

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

It's time again to extend Christmas greetings from our cozy farmhouse here in the Midwest, and we hope this missive finds you well and reflecting on the purpose for Christ's birth. The excerpt above from Paul's letter to Titus speaks of the believer's journey and expectancy we have both during and after this life.

For Beth and me, journeying seems to have been our theme for 2017. Between the two of us, we've driven over 52,000 miles around the USA with Beth having traveled away from home every month this year (so far).

Ed's Dad is doing well at the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville. We enjoyed having him with us at our Thanksgiving gathering at Ed's Uncle's home in GA. Ed made five trips to GA for visits with his Dad and his brothers. Ed also made a trip to The Henry Ford museum in Dearborn, MI for a meetup with car blog friends.

Beth started the year by visiting her parent's home in FL, and when asked if she would like to accompany them on their 62nd Anniversary trip to Israel, she didn't have to think long before answering! The trip helped bring to life so many of the settings we've read of so often in the Bible. She also made separate trips for the weddings of two nieces, a trip to MI for a Pregnancy Resource Center conference, as well as a trip to WV to help with her brother's camp, followed the next week by a trip to Chicago for the musical high point of our year at the Sforzando String Camp.

We celebrated our 29th anniversary in April by renting a retired railroad caboose for an overnight stay at a local park, which reminded me of one of our first dates from which I have a photo of Beth hanging off an old caboose (she's still a cutie!). We also became grandparents again when Chad & Samantha's daughter EraMae was born in May - she's a cutie, too!

In June, we drove out West for a Grand Canyon "rim and raft" tour, and made numerous stops along the way to take in the beautiful scenery.

Work continues on the house, but the exterior is now essentially done!

So our travel tally for 2017 is, Ed: 16 States; Beth: 21 States plus Turkey and Israel. We're thankful for safe travels and all the wonderful scenery and memories we've shared. May the Lord bless and keep you in 2018!

With our love, *Ed & Beth*



Christmas is a family affair

