

2023 Christmas Letter

December, 2023

Merry Christmas.

We hope this letter finds you celebrating Christmas, remembering that the reason for the season is the coming of Jesus. What kind of love is this, that led the Son of God to leave His position in heaven to come to the fallen earth, full of sinful people? This year, we are particularly thinking about the “peace on earth and goodwill to men” that He brings. The world is so lacking in peace and goodwill lately.

We are just now completing our second year in the retirement community. It’s been a year of changes, challenges, and rejoicing. We have met wonderful new friends, found places to serve, and had fun.

At The Vantage retirement community’s weekly Bible Study, Steve was asked to lead a verse-by-verse study of the book of Hebrews that ended up taking the first seven months of the year. In the fall, he did the same type of study for Colossians and Philemon. The resident-led Movie Committee asked Steve to administer the Sunday Night Movies shown here. These are requested to be Christian and inspirational fare. This activity has been successful with most of the seats in the theater taken most weeks. Nita is very helpful with these activities taking attendance, helping people to their seats, and generally welcoming attendees. Steve was also asked to be on the Food Committee (check the picture below to see that we eat well), and was elected to the Resident Council, working in both capacities to make the Vantage a better place for all residents. Months of remodeling The Vantage’s kitchen were made bearable by staff and residents meeting the challenges together.

Other Vantage activities that we found enjoyable include Line Dance lessons, walking, numerous parties, movies, music, Storytelling hour (Nita), several Bridge clubs (Steve), and the genealogy group (Steve). On genealogy, much information has been added to our tree. Family may wish to check it out. Let Steve know if you would like to have access to the tree on Ancestry.com.

At church, Steve continues to serve as an elder. Both of us continue to be part of the Life Team. Steve has been volunteering at Fort Worth Pregnancy Center since spring. He is part of a new program to advise the fathers of the babies on the options and the support available. There are also opportunities to present the Gospel. It is so fulfilling to see parents choose life for their baby, and to come to faith in Jesus as their Savior so they have eternal life in heaven waiting for them when they leave earth.



A very special highlight of 2023 was our 33rd wedding anniversary: an excellent dinner at the nearby Outback restaurant, a review of our wedding video, etc., etc. To all family and friends who “helped us tie the knot on that snowy day in 1990: thank you & God bless you all! We are grateful.

Our 2022 letter reported generally good health. That changed shortly after the letter went out. On New Year's Eve, Nita went to the hospital with abdominal pain. By the next afternoon, she was in critical condition, and was in ICU getting a PICC line for the treatment of extremely low blood pressure. Steve sent prayer requests to several groups of friends. Some even showed up at the hospital to pray. Prayer works! By the time the PICC line was ready, the treatment was not needed. Blood pressure had returned to normal for Nita. The medical treatment was never done. God is good!

Steve also started the year with infections. He had been treated for two before the source was found: an infection in the jaw that was spawning infections elsewhere. A doctor went in through a tooth (root canal) and Steve began feeling better almost immediately.

Later in the year, we managed to share COVID with each other. That was not fun, but we were never hospitalized. Steve is using a new medicine for his Fibromyalgia, and that seems to be helping. At our eye exams this year, we were both told we needed lens replacements due to cataracts. Nita has had her surgeries and is thrilled with the results. Steve is planning to have his in January and February.

2023 has pretty much continued the recent good pattern for Peggy. Arlington Heights Health and Rehab continues to provide good, compassionate care. No trips to the hospital this year. She has become more combative when she does not get her way. That was becoming a bit of a problem, but now seems to be under control with some medication changes. There continues to be some decline in Peggy's condition; we're 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. There is little decoration in her room because she destroys such things. I was quite surprised that one of her favorite paintings bit the dust this year. She very much lives in the now. She is less interested in activities, but still remembers family and friends. She still enjoys music. We struggle to find other activities that hold her interest. The majority of the time, she will not want to move when visited, just staying curled up in bed even though she is responsive to visitors with smiles and happy noises.

Happy and Blessed 2024!! Jesus is coming soon!!

God bless you,
Steve and Nita Dossin
steve@dossin.com 972.849.1279
nita@dossin.com 972.849.1718

