

# Christmas 2011

Dear Friends,

What a year! Jean and I both turned 70! There was the excitement of granddaughter Maria's wedding to Omar Soulimani April 22<sup>nd</sup> and grandson Andy's wedding to Lara Dean on August 13<sup>th</sup>, with granddaughter Rebekah's high school graduation in between on June 18<sup>th</sup> and Julie's two spending their whole summer working at Christian camps—Isaiah at Island Lake in Washington and Charity at Camp Victoria in Brazil. Then came our two-week trip to England, Scotland and Ireland Sept 13-27. The trip was a long-planned anniversary celebration. We were in Pitlochry, Scotland exactly 51 years after we met on Sept. 18, 1960!



Soon after we returned to the U.S., Jean's daddy began to go downhill and Jean began the process of passing a kidney stone—so thankful it didn't happen in the UK! Mission accomplished by October 11.

Most of October we were able to dress Daddy and get him to the table for meals, but gradually he quit eating and getting up at all. Jim was the one who stayed with him nearly all of his remaining 6 weeks on earth, while Jean did all the necessary "care" things! He went home to be with Jesus peacefully the night of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

November 10<sup>th</sup> brought our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The Open House celebration our children had planned took place the afternoon of November 12<sup>th</sup> with many out of town family members and friends present. Since they would not be able to return, a memorial service for Daddy was held after church Sunday afternoon, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at Calvary Baptist. None of this could have come together without the help of loving, caring, friends who came alongside us, and did "above and beyond".

We plan to use Daddy's apartment for guests as long as possible, so there will be a "Prophet's Cottage" again. Come for a visit! Let us know your plans in advance, if possible—we plan to take several trips to see old Hard Hats volunteers and other friends in 2012.

This spring, we will take a slow trip across the USA to Springboro, PA for a graveside service with family and friends. Afterward we will visit friends in other parts of PA, NY, MD, VA and NC. After visits in SC we will head to FL and then across to MO, OK, TX and home for nephew Reuben's wedding July 28<sup>th</sup> and the Hard Hats Staff Rendezvous in August.

Right now Jean is working on thank you notes and Christmas letters. In between trips next year, we hope to concentrate on getting out from under HH4C boxes, stuff we have accumulated over the years, and undone jobs. I will continue to search for past HH4C projects to flesh out the history of CWCf .

Have a Merry Christmas! Be thankful! Because we have trusted the Lord Jesus as our Savior, He has forgiven us. Our Redeemer has "anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Cor. 1:21-22). We pray you will know unshakeable peace and confidence as you wait on Him to unfold your 2012!

Jim and Jean Hodges