

Dear Friends and Family,

January 2015

Seeing as how the year of 2014 has flown off into history, this will have to be a Happy New Year letter!

Our past year was full of changes! It actually began in 2013 over the Thanksgiving week when Roy and our son Vernon moved Barbara, Roys sister, from her home in Phoenix to live here with us. We had prepared for this by making some revisions inside the house and adding a LOT of cement outside to widen the driveway, enlarge the back patio, enlarge the front porch, put in a handicapped ramp and a retaining wall around the front to create a flat yard instead of the slope of grass that was so hard to keep watered in this dry climate. The move was a huge change for us all, as you may imagine. But by the grace of our Lord, we made a pretty good adjustment. The main thing needed was to get Barb into proper medical care for an open wound and infection in a knee replacement. There were many doctor appointments which resulted in surgery to remove the prothesis, clean out the infection, and have IV antibiotics for about 8 weeks.

At first Barb did very well, but then she had a sudden kidney failure. The medical folks were able to bring her out of that but she continued to go down hill. On September 23rd she passed on home to be with our Lord, where she is now enjoying the glories of seeing him face to face.

It has been a strange thing for us all to not have Barb with us any more. Roy has been working on her estate since that time. At this writing Roy is making a trip back to Phoenix to prepare her home so it can be sold. It is a lovely patio home, 2 bedrooms with a studio (or it could be a three bedroom) in a small private community with a pool just across the small street. Know any snowbirds who are looking for a winter home or a rental?

All of the Smiths are doing well and so grateful for that! Ruth loves her work with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Vernon continues working at BMW and is mechanic of choice and car info guru for all of us. Vernon's children Casey and Rachel live here but go alternate weeks to their mother's house. It works well for us and they attend the neighborhood schools that Vernon went to.

In the summer Ruth, Gale and the children drove to the Pacific Northwest. A very busy three weeks on the road with several days at the coast. While Gale and the children flew home from Portland, OR, Ruth continued driving south visiting friends in California and Arizona. She is an adventuresome lady!

The world seems so much in turmoil, we are grateful to gather peacefulness for our souls from the life of the risen Lord Jesus and his promise never to leave us. As we grow older and sense the years creeping up on us, Roy and I are glad to trust the unknown future into the care of our known God!

May your Happy New Year be full of all good things!
Roy and Gale Smith

I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR
by Barbara K. Smith

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With their tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.

To me the view is so spectacular, so please wipe away that tear,
For I'm in heaven spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the music down there just can't compare
with the Christmas Choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

But be joyful and be merry and try to hold back the tears,
For I'm now in heaven spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

I can't tell you of the splendor or the peace here in this place.
But can you just imagine Christmas, with our Savior, face to face?

I'll ask Him to light your spirit, as I tell Him of your love.
So then pray one for another as you lift your eyes above.

Please let your hearts be joyful, and let your spirits sing,
For I'm spending Christmas in heaven this year,
and I'm walking with the King!