

2012 Christmas 'Howdy!' from the Helgrens (www.helgren.com)

December 14, 2012

Sometimes the word “Change” takes on a whole new meaning. When it comes to government, promised change is same old, same old. But for the Helgrens change was, well, radical! New job, new house, new location, new state, new...everything! So lemme scroll back a bit and fill you in.

I have been “self employed” for almost 20 years. It's a bit of a misnomer since those 20 years have involved a few partnerships and a few startup's but essentially those 20 years have been spent not knowing if another paycheck was in the future. God has been incredibly faithful in providing for us during the past 20 years so that I really haven't felt self employed as I much as I have been “faith employed”. You also know, if you have managed to stay awake while reading my past missives, that Bible Study Fellowship and Bible study in general has come front and center of Debbie's and my life. For the past couple of years I have been doing some pro-bono software development work for BSF and in February of this year I accepted a position with them in San Antonio.

Some change comes more slowly than others and in this case Debbie and I waited for needed teaching leader replacements for the BSF classes in Salt Lake. We also had to “spruce up” our 90 year old abode in Salt Lake in order to sell. Add to that a large server replacement project in Metlakatla, Alaska and a need to gracefully bow out of the business there and that all made for a very busy seven months of preparation. Our boys (and most everybody else) weren't informed until June so even though it seemed a quick decision, there were months of prayer and planning.

And tears! We put the house on the market August 27th and by September 4th it had sold. God is very good! Deb and I had a list of houses in San Antonio already picked out and there was really only one left available when we sold our beloved Harvard Ave home. So Cougar Bluff it was! Barely a month later we were Texans (by address only.....)

In the months that have passed we had the boys down for Thanksgiving, and we will be heading north for the Christmas holidays: a few days in Salt Lake and a few days in Meridian, Idaho to see Debbie's folks.

We REALLY miss Jonas and Sam! Jonas is now IT director at Red Touch Media (redtouchmedia.com). I have difficulty in catching up with him between his trips to LA and Nice, France. The “Cat's in the Cradle” song

by Harry Chapin often comes to mind. He is slowly whipping his yard into shape and I may help out on a few projects while in SLC. There will always be some work to do at his house.

Sam continues his studies at the University of Utah. Although his graduation date is still “soft”, Debbie and I are heartened by his complaining about dealing with the day to day challenges of being president of his fraternity. Perhaps living with the consequences of others bad decisions is sobering! Sam continues to work at Epic Brewing Co. in sales and marketing. His beer knowledge is quite extensive (on the job training) so don't be caught drinking a Bud Lite in his presence.....

Debbie has been rolling with the punches and with no mortgage and with me finally having a “real” job, she can finally relax a bit. She wasn't in San Antonio long before she accepted a volunteer BSF “ambassador” job and was promptly sent to Phoenix to be temporary teaching leader for a class there. In between very brief stints at home she has been trying to put the finishing touches on the Cougar Bluff residence. She is finished with her ambassador job for now and is enjoying (I think) being at home. I sure love having her back home. I am not cut out for bachelorhood...

On the larger family side, my 101 year old Grandmother died after a remarkably full life. Her death ends an era of a family centered on Ravine Road in Dundee Illinois. I guess with that center “gone” it was easier to uproot from our center in SLC and move on.

If we focused on loss, then there is much to mourn. But we have a Savior who is nothing but Gain and in that our joy is complete. Our move to Texas has brought us sorrow and joy but it is nothing compared to the sweetness of being in Christ.

Debbie and I pray that the reality of Everlasting Joy will be with you in the coming year.

You can add to our joy by coming to visit:

18027 Cougar Bluff
San Antonio, TX 78258
210-598-9702