



Warrick

Review

Christmas 2023 • 50th Edition • P.O. Box 174 - 14762 Old Sterling City Hwy • Water Valley, TX 76958
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Howdy from the middle of the Atlantic Ocean! We decided to do a Mediterranean Cruise in early November, followed by a Transatlantic cruise back to the states - So here we are. Will be home about December 8. We decided we better get this letter taken care of while cruising. If we wait until we get home, there's a good chance it won't get finished! In addition, this is our 50th Edition of our Christmas letter. That is hard to believe! Will be celebrating our 50th anniversary next summer.

For the most part we are both staying healthy. Have a few aches and pains, but it has not slowed us down too much. It has just changed the way we do things.

When we are home, we are still both active with all kinds of events and activities at our church. Billy does most of the weed control and mowing at church (as well as home). Working on landscape is his main form of exercise. Lanee still continues to work in the church office once a week and helps take care of their graphics and Facebook account. She also tries to play Mahjong a couple of times a week. We both enjoy audiobooks and usually go through about 100 books each during the course of a year.

We continue to travel as much as we can. We did several trips to visit family in 2023. We started the year in the Amarillo area visiting Brock and family, the brothers and Lanee's aunts.

We headed off on road trip number one in February. We spent a few weeks in the Florida area before heading to the Washington DC area. We had two bucket list items we were wanting to complete: Cherry Blossom Festival in DC and visiting our 50th state: Connecticut. The cherry blossoms were absolutely beautiful. We enjoyed seeing them along with a 100,000 other people! We also had a great time in Connecticut. We planned for about five or six days and still had things we could have done. Spring in the Northeast is beautiful – they truly have a spring!



Late spring and summertime we can usually be found at home. There is always so much to do. We did take off in June for a few days for the annual Welch Family reunion in Canyon, Texas. This is always a good time to reconnect with the aunts, uncle, cousins, siblings, nieces and the rest of the family.



After the reunion Billy and I along with Brock, April and Grace headed to Albuquerque. It was time to meet Brock's new twin granddaughters: Aracely and Yesenia. The girls were born May 16 to his daughter, Alyson and Izaak. We all agreed they were absolutely beautiful and we are so thankful they are healthy.



In July, Billy attended the Texas Extension Specialists Association State meeting held southeast of Houston. Even though Billy has been retired 15 years, he still enjoys seeing coworkers from across the state.

At the same time, Lanee took the last two granddaughters, Destiny and Grace along with April, to NYC for a week-long girl's trip. They did the touristy NYC things: Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, 9-11 Museum and Memorial, Central Park, restaurants, Broadway shows, shopping and so much more. It was a lot of fun getting to see the girls explore the city.



Our fall road trip started in early August. We drove to the Northwest and up into Canada. We met up with ten other friends in late August and did an Alaskan cruise. We all originally met through Grape Creek Baptist Church. Some have moved or changed churches, but we still stay in contact with each other.



On the way home, we stopped in Albuquerque, NM and stayed with our good friends, Sharon and Steve Williams. We got to spend some more time with our sweet great grand babies and their parents. Also, we completed another bucket list item by going to the Balloon Festival.

We were home a month before we flew to Rome for this Mediterranean cruise. So many beautiful places. We think the highlights were probably Athens: Acropolis and Parthenon; Ephesus: being where Paul walked; and Santorini: an incredibly beautiful Greek island.



Billy always likes to keep up with the details of our travels – kind of like doing the monthly reports he used to do when he was working. He said we covered 34 states and 9 countries (4 new) in 2023 – Billy is at 47 countries and Lanee is at 49 countries. Lanee’s goal is to “Cruise More in ‘24”. She currently has 11 new countries scheduled for herself and Billy will be with her for six of those.

Brock’s crew still calls Hereford, Texas, home. He continues to develop his woodworking skills and has built several impressive items. April is taking university courses through UTPB and is hoping to finish soon. She is wanting to earn a degree in psychology. Grace (16) is a Junior at Hereford and Destiny (15) is a Freshman at Mountainair High School. They both made “A” Honor rolls in their respective high schools. Both girls work very hard and are involved in sports.



The Baker Crew are now living at College Station, Texas. Steve is writing school curriculum and Kristi started a new job in August. Greyson (11) is in 5th Grade and Oaklen (8) is in 2nd Grade; both boys are doing great in school due to Kristi and Steve’s home-schooling efforts. This past summer they home-schooled all summer and then took summer vacation in September and October. They caught up with us during our Fall trip. We were able to check off another bucket list item: sharing Jackson, WY, the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone with The Bakers. We had a fabulous time getting to do this together.



As December goes by, please take the opportunity to celebrate our Savior’s birth, life and death that paved a way for us to stand before a Holy God. Take time to be amazed at God’s plan to bring salvation to those who call upon His name. May your gift to others be the sharing of the plan. Let us reflect on the joy that the season brings. The real and lasting joy of Jesus.

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones,

Billy + Lanee

