



Merry Christmas from Cathie, Rej and Sam

Cathie:

Well, maybe Rej & Sam won't have too much to say this year, because I've got a lot! We kicked off the year by hosting a New Year's Day dinner where lots of family came, which always makes me very happy. Not so much family was able to come to Mom's 80th birthday dinner in August, but we made it a memorable time anyway.

Also starting off the year for me, was figuring out and putting together a 3,000-piece puzzle that Sam got me for Christmas. He is now forgiven for that (it took me 6 weeks to do), because of the puzzle table he got me, which doubles as a beautiful coffee table, and which Rej & I picked up on one of our trips this year.



New Year's Day... Hope makes it into our Christmas Letter again!

Trips! Though we still love to stay in our home, we managed a few this year. The first one was an overnight stay in a Fancy Hotel in Montreal, where Rej & I celebrated 40 years of marriage, last May. Then in the summertime we traveled to Ohio over a few days, to pick up the puzzle table, as well as a wooden double-swing. Lots of Cracker Barrel meals! The other trip was to Toronto in September, where the main attraction was *Dave & Destiny's* lovely wedding, and hearing Sam's excellent Best Man speech. Dave is almost like a son to us, after all the times over the years that he has been visiting Sam, so it was really wonderful to be there. We also took advantage of being near Milton, to visit the best man from our own wedding and his wife (Peter & Barbara), great friends whom we hadn't seen for years.



Peter took us to the Milton Fall Fair, where we met this Wild Cat

The other busyness for me, involves getting "drastic about plastic", as well as other "zero waste" and "less carbon use" ideas! This meant tearing up an old bed sheet to make hankies, tea towels to make napkins; agreeing on the bidet that Sam wanted awhile ago; learning to make my own frozen hash browns, yogurt, and cottage cheese; doing more shopping at the bulk food store and bringing my own containers; bringing my own cloth bags for produce at the grocery store, and changing my buying decisions about a lot of things accordingly. The result: only one small garbage bag to put out for pickup, every two weeks!

All this means the year just whizzed by! I know it all happened though, 'cos I just checked the photos on Facebook. :P

Rej:

It seems like I wrote part of the Christmas letter yesterday but a whole year has gone by. Last spring the main electrical breaker started to fail for no reason. It turns out it didn't like the hot tub and dryer going at the same time which meant that we had to shut down the hot tub or lose air conditioning for the summer. So that cost thousands to upgrade the panel. The City of Ottawa wanted eleven hundred dollars to turn off the power and turn it back on a few hours later. I was disgusted.

I shut down our bitcoin business. It wasn't losing money but was close to it. I am now selling part of its assets. That was a sad thing. We enjoyed camping there, but the trailer became infested with mice, as well as broken in many other ways. The air was fresh and it was a quiet spot; and we could walk to the grocery store. We got attached to it. I still own the land for now but going there won't be the same.

Next year there might be more news, especially if Sam takes us to England. He has been wanting to go for a long time and doesn't want to go by himself. He deserves a trip. He has been working very hard.

Sam:

This is an unusual year; for the first time, my part of the Christmas letter will be the shortest! While dad keeps busy with Bitcoin, I'm now working full time at Fable Tech Labs. The company is undergoing extremely rapid growth. While that's a wonderful thing for me, and for the mission of improved online accessibility, it does mean I keep pretty busy! In fact in March, I'll be traveling to CSUN in California, to give a presentation. CSUN is the largest assistive technology conference in the world, so it's certainly an exciting opportunity!

I also travel to Toronto every couple of months, to work with the team at Fable's headquarters. All that travel means I've recently gotten to discover the joys of business class Via Rail. Good food and a beer included with the ticket? Lovely!

All that said, it also means I don't have much else of interest to write about this year. So rather than going on for pages about my job, I'll just end it here. *Merry Christmas everyone!*



Zara had fun this summer...



Sam at work

MAY YOU

— *Hear the angels sing* —



He is 'able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think' (Eph. 3:20)