

# Joy to the World!

We pray that your 2023 has been a blessed year for you and your family! It will definitely be a year remembered by us with challenges as well as blessings!

Bud started the year with six weeks of radiation treatments for prostate cancer, but 6 months later he got to ring the bell as cancer free! Due to his very positive attitude (thanks to Jesus!) he was later asked to speak at the hospital gala fundraiser.



2023 was also our 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary but we chose to continue the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> which began in Bermuda in 2022. (We were in the Bermuda Triangle when we first learned of the cancer! But God had great plans to use this for GOOD!

To celebrate, we planned and took a three week vacation to Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Scotland, and Ireland. Bud thought it was going to be a cruise but Debra and our travel agent neighbor, decided to link together 3 separate land tours with Iceland being aggressively adventurous for people our age! We hiked across a glacier into an ice cave with minimal safety gear (a hard hat and ice cleats called crampons) and across flimsy 2" by 10" wooden boards!



Definitely worth it once we survived!



The rest of the trip included boat trips on the fjords of Norway, changing of the guard at the palace in Stockholm, an excursion on Loch Ness (Debra saw Nessie!) and culminating with staying in a Scottish castle!



Loch Ness



"Our" castle



Viking Church



**Bootsie chillin' in our pool!**

The rest of the year was much calmer with Debra's mother, Bootsie, and brother, Duke spending a few weeks with us here, while Bud had daily radiation.

Deb was able to continue speaking, MCing, prison ministry, and her educational school board she serves on. In May, many of the family went to St. Louis to celebrate Bootsie's 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on Mother's Day!



There was also fishing, boating, the Fair, 4<sup>th</sup> of July on the lake, Halloween neighborhood Costumes, the Florida Aquarium, and just praising Jesus for a blessed "old" life!

**Bud made his yearly home-grown banana bread with the help of his brother Sam.**



In spite of a few aches and pains, we are still the same teens we were when we first met, and love more deeply!

Bud's favorite "flag" fish and whistling fish for his birthday!

**JESUS IS STILL THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**  
(And for EVERY day of the year!)

**We pray that you and your family also know the peace of Christ – the Prince of Peace! If you don't, why not let Christmas of 2023 be the year that you have NEW LIFE ABUNDANTLY by inviting JESUS to be the Lord of your life!! We want you to know the same PEACE and JOY we have!!**



Lord willing, Deb's Mom and brother are coming to stay again in January and February, and we are going on a family Caribbean cruise! More time to "chat" and play and reminisce as Mom turns 99 this year!

*Love and Prayers for a blessed Christmas and 2024!*

*The Peppers*

