



As I write our Christmas greeting this year, it's 12° outside, with a snow and ice storm moving into the Middle West over the next day or two.

The ground is frozen hard, and the cow's muzzles are frosted from their breath; they greet me expectantly each morning and evening when I walk out to the 102 year-old wooden barn to throw down their hay and top off their water. The barn cats are fat and their fur is thick and fluffy. It's not uncommon to hear a flock of geese honking and winging their way toward better feeding grounds as a bright moon illuminates the gently rolling resting farm ground that surrounds us.

2016 brought many challenges that required frequent reminders that both pleasant and unpleasant events in our lives are used by the Lord for our growth in Him.

Ed reached the 15 year milestone at Caterpillar this year (where did the time go?!), which comes with an additional week of vacation – 20 days annually, which still seem to evaporate much too quickly! With the poor global economy, the company has had numerous layoffs, including several folks Ed knew well.

Beth has had the joy of seeing clients at the Pregnancy Resource Center come to faith in Christ, and continues to be a mentor to the young moms who seek assistance through the ministry.

We celebrated our 28th anniversary in St. Louis this year, including a ride to the top of the Arch and a very fun afternoon spent at City Museum.

Our grandson, Eason, turned one this year and we enjoyed a fun day trip to the beach in Charleston, SC with both our sons and their wives.

Ed continues to put up alfalfa hay for his livestock and to sell, although the crop this year was somewhat reduced due to reseeding about nine acres and poor (wet) weather conditions much of the summer.

In October, Ed had to suddenly pack up and provide caregiving for his Dad (who is entering late-stage dementia) in Georgia for almost two months. Ed brought his laptop and worked remotely during this time. He and his brothers moved his Dad to the Georgia War Veterans Home in early December where he's being well cared for along with about 250 other veterans from WWII up to more recent conflicts.

So, even with the challenges, we continue to do our best to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances."

Lord bless and keep you in 2017!

With our love, *Ed & Beth*



Christmas is a family affair



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