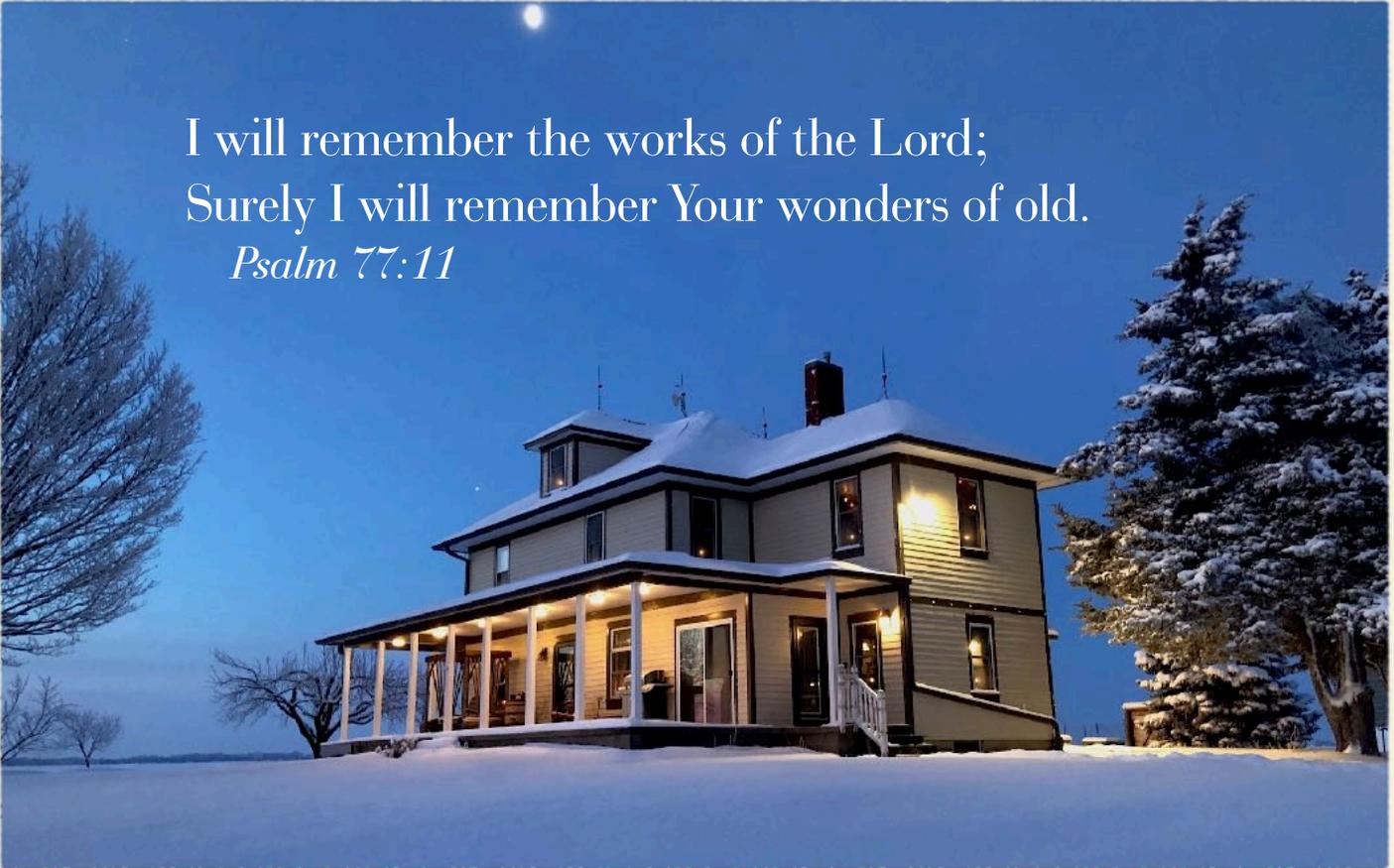


I will remember the works of the Lord;
Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
Psalm 77:11



“Christmas is a time of remembering, isn’t it?’ For some, rather than the giving of cards and presents, this sentiment has more to do with memories of Christmases shared with those who have passed on, or with children and friends now far away. There is an element of sadness in this type of remembering, but in fact it is all part and parcel of the renewing of ties between family and friends, and should be considered as something specially dear as one recalls, with gratitude, the days gone by. Nothing, after all, will take those memories away, and they grow more dearly cherished as the years pass.” (adapted from Home at Thrush Green by Dora Saint.)

This Christmas marks our 18th year on the farm, a year in which we marked our 31st anniversary and celebrated our eldest turning 30. We were heartbroken when he and Samantha divorced early this year, but have been thankful to be able to help by having Eason (4-½) and EraMae (2-½) stay with us on the farm when Chad travels for work. They bring a ton of fun and ‘buzz’ into our home! Ty & Sam are both still at Samaritan Ministries and are doing well – we enjoy getting together with them occasionally.

Beth has been to Israel several times with her parents, and finally convinced me to go this year for an early anniversary trip. We unfortunately experienced sickness on the trip, but that didn’t dampen being able to now have a sense of ‘place’ to associate with the accounts we read in scripture.

We also did a lot of “Stateside” travel this year; Beth to Florida and Idaho multiple times as she and her siblings worked through settling her parent’s estate, and one final trip for me to Milledgeville, GA to install the grave marker for my Dad. Between the two of us, we racked up nearly 50,000 miles on our vehicles!

Another ‘big thing’ this year was putting in my retirement notice. I’ve been prayerfully considering this for a couple years and after running the numbers and observing a workable outcome, I notified Caterpillar a few months ago that I’ll be done at the end of the year. I’ve been selling off my farm equipment all summer and we just closed on a home in TN near Chad. The farmhouse will need some attention over the Winter before we put it on the market next Spring, so we’ll split our time between the two as we haul a load down every so often. We’ll miss the farm and all the memories here.

So this Christmas, I’m reflecting on the blessings of the past 18 years here on the farm. Some trials and disasters, too, but they’re all part of the story the Lord has had for us here. And as we transition to the next season, we’ll look forward to see how He continues to ‘write our story.’



Lord’s blessing on you in 2020!

With our love, *Ed & Beth*

Christmas

... a time for remembering!

