

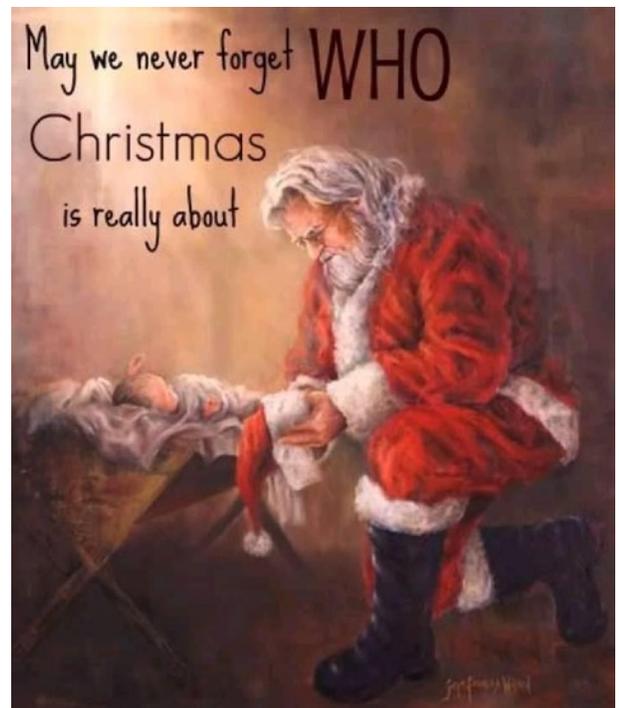
# 2022 Christmas Letter

December, 2022

Merry Christmas. May you greatly enjoy celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Our 2021 letter reported that we had a leak in our house last year, and that it had grown into a much bigger issue due to the incompetence of the first remediation company. After six months living in hotels, we had decided to give up dealing with the house if it ever got fixed, so we were moving to a retirement living community. Our new address is:

The Vantage #301  
6301 Overton Ridge Blvd  
Fort Worth, TX 76132



Well, the third contractor finally did get the house back to presentable in April! Our realtor extraordinaire helped with the specifications of the restoration to make the house more sellable. We had a successful estate sale in May. House went on the market in June. Sale closed in July.

Another vendor that was a great help to us was a roofer. The inspection showed that the roof on the house was defective, even though it was just three years old. A roofer was recommended to us that was able to get and install a new roof on short notice. He was even willing to wait on closing to be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of the house. Another blessing was that the manufacturer of the defective roof later reimbursed us for the new roof under their guarantee!

With the house matter behind us, we have been settling in at the Vantage. Still downsizing to fit in the apartment, and organizing what we are keeping.

Part of our downsizing will be dropping our phone system in the near future, so please update your contacts list to show our cell phones only. Our emails remain the same.

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We are meeting many wonderful people here at The Vantage, both staff and residents. We are handy to shopping, healthcare, church, etc. There are many activities available. Steve is enjoying getting back to playing bridge after seeing few bridge tables in the last 40 years. There is also line dancing, Mexican Train, outings, and numerous social occasions. There is also a weekly Bible study that we have attended regularly. Steve has substituted as the facilitator on several occasions, and intends to begin leading a study of the book of Hebrews in 2023. Hebrews is very interesting in that it provides a New Testament perspective on many people and events of the Old Testament.

Another highlight was Steve's 50th high school reunion. A great time, but sadness for those who could not be with us due to illness and death. Our neighborhood, and therefore our high school, was truly full of remarkably good people. What a blessing to be part of that group!

Nita especially wanted to tell you how the Lord opened a door for us to travel in 2022. She had voluntarily given up her driver's license in May. In September she had second thoughts because she had long wanted to visit her brothers in Pennsylvania, her niece in North Carolina, and her cousins in New England. Flying & renting cars seemed likely to add claustrophobia and sciatica to the holidays, and flying is not really suitable for hitting numerous locations. But would we have the stamina for a long drive? Would we get any sleep? Would we be faced with bad weather? Long-time friends and faithful prayer warriors invited us to take a "trial run" to the Houston area and they built us up in peace, comfort and joy. Their prayers helped Nita to ditch the worries and trust Jesus instead.

Our Awesome Autumn trip followed the path of the changing leaves. The weather was great: we visited an Oktoberfest in Georgia with friends, and then had what seemed like a series of "Thanksgiving" dinners, lunches, with family -- even walks outdoors! Best of all the blessings were the happy times when we could: listen to voices not transmitted by electronic devices, look into the eyes of so many dearly loved, give in-person hugs and speak on-the-spot prayers over them! And we witnessed how the Lord is caring for them NOW.

Steve drove over 4000 miles! We (almost) never got lost! We saw snow, visited two museums, bought two tee shirts, and one book! Thank you dear wonderful family -- and wonderful friends also -- for your hospitality and encouragement during the journey.

Health-wise, the good news is we have so far avoided COVID (as far as we know). Steve's years of Fibromyalgia seem to have severely impacted his stamina. This interfered with his ability to take care of the house, influencing our decision to move. The downside of community living is that it is not nearly as quiet. Noise often interferes with sleep here, and sleep is helpful for those with Fibromyalgia. We are also feeling effects of aging as time passes. That and the numerous funerals we have attended this year remind us that our bodies do not last forever. But, as believers in Jesus as our Savior, we know that what follows is far better. Looking forward to no more pain, no more tears, and being in heaven with God.

2022 has been another year of God's blessing on Peggy. Arlington Heights Health and Rehab continues to provide good, compassionate care. No trips to the hospital or other major incidents this year. It has been a relief that COVID measures become less intrusive. Peggy did test positive once and was exposed to someone else that tested positive, so she ended up in quarantine a couple times. There were no symptoms at either time. There is some decline in Peggy's condition. Not sure how much is related to her brain damage and how much is the normal aging process we all experience. Her world seems to be getting smaller. She very much lives in the now. She is less interested in activities, but still remembers family and friends. She enjoys music. She reads less, but enjoys being read to, especially Scripture. We struggle to find other activities that hold her interest. She does not want many decorations in her room.

At church, Steve continues to serve as an elder. Both of us continue to be part of the Life Team. Our senior pastor retired after serving St Paul for 30+ years. One of the very capable associate pastors has accepted the senior pastor role. We are sad to see Pastor Messmann depart, but excited to see what God has for St Paul under Pastor Audette's leadership.

So we are getting used to our new normal and wondering what blessings 2023 will bring. We are hoping that having a new home and less COVID will allow us to receive guests more than we have the last few years.

God bless you,  
Steve and Nita Dossin