

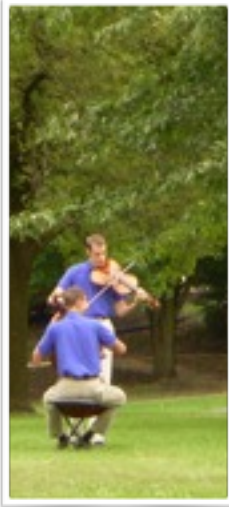


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“MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION
THAT YOU HAVE PREPARED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL
PEOPLES, A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE
GENTILES, AND FOR GLORY TO YOUR PEOPLE, ISRAEL.”



Joyful Christmas Greetings!



Creating our family Christmas card is something to which I look forward each year, as it gives me an opportunity to reflect back on how we spent our year and to see the growth in each member of our family as well as those of our friends and relatives.

Tonight, I'm sitting all toasty warm in our careworn old farmhouse, listening to Handel's *Messiah* and enjoying the first snow of winter floating lazily down onto a white



landscape. We'll enjoy watching our two cats reacting to their first experience with snow in the morning, and Oakey will have his usual frosted whiskers from munching a crunchy snack right off the ground.



2010 was a year of significant change for us. Both sons hit milestone ages (18 and 21), but the event that overshadowed pretty much everything else was the sudden passing of my Mom back in May. Those of you who have gone through the loss of a parent or close family member

know what we're going through. The rest of you, well, just be sure to take some extra time to spend with the ones you love, especially this time of the year.



The remainder of the year was filled with trips to visit friends and family, including celebrating my grandmother's 101st birthday; yet another trip to the *San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival* due to Chad's short documentary *Shell Bluff* making it in as a semi-finalist; making beautiful, uplifting

music at Sforzando String Camp;

enjoying a two-night presentation of Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*; taking a trip to the mountains of West Virginia to help bring the Gospel to children

attending Camp Rise and Shine; working with Tyler to start restoring his first car – a 1963 Volkswagen Beetle; and numerous farm



and house projects, including finally getting Beth moved into her new kitchen.



If you're ever in the area, please consider this an open invitation for a visit, or if your travels don't bring you this way, do drop us a note from time to time.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine on you in 2011!

The Stembridges

