



Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come



Dearest Friends and Family,

How wonderfully blessed we are to have so many great people in our lives. We're healthy and happy, and we hope this holiday season finds you the same.

It's been a busy year since the last Christmas letter went out. We're working hard. We're still very involved with our church, particularly with the children's ministry.

Chris is still working at Ford Meter Box but is getting ready to switch from the machine shop to the foundry. The job should be much less stressful. He's also doing lots of work around our home, at the church, and at friends' houses. He helped one young couple completely redo their bathroom.

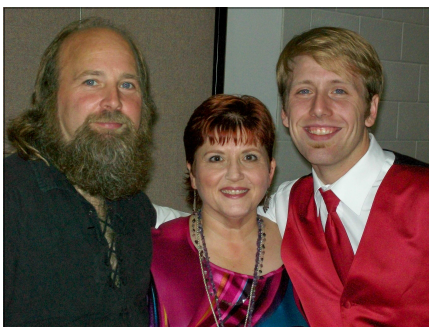
Rae has risen in the ranks of The Pampered Chef. She is a Team Leader now with several consultants on her team, so she's enjoying helping others set and reach their own goals. Her business continues to grow. She's also helping a friend write a devotional book and doing occasional secretarial temp work.

We celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in March. It's hard to believe a quarter of a century has gone by since we said our vows in The Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas.

We were baptized together in August. Yes, we were both baptized as children and went through confirmation as teens, making our public proclamation of faith. We decided that we were at a deeper place in our walk with Christ and wanted to make a renewed commitment to living out that faith. Our church does baptisms at a pond owned by one of our church member. It was an awesome experience.

In August Shawn went on staff at The Prayer Room as an intercessory missionary. This is a ministry in which he had been involved on a volunteer basis for over a year. However, he has come to the conclusion that his ministry and his passion lies elsewhere. He'll be leaving The Prayer Room in mid-December. His current address is 1905 Dartmouth Court, Arlington, TX 76015. Though, he'll be moving from there just before he heads home for the holidays. He'll be home with us from mid-December through the first of the year.

Some of you may remember that Shawn's friend Chris Atwood lived with us for a while. Chris got married on July 25. Shawn was home for wedding and was the best man. The picture below was taken at the wedding.



Our little family in July

We pray that this next year will be filled with wonderful blessings for you and the ones you love.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas,

Chris & Rae Bates