



The age-old story of the advent of Christ – and God’s plan of salvation through Him alone – never grows old, and our prayer is that it will be renewed afresh in your homes this year.

I’m writing our annual greeting just a few days after Thanksgiving, and indeed, we have much to be thankful for as we recount a year filled with significant events.

Our winter was relatively mild (it only got to -10°), and with the spring thaw came rain, rain and more rain. Local roads were flooded out twice for several weeks requiring lengthy detours, and the cellar sump pump got a good workout with all the excess groundwater.

In March, Chad approached us with a request to begin courting a young lady we had been observing for a while, and after a time of prayer, Samantha and Chad formally began their courtship.

In April, Beth and I celebrated our 25th Anniversary in Kaua’i, with day trips to Hawai’i and Oahu – our first time to the islands. We can’t wait to go back.

May brought yet more rain and flooding. The night after driving to Georgia to work at my Dad’s house for a week, our farm was hit with a tornado that destroyed the back half of one barn and caused damage to trees and several other outbuildings. Beth was upstairs closing windows against the driving rain when the blast

hit, and we thank God she was not hurt – the house came through with only minor shingle damage. I repacked my gear and drove the 15 hours back home the next day, and we spent most of the summer cleaning up the mess (it was a blessing to haul off a lot of junk, tho). Contractors should start the barn rebuild shortly.

Other summer highlights included beekeeping, our ninth year at Sforzando String Camp, Ed taking a business trip to Sweden, Beth going to the Creation Museum with Camp Rise & Shine and our niece staying with us during her college summer break. We also finally installed new siding on the house after living with fluttering housewrap all last winter.

When Chad and Samantha felt they were ready to proceed to engagement, we gave them our blessing and rejoiced when they were married on October 20. They both kept themselves pure before and during the courtship, and shared their first kiss during the ceremony. Their new home is in southern Illinois.

Finally, Tyler moved into an apartment in Peoria to be closer to work (still doing construction), so Beth and I are now officially ‘empty nesters.’ Whew. What a year!

We pray the Lord’s blessings for you in 2014!

With our love, *Ed & Beth*



Christmas is a family affair



Work (Still) in Progress



Spring Tornado



Chad & Samantha



25th Anniversary in Kaua'i



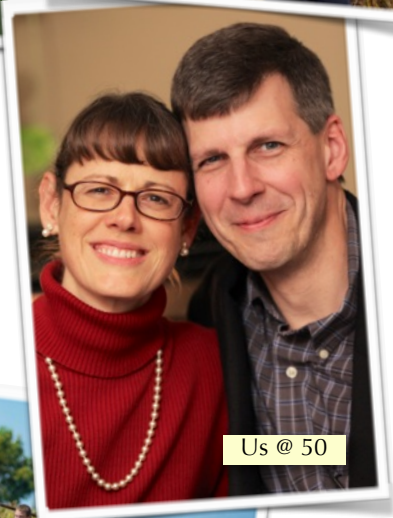
Bro's



Cantabilé String Trio



Granny at 104



Us @ 50



After 12 Years, Herbie was Succeeded by Eyore



Chad's Bees



Farm Fun

