

## Christmas 2015

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Dear family & friends -



Two years younger & 60 pounds heavier (Marlene) on our 50th anniversary

God is good! All the time! From the bitter cold and snow of last winter, through a late spring, hot summer, and unseasonably warm fall He has given us joy in each season. Paul caught a number of fish dinners. I enjoyed working in my garden and swimming with our grandkids at an outdoor community pool.

Daily I thank God for our home within walking distance of our 3 grandkids. We have them after school several days a week.



Bruce & Jonathan Shank at <u>CelebrationWebDesign.com</u> have done a wonderful job revamping my website.



The Write His Answer Conferences that I direct in Colorado (19th year) and Philly (32nd year) were again blessed with outstanding faculties who encouraged and equipped participants to write about a God who is real, who is reachable, and who changes lives. I urge you to watch Michael Gantt's Philly keynote, "The Cross Is the Main Thing." It's a critically important message for all Christians - not just writers. http://bit.ly/1JkE8m9





Our amazing little home expanded in October to fit our son, Rob, and daughter-in-love, Nicole, and their two dogs. It is wonderful having them live with us. Our family feels complete! Nicole is a great cook, and Rob is now able to provide me with much needed 24-7 tech support. The company he works for in Myrtle Beach is allowing him to work

remotely from his office in our basement.

Our middle daughter, Deb (the mother of our three grandkids), works as a pediatrician. Her husband, Rob (yes, we have two Rob's), is a dental hygienist who also teaches dental hygiene at Philadelphia Community College. Sharon, our oldest daughter who lives in Wilmington, is unable to work because of serious health issues and constant pain but so far has been denied disability. Her husband, Howard, has been out of work all year after his department was moved down south. Please pray for them.

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I have not done much writing for publication this year. Directing the two conferences is pretty much a year round job. I have done some editing and plan to publish several authors through Ampelos Press in the new year. I lead two critique groups that meet in our home and hope to begin work soon on three books I believe Father is calling me to write in addition to several eBooks.

In the midst of the ever-encroaching darkness in our world I am so grateful that Jesus chose to lay aside "his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's

death on a cross" (Phil. 2:7-8 TLB). Friends, He really came to earth as a helpless infant! I hope you'll make time to watch this powerful re-enactment of the first Christmas (http://bit.ly/1DxCQXY). Yes, He came and He is coming again - perhaps very soon. "His life is the light that shines through the darkness - and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1:3 TLB). May you know the peace and joy He came to give us all.

Marlene & Paul