

# Merry Christmas 2005

*A year filled with wonderful celebrations.*

*Let us cherish the gift of family and friends  
as we celebrate Jesus' birth.*



This year, we have been blessed to receive some very special reasons to celebrate.

First (*sequentially in the order we received the news*), we celebrated the marriage of our daughter Tracie to a terrific guy, Air Force Lieutenant Wes Higginbotham. And, we were also delighted to be able to celebrate their return to the USA from England and their purchase of their first home together in Colorado Springs.

The next exciting news we received was that in March of 2006, our son Greg and daughter-in-love Cathy will make us grandparents for the first time.



Since they have decided to wait until the baby is born to know whether they are having a boy or a girl, for now they refer to the little kicker as "Sprout." Regular email reports, ultra sound photos, and even a live-action DVD have kept us well informed. It's all too amazing!

In August, we celebrated Patti's birthday with a little excursion to the Grand Canyon. From the miracle of God creating a new life in our family to the magnificent majesty so clearly evident in God's sculpture of the awesome Grand Canyon, we are seeing more and more of His handiwork every day.



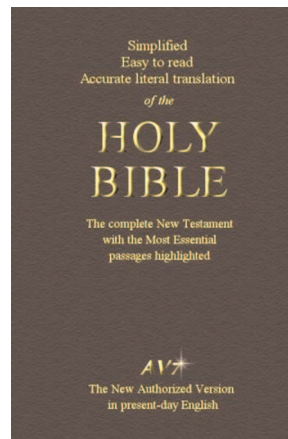
In October, we were blessed to have all of our kids home together for the first time. What a grand time we all had with Wes' parents here to join with our Arizona family and friends celebrating Wes and Tracie's marriage. And what a marvelous blessing it is that all of our children get along so well together and seem to genuinely enjoy and appreciate each other. The day after the big wedding celebration, Tracie hosted a family baby shower for Cathy and Greg that was great fun for all.

So, we have two in Washington, two in Colorado, and Jason (*his photo at the bottom left*) nicely settled down in Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Alabama. Even though it means he has to travel around so much, we celebrate the fact that Jason has established such a good track record and has demonstrated such outstanding resolve and resiliency to make his company successful. Likewise, Greg has also demonstrated the same kind of "stick-to-it" in growing his business' success for 15 years. He performed very professionally in providing the music for Wes and Tracie's wedding reception.



In November, Joe's cousins, Lyle and Mickie Norland (*above*), welcomed us to their beautiful home in California for a wonderful reunion. After a nice visit with them, we went on a delightful Mexican Riviera cruise for a week to celebrate Joe's birthday. What a grand time we had! (*A pix from the cruise is shown at the bottom of this letter.*) Snorkeling in the warm water of the Baja with all the beautiful fish was a delightful highlight!

Upon returning home, we rejoiced in celebrating the start of a new Bible study home group with wonderful new friends from our church.



As we joined together in praying for each other, one of our longest hoped-for prayer requests was answered as we just received word that a major publisher has accepted the AV7 Bible Project that Joe has been working on for the past 32 years. The first printing of the new AV7 Bible will be 150,000 copies. Praise the Lord!

We wish you a Christmas filled with peace, love, and joy and a Happy New Year overflowing with blessings.

*Please write to us!*  
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**Please note:** This Christmas letter with more and bigger pictures is available at our website: [www.upquick.com/family](http://www.upquick.com/family)