



CHRISTMAS 2016



Dear Family and Friends,

Another year raced by, though the news networks were often successful in making time feel like it was standing still in their seemingly endless coverage of presidential politics.

The family is good.

Sandra changed teaching responsibilities and has fifth graders this year instead of third graders. She likes having to do less hand holding and the fact that she can threaten them with statements like, "If you do that in Middle School next year then your (fellow students) (teachers) (parents) (drug gang members)" *pick whatever works* "are going to kill you!"

Steve added another business to his portfolio by investing in the *Ford,s Garage* gourmet burger bar restaurant chain, I think mainly to get 40% off when he eats there.

And they celebrated their 20th Wedding Anniversary in December with a trip to the Big Apple for five days of shows, touring, eating, and otherwise spoiling themselves.

Daughter Savanah (16) is now driving!!! And Seth (14) and Sydney (9) are active with sports-type activities.

Rusty and Anne returned to Tampa for a short spell, having finished their ministry duties with Victory Baptist Church in Louisiana, and prepared for Rusty's return to seminary for his doctoral studies on a scholarship. They will again be living "on campus" and Rusty will be the assistant Dean of Chapel, a testament to how well he is regarded there. That's nice.

Anne and Rusty do wonders taking care of Bonnie Jane, whi is doing well - very sweet at 19 months - and looking forward to having a baby brother in January!

Robert's bank funded an MBA program for him at Georgia Tech, so now he gets to spend part of every other weekend in Atlanta.

Natalie continued with her work with Point University's college ministry as well as attending to Benjamin, Charlie, and Everett. This year Natalie often had to be the stand-in coach when Robert was away, and she earned a better Win-Loss record. And their family will also be growing as Natalie is due in May!

I continued with golf and its Men's Association. And the body is still holding up for racquetball two or three times a week. Plus some work with my neighborhood association and my Sunday School class. Also finished Book #2, a sequel to #1, and coming in at 460 pages. I hope that won't cause problems with the writers after MGM buys the movie rights and has to turn it into a screenplay.

The family or at least large parts of it got together for some beach time in June, a cruise later in the summer, and will assemble here in Tampa over Christmas. We also got in our mandatory Orlando-area theme park time required of all Florida residents.

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

The Braden Family:
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Jay, kids, grandkids, and (spoiled) kat
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Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV):
Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV):

"For I know the plans I have for you..." declares the Lord
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ...,"
declares the Lord

