

*Holiday*



*Greetings*

Dear Friends,

December, 1999

This has been a year of traveling. In March, we toured Chile, Argentina and a corner of Brazil. Joe's sister, Marilyn is living in Argentina for several years while her husband, Bob, works for Dow Chemical developing some chemical plants. We spent 5 exciting days in Buenos Aires riding wild taxis, going to a tango show, eating lots of beef and seeing the opera "Swan Lake" at a magnificent opera house. We flew 1000 miles north of Buenos Aires to see Iguasau Falls. It is 3 miles wide and one of the most spectacular natural sights we have ever seen.

Joe's mom, Margaret, who is 85, always dreamed of visiting Turkey and seeing sights from the Bible. A former priest from her church in Ogema (Joe's hometown with a population of 164 people), mentioned a tour of Turkey called "The Footsteps of the Apostle Paul" and she couldn't be stopped. She needed help on the trip, so she invited all her children. The trip was five days after the earthquake in August and we almost didn't go. We both agree that this was the best trip we have ever experienced. We read scripture at historical Christian places (Ephesus was awesome), saw wonderful ancient ruins and enjoyed the Turkish people, culture and food.

In July, Joe, our three daughters and others spent five days white water rafting on the Salmon River in Idaho. Daughter Amy and husband, Mike, are excellent rafters. They own a raft and lots of equipment. The food was gourmet, scenery awesome, plenty of thrills (especially when Joe ran a raft through a small rock chute), fun singing, story telling.....and then the excitement of the crapper.

Joe had planned to start retirement at age 59 ½ in September, but he's having too much fun a work. Hewlett Packard is splitting into two separate companies: HP and Agilent Technologies. After 33 years at HP, Joe now works at Agilent. He plans to start working part time later in the year. Part of the reason for the retirement delay is that our new house plans are progressing slowly (too much traveling). We do have very good conceptual plans for our house and for Judy's studio. Also, Joe painted the outside of our house in Cupertino in preparation for sale. After 27 years on the board of Sacred Heart Community Service, Joe retired. He definitely misses the wonderful spirit and energy of Sacred Heart. Part of the reason he left was to rejoin Cupertino Community Services and help lead a project to develop 24 units of affordable housing and to provide for permanent facilities for CCS. Housing is a major challenge for Silicon Valley. Joe received some very good news from his cardiologist. He had a routine echocardiogram, and the doctor was very surprised that his heart has completely recovered. Apparently his heart being in normal rhythm (after two shocks), gradually healed itself. Praise the Lord!!!!

Judy loves her photography business and all the exciting people contacts. She just finished some awesome pictures of two kitty cats. One cat is coyly licking the ear of the other cat. Awesome. The baby and children pictures she's taken this year are some of her all time favorites, especially of our godchild Zachary (Jimmy and Gail McMillan's son).

We visited Becky and Dave in Oregon at Thanksgiving. Becky loves her teaching. She was nominated for teacher of the year for the state of Oregon. We are very sad that Mary and Todd are getting a divorce. We lost many years of sleep, and we pray that they will become whole and can start new lives. Mary is able to keep their Cupertino house. She has two roommates that help pay the mortgage. She loves teaching and is in demand teaching negotiating skills in her school district. Her students love her, and she has many opportunities for tutoring. Amy and Mike moved into their "big" house in Boise, Idaho. They lived for two years in a 500 square foot cottage in a quaint part of town. In July we helped them paint the inside of their house as part of the moving in process. Amy loves her job at HP and now will be the only Tembrock at HP. Joey and Belinda moved into their condo in Rohnert Park, California (an hour north of San Francisco). Joey is now working as a carpenter and he just loves construction. He says that he learns something new every day.

Nick, our foster child, has a job. He works at a clothes store and has been very reliable. Judy's Mom, Sadie, from Minnesota visited us last winter. We hope she will be with us again this year.

Have a blessed holiday,

Joe and Judy Tembrock