

Merry Christmas and Joyous Blessings for the New Year from the Hazel Family.

Last year, for the first time in years, we did not get our Christmas letter out, so this year I'm making sure that I sit myself down and do this. And besides I like writing it too.

Geoff is doing well and is still working for IBM Global Services as a contractor for Washington Mutual Bank in downtown Seattle. He is a systems administrator and keeps the computers running. For the last two years he has been commuting by bike to and from work every day rain or shine. Its about a 20 mile ride round trip unless he decides to take a longer way home, which he likes to do. He also plans at least 3 long distance trips a year and this year he went to Aberdeen by himself, 116 miles. In August he rode 260 miles in 3 days from Bellevue to Richland WA over the Cascades via White Pass where I met him to attend a wedding. Geoff is still working on our last house in Aberdeen and we're almost done. He will take a week off from his day job between Christmas and New Years to finish it and up for sale it will go. Our Aberdeen adventure has lasted 3 years with the remodeling of a 4-plex, a 3 bedroom house and a four bedroom house. That equals 6 kitchens, 7 bathrooms, 15 bedrooms, and 4 living rooms. All this done on weekends. As you can possibly imagine I think he 's amazing.

The kids are doing great.

Timmy has been home with us for the last two months (I enjoy that), while he had surgery on his knee. Last April he had been hit by a car while crossing the street. Although he spent 5 days in a Missoula hospital with us there, the Lord truly protected him. He almost had to have surgery on a broken skull bone, but the doctors decided to wait and see if it would heal on its own, in that the cure could have been worse than the problem. It did heal and the doctor told him he was the miracle man. We are truly grateful for his recovery. During the summer he worked for the Idaho forest service as a fire fighter and loved the whole experience. He plans on returning next fire season. In January he will be attending a month long wilderness EMT course in Wyoming. He is 23 now and well on his way,

Jenny is still our little angel. She is 12 now and most people think she's at least 15 ( and believe me that's a little scary). She is still dancing and has been on the dance competition team for the last 2 years. She loves it and has dance classes 3x a week. She loves school too and works very hard at it and is doing quite well. She tells all that she wants to be a pediatrician and attend school at the UW. We'll see if that happens, but I do admire her for having such a great goal.

As many of you might remember we had Christeen (our little girl from Aberdeen) two years ago for 9 months. After the school year was up, she decided to return to her family in Aberdeen. We kept in touch with her and she spent holidays with us. In March through a myriad of circumstances that only the Lord could have orchestrated, she returned to us and we have been given full and permanent custody of her through the courts. She is doing well and though it has been a challenge for her, she says she is glad to be here. She turned 15 last month with a boy, girl birthday party (Geoff was down stairs every ½ hour to make sure all was on the up and up) and she is attending Bellevue high school as freshman. We are glad too that she is here.

Our house has been too small to give Krissy her own room, so right now she shares Jenny's room and we are working on making 3/4 of the garage a family room/office so that the 3<sup>rd</sup> bedroom we have will become hers. She and I are working on a color scheme for it. She wants bright intense blue and orange. Oh dear. Well we'll see if I give in to that color scheme. Not sure quite yet, Could be OK, if I do it right.

For myself life keeps me hopping. The kids of course with all their needs and as their taxi service (love that part. NOT) and my business. This year I designed a chiropractic office and am working right now on two homes. One home has taken me 9 months so far and has at least 2-3 more months to go. I also find time to keep up on friendships with lunch out here and there (I love that part the most). I did have some fun times of my own over the last two years. I was able to go on two Caribbean cruises thanks to my cousin Laura who was a nurse on Royal Caribbean. As friends and family I was able to go for just a mere \$20.00 a day. Could not pass that up, though Geoff wonders really how good of a deal it was with all the shopping thrown in, but he was great to let me go without him and he was happy for me too. Geoff and I also took a weekend cruise to Canada on Royal Caribbean with friends of ours and I also spent a couple of weeks in southern California with an old high school friend. All of it was great fun. Jenny says I can't go anywhere else without her.

Well that's about it for this year and we wish you all the best,

Geoff, Fran, Timmy, Jenny, Krissy, and of course our now 8 kitty's Slinky, Ollie, Spotso, Sherbydoo, Tigger, Poohbear, Blue Eyes and Missymoo. We keep saving baby kitties from under the houses in Aberdeen. We might be bordering on eccentric too.

