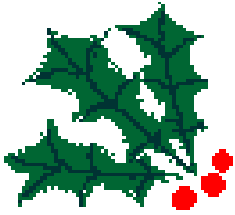
- We are pet-less and vet-less. We lost the last of our animals in 2012. Now Anne can focus on training Larry. (You ladies know about what to expect . . .)
- We've been attending a church new to us, Allen Heights Baptist Church, since sometime in the spring, where we find people who love the Lord and show themselves friendly. The 20-mile commute to Scofield had become difficult, and we came to see that a church we might attend regularly was preferable to one we couldn't. We miss friends there, but find we enjoy some new friends also.
- Anne is on a gluten-free diet. We came over the cusp of the new year with his 'n' hers gastric-tract inspections. Larry "enjoyed" his procedure - Propofol gives a gentle ride, and he's off the hook for N years. However, Anne came to be entitled to a new diet AND a bonus procedure. (Some people have all the luck!) For those of you unfamiliar, there's a fair amount of time-consuming research involved in going gluten-free. You have to discover what are the substances that are OK and discern those that aren't. Then you have to learn which foods have what, and where to find them in the stores - and in the restaurants. Then you get to find out which of them taste OK and which taste like cardboard, or produce other interesting effects. It's quite a learning experience. Fortunately, Larry can share most of Anne's diet, choosing only "glutton-free" (low-carb) items.
- We're thankful that Anne is approaching the 5-year mark from completing cancer treatment, and her scans have come back clean so far.
- Larry bought a small cement mixer and has done a few small projects in the back yard.
- Larry has had eye issues.
  - Numerous injections in the left eye to control swelling in the retina
  - A vitrectomy in the left eye to further deal with the swelling
  - Laser surgeries in both eyes to control blood vessel growth
  - A bleed in the right eye, followed by a vitrectomy to remove the blood
  - Cataract surgery early December in the left eye
  - Several changes in corrective lens prescriptions

The most inconvenient of these events was the bleed, which occurred late October. Blood inside one's eye isn't harmful in and of itself, but it occludes vision. The vitrectomy resulted in double vision for several weeks, and more bleeding - this is normal, and resolves more quickly than bleeding into the vitreous humor, but much less quickly than the patient prefers. Larry had to go on short-term disability because he couldn't see up close to do his job, and couldn't drive (with double vision) to get there anyway. Meanwhile, Anne had to haul him to this doctor appointment and that surgery. Fun for her, not! But he is about to be back to work after the cataract surgery.

- Did I mention insurance? As you may imagine, with all this stuff going on, Anne has been plenty busy administering appointments, co-pays, and the annual review of insurance options. While not directly affected by the Affordable Care Act (Larry says that it's an act they're putting on, all right), we see, and feel, how it affects the industry, the providers, and the general context.

We hope we may hear from you, whether by post, phone, or email, as you find convenient. Our love,

Anne  
Larry



LARGE PRINT EDITION

Sometime in December, 2013

# Merry, Merry Christmas!

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to one and all.

*It's Christmas again, and again we celebrate the coming of the Messiah (Yeshua, Jesus), like those wise men pictured above. They came from the east (not New York - perhaps one or more hailed from Persia?) seeking Him, somehow knowing the Hebrew scriptures foretelling His coming (Daniel 9:24-27),, and they rejoiced to see the star (Matthew 2:10) which provided guidance. So much has changed in the intervening years, but it's still true: those who seek Jesus today are also wise, for the Scripture says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Are you wise?*

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*We briefly apologize for any inconvenience this mailing may cause anyone by arriving timely. We know you don't expect this from us - we're surprised ourselves. But it probably won't happen again.*

*What are our biggest news items?*

- We've been attending a church new to us and near to us in Allen since sometime in the spring, where we find people who love the Lord and show themselves friendly. The 40-mile round trip to Scofield had become difficult, and we came to see that a church we might attend regularly was preferable to one we couldn't. We miss Scofield friends, but find we now enjoy some new friends.*
- Anne is on a gluten-free diet. We came over the cusp of the new year with his 'n' hers gastric-tract inspections. Larry "enjoyed" his procedure - Propofol gives a gentle ride, and*

he's off the hook for  $N$  years. However, Anne came to be entitled to a new diet AND a bonus procedure. (Some people have all the luck!) For those of you unfamiliar, there's a fair amount of time-consuming research involved in going gluten-free. You have to discover what are the substances that are OK and discern those that aren't. Then you have to learn which foods have what, and where to find them in the stores - and in the restaurants. Then you get to find out which of them taste OK and which taste like cardboard, or produce other interesting effects. It's quite a learning experience. Fortunately, Larry can share most of Anne's diet, choosing only "glutton-free" (low-carb) items.

- We're thankful that, since Anne completed cancer treatment in 2009, her scans have been clean. So far, so good - and we've not forgotten those of you who have prayed for her.
- Larry bought a small cement mixer and has done a few small projects in the back yard.
- Larry has had eye issues.
  - Numerous injections in the left eye to control swelling in the retina
  - A vitrectomy in the left eye to further deal with the swelling
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We hope we may hear from you, whether by post, phone, or email, as you find convenient.

Our love,

*Anne*  
*Larry*

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