



Christmas 2022



Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas 2022 – I hope. Lots going on in the US and worldwide.

- Rampant inflation: It hurts! But I'm learning new words, like *transitory inflation*, which I think is similar to regular inflation but with 25 percent more lies.
- Soaring Crime: Scary rise in crime rates. Also turns out that a portion of the increased shooting deaths are related to inflation: shooters cannot afford to fire a warning shot.
- Financial Crises: I've learned that money talks: It's just that mine is saying, "goodbye!"

So, with all that, how are Jay and Joyce doing? Well, we did manage to get away to Breezes, an all-inclusive resort in Nassau. The second day there I said to Joyce, "Isn't this wonderful? Food and beverages and you can just lie around all day and do nothing." She replied, "So how is what you are doing here different from what you do at our home in Florida?" *Spoilsport!*

We also got to enjoy some mountains. For Joyce it was Gatlinburg and for Jay it was Pine Mountain, Georgia, home of Callaway Gardens. Nice getaways from flat Florida but we both got nosebleeds from all that elevation.

Saw where Buffalo, New York, got 86 inches of snow not too long ago. Wow! Thinking about all that cold and snow *almost* made me want to put on an undershirt beneath my short sleeve polo.



Fellowship Baptist Church
Freedom Festival
July 2022



Fellowship Baptist Church
Trunk or Treat
October 2022

Joyce and I are now full fledged members of the **Joy 60+ Ministry** at our church. We thought that if we could avoid membership in that group, it might slow down the aging process. NOT!!! So we will be introducing this group to some of our games. We just need to add a few more, like Geritol™ chugging and relays involving swallowing CoQ10 Supplements.

This year both Joyce and I attended our high school reunions; each were our respective Class of '62 60th Anniversaries. Joyce's was here in the Tampa area; mine was in the Indianapolis area. Boy, our classmates sure are *aging*! Funny how that topic seems to come up again. We observed that everyone our age is older than us. Aging, however, does make us more thankful for "the big things in life." For example, large print crossword puzzles.

Joyce is now finishing the **eight** correspondence courses needed every two years to keep her Nursing certifications current. (If I had to recertify my Professional Engineer license every two years I would have been in big trouble.) But then Joyce's medical advice is constantly sought by friends and relatives, and even friends of friends. I don't know how she does it. Of course, from my perspective there are obvious advantages to being married to a Nurse. But there are disadvantages: Accidentally sneeze and you get four doses a day of a 1,000mg Vitamin C fizzy

drink while also having to knock down 16 glasses of water daily. Try that for five days!

Joyce is still our horticulture expert: Last February her entry at the Florida State Fair won First Place in its division, and this March she will return to the Florida Strawberry Festival to hopefully repeat on her Best-of-Show award. If only I got as much attention as her succulents and cacti. I do like the fairs and festivals with their treats and rides; my favorite ride now is the message chair.

Now wishing you the best for this Christmas and the coming years. May you continue to grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

Jay and Joyce
The Braden Family: Jay, Joyce, kids, grandkids, and sweet puppy Cinny

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Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): "For I know the plans I have for you..." declares the Lord

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways ...," declares the Lord