



# Christmas 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

Best wishes and blessings for the Christmas season and the upcoming New Year. I hope 2014 was good to you.

The Bradens have maintained a family Website for more than 14 years now. The Bradens have also been sending (inflicting) Christmas letters to their friends for more than 30 years now.

So what happens in February 2014 that makes you no longer want to maintain a Website? And what happens in 2014 that makes you no longer want to write the December Christmas letter?

The answers to both of those questions are that no matter what happens, life goes on. We cherish the past, but we have to live in the present and plan for the future. Bonnie would want it that way. We don't forget what happens; we pray to learn to be able to handle it.

This year we did have some great news: Charlie Braden was born to Robert and Natalie, and Anne and Rusty are expecting in April!!!! What could be more wonderful? Anne and Rusty's baby will be named Bonnie Jane in honor of each of their mothers.



Rapelling at GatorLand

In the last six months we have had some very nice family get-togethers that included beach time, a cruise, fun times in Alabama and in Orlando. And for this Christmas, beginning on the 26th, most of the family will be gathered in Orlando to enjoy the theme parks and other attractions there.

I have tried to keep busy with my men's golf association with my racquetball buddies. Speaking of racquetball, I aged up this year and was sure that I would do well in the Florida Senior Games. But I ran into a really good player in the semi finals, someone who ultimately won the age group, and I ended up third. ☹

I have a wonderful and supportive Bible Fellowship and try to stay involved with its activities. Bonnie and I had helped out with a shower ministry twice a month and now I do that every Monday. At the same location homeless and needy people are fed a meal and provided the opportunity to pick up some clothes. I am also studying Islam, just to learn more about that religion.



Wild Animal Safari

And I am working on book number two. Certainly not for the money. Absolutely not for the money. My goal is 5,000 words a month, and I've done that for four months now. If I can keep it up, the book should be ready for publishing in 12 to 14 months.

That's it for this year. May you continue to grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

I am so thankful for all my blessings.

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Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV):

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV):

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”.