The Inrig Inkwell, Christmas 2022

Christmas greetings!

As 2022 draws to a close, it is hard to avoid the feeling that we are living at a time when the world around us is growing darker morally and spiritually. I know older people have always been accused of that kind of statement, but it is hard to deny the increasing departure from and hostility to biblical standards. And, sadly, there is also an increasing defection on the part of professing Christians under the pressures. And yet those very realities make this an exciting time to be a Christ-follower. As the skies darken, even the smallest light is seen more clearly, and at this time of year we celebrate that "the True Light was coming into the world" (John 1:9) and that "the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). The Light has come, and so we are to "let our light shine before others, so they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The Lord's grace has allowed both Elizabeth and I to enjoy good health, although the ravages of of time are ever present and increasing! After 56 years of marriage, we are more in love than ever! Both of us have the privilege of serving God's people at Redeemer Fellowship. Elizabeth keeps a full schedule of ministry, leading Bible studies in person and by Zoom, and is actively engaged in women's lives in many ways. I have the privilege of teaching God's Word each Sunday, as well as a weekly Bible study.

Morgan continues to pursue a Master's degree in English at Cal Baptist, while also serving as an adjunct teacher and as an editor for a local book publisher. With work and socializing with good friends, she keeps busy. Connor is in his senior year of high school, ready for the next challenge, which will probably be Community College.

The big family news of 2022 was the engagement of Micah to Olivia this summer which overshadows his graduation from Northern Arizona Univ., significant as that is. His sister Elizabeth is in her senior year, anticipating college, while Jaron is a gifted runner, both in cross-country and track. We value your prayers for both Jaron and Heather, as they are battling with mysterious medical conditions. Stephen and Jula's oldest, Evan, is enjoying life as a freshman at Pepperdine, while McKenna and and Lawson are fully engaged in their studies and lives. We look forward to sharing Christmas together.

One of the great blessings of this past year was a summertime trip north to "our home and native land"; Covid and other responsibilities hadn't allowed us to do so for several years. We spent a delightful week at Lake of the Woods with longtime friends, the Hulls and the Ronalds. It was a great time of relaxation and refreshment under very unusual circumstances. While much of North America was experiencing drought, the lake was overflowing, with water levels that submerged boat houses. That was followed by a week in the Vancouver area, enjoying special times, staying with Gary's brothers, seeing family, visiting Elizabeth's sister, who is in fragile health, and reconnecting with good friends. Morgan and Connor both voted that time with family as their favorite times!

Our life is enriched by you, our friends. Many of you we see only rarely, but we are grateful for your prayers and many kindnesses. Thank you for your faithfulness in partnering with us so generously over the years. May you enjoy God's grace in 2023. Love in Christ, Gary and Elizabeth

