



# CHRISTMAS 2012



Merry Christmas! We were able to visit many of you this year during our 20,000 miles on the road (divided into three separate trips). Our faithful 2003 Toyota Corolla ran beautifully the whole time. We so enjoyed our visits and safe travel all those miles. Along the way we were reminded of the amazing expanse and beauty of our country! We have been a truly blessed people.



The biggest event of the whole year, though, was the arrival of our first great grandchild! Noah James was born to Andrew and Lara Hodges on July 4<sup>th</sup>! We got back 24 hours before getting the call to come to the hospital on July 3<sup>rd</sup> “because Lara was in labor and staying”! We wish Daddy could have been here to meet his first great great grandbaby, but we know being in heaven is FAR more wonderful!



The next biggest event of the year was on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Our nephew, Reuben Hodges (40) married the love of his life, Elizabeth Pauley. (Reuben lived with us when he was 17.)



In some ways it seems like we “lost a year” being on the road a total of 5 months...not much got done in the way of personal projects. Spent most of the time in between trips tending to mail and just catching up! Did not even get proper “thank yous” written before we were traveling again! Maybe we’ll make some progress clearing out our basement in 2013?!



Jim is currently in the middle of a horrendous repair job—rotted floor in the Prophets’ Cottage bathroom—clear under the 5 foot shower, the connecting utility room, and even the lower wall between that and the kitchen. We found a dripping, cracked pipe inside the utility room wall! Likely it has been leaking for a LONG time. Have a real challenge on our hands, that’s for sure. Pray for wisdom and strength to do the physical work... the top of the beam under the bathroom has even rotted! Grandsons Andy, James and friend Jacob Thiel have been free to help us with some of the work.

We are doing pretty well health-wise, and rejoicing in the Lord’s goodness and provision of every need! We send heartfelt thanks to each of you He is using to bless us in that way. Please keep us in your prayers...we increasingly need them.

We are so thankful for the chances we had to spend time with so many relatives, friends and supporters. Many times the visits had to be way too short, but each one was a blessing and very special to us both. Thank you again to each of you who took time out to visit with us, or show us around; and to those who fed or slept us. Our hearts are running over with wonderful memories. We were refreshed and encouraged.



*Jim's two brothers, Steve and Chuck*

As debt continues to increase in America, as well as overt evil, a sense of unease grows. Aren't you glad our security is in Jesus? He has prepared a permanent home in heaven for His children. We are just pilgrims on this troubled planet. God's promises are sure. I am so thankful for His Word, the Bible, our blueprint for living today and the revealer of the future. Reading it, meditating on it, and following it, brings amazing peace of heart and life now, and a sure hope for tomorrow. Those who ignore, or reject, their need for a Savior, do so to their own peril—they remain in their sinful, "lost" state. God says he cannot, and will not overlook sin. It is true that God is love, but it is also true that he won't forgive sin if we refuse to get rid of it in the way He provided—acceptance of Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer! Never forget, He created us, so He gets to set the rules!

Have a happy year! Look up to Jesus, not around at circumstances. That change of focus will change your heart and your days!!

*Jim & Jean*



*We were able to stay overnight with Bob and Anita Goodrich. Bob went home to be with the Lord not too long after we left.*

Jim and Jean Hodges  
610 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Kelso WA 98626  
360-430-0342  
mrhardhats@gmail.com