

Hello, dear friend!

December 7, 2012

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to come!!

If you have been keeping up with us on face book, then you know what's been happening at our house, but if you haven't, this note is in order so we can say that we think of you often. But somehow we are finding our selves slower than we used to be, not accomplishing things we used to do, such as writing a letter to you! So here is a short run-down on our household:

Ruth lives with us. She is very busy in the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship, being on the road, on the computer or on the phone almost constantly. It makes catching some time to be with her a challenge!

Vernon and his children are here with us too. Vern continues working at Murray Motors BMW. Casey is in sixth grade and now taller than either Ruth or Gale, which makes getting a hug feel different! Rachel goes to third grade and seems to have become more of a young girl now than the child she was so short a time ago.

Having six in the house is reminiscent of the years when our children were growing up, a good feeling for us. Madeline, our other granddaughter, who had to drop out of McNeese University in Louisiana because of illness, is contemplating that this as a good time to make a move. So she may be joining us here soon. We are looking forward to having her!

Meanwhile, Roy and I have kept the "home fires" burning so to speak, while others do the things they need to, but we have also gotten in a couple activities of our own. Last Spring Roy was in Phoenix for a third time with Barbara his sister, lots of TLC for her knee operations. During the summer Roy and Casey were able to go on a short term mission trip to northern Saskatchewan. Roy found on the web some great material that may be used next trip called "The Lamb". We added a link on our web site, [rgsmiths.com](http://rgsmiths.com), to an longer video version named "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus". It's a great Bible survey up to the resurrection of Christ. In November we drove to Oregon to spend a week at the beach, our favorite place. We enjoyed watching the surf from our room overlooking the sands, and walking hand in hand on the beach, which was what we did on our first date in 1961! Still our favorite thing to do as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary today, December 7<sup>th</sup>! We also really enjoyed visiting with Gale's friends in Oregon and her brothers in Washington and Oregon. Blessings from God come in many forms.

The coming year we anticipate adding rooms on to our house so Barbara, Roy's sister, can relocate from Phoenix, which will enable her to take part in the life of her family here. No doubt this next year will be a year of challenge and adjustment for us all.

We are so thankful we have an eternity to learn about our Savior as we dwell in His home forever. We have this intimate confidence in God, because we have believed that Jesus is God, and that His gift of His precious blood, poured out for us when He died on the Cross, has completely paid the penalty for all our sins.

During our years together, we have grown to know and love one another intimately, but we also have grown to know and love God more intimately. Indeed, it will take eternity for God to show us His unmerited, unlimited blessings, which are all based on the totally sufficient work of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior.

Resting in God's grace,  
Roy and Gale Smith