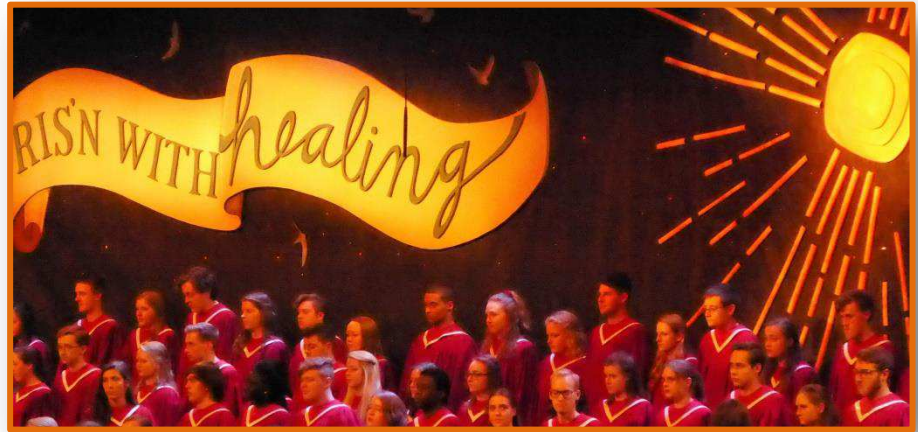


Christmas, 2017

Sitka, Alaska



Dear Friends,

This is the first year since 1992 that we haven't done some work overseas. Rich had on-line work with a community radio station in Jordan, but because he had surgery with a few complications we were confined to the States for 5 months. Fortunately Rich is healthy now, and the surgery may have solved a chronic problem that has bugged him for nearly 35 years.

Once Rich healed we took a cruise that brought us to the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Scotland and Greenland, revisiting Iceland after 49 years and getting a chance to see Greenland for the first time, "before it melts."

This year we spent time with family visiting Brian, Liz and the grandkids in Minnesota (including the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, picture above) and Kevin and Shannon in Anchorage, each twice. The grandkids are both interesting individuals. Liam is in the first grade of a Mandarin Chinese immersion school. We went into a Chinese restaurant and he went up to one of the waitresses and started a conversation. Then he went to a table and tried to start up a conversation with the customers. The family was Japanese. Liam has shown an aptitude for math and Brian uses the game Quirkle to drill him on addition. Fiona is two and a half but is the height of a 4 year old and has the language skills to match. One morning in Early December she ran into the room where we were sleeping shouting "Grandpa, Grandpa, there is SNOW! I am so excited." Indeed there was snow. The day before had been 52 degrees, by morning it was 12 with an inch of snow.

Rich is working on his photography hobby and posts pictures of his daily walks on Facebook. People are "discovering" his work and some of his shots have been used in brochures, annual reports, and in one museum exhibit. Suzi is enjoying quilting although she will have to go some to match the beautiful quilt that Liz displayed at the Minnesota State Fair.

This Christmas Brian, Liz and the grandkids will be with Liz's family in Colorado while Kevin and Shannon will be in Sitka with us, a traditional family Christmas on the radio with Kevin acting as producer for Rich's Christmas Eve "Battery Exchange." Shannon will bring some of her kitchen magic to share.

Next year we are celebrating 50 years of marriage and, God willing, plan to leave Sitka on New Year's Day to take an around the world cruise that will bring us to places we've never visited, like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. We are blessed with family, friends and opportunity. We wish the same blessings, and more, for you and your family. Merry Christmas!


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