

# Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Family, Friends & Partners:

Wow! Lots of things have happened this year, and I would like to give you a quick review.

In January we celebrated my brother-in-law, Allan Prestegard's, 80th Birthday Party at their ranch.



Allan and his birthday cake

February 5th LaVern had an event at the Cresco Mission while he was helping me teach to the residents. It was a mini stroke. Thank God, Vicki Behsman, was with us, who was a retired nurse and helped us get him to the hospital. I will be later putting the testimony in full detail on my website and I will let you know when it is there. His feelings all came back before we reached the hospital. Much prayer was ministered to him at the Mission. On Valentines weekend LaVern and I went to a Marriage Conference at our church and brought our granddaughter, Star McPhee and her finance, Steve VonWald. We had great teaching and learning. Steve and I made a pack on being accountable to one another that we would put into practice what we learned.



Gifts of the Spirit Seminar in March

In March, we went to several fish fries at St. Michael's in Pine Island with my sister and her husband. LaVern and I took a trip to Oklahoma and brought our friend, Vicki Behsman, to the Gifts of the Spirit Seminar toward the end of this month.

April we went to the Cresco Graduation Banquet to watch the residents get their certificates. I got to sing along with them since I graduated from the program in 2018.



Cresco Graduation Banquet in April

In May LaVern and I went to Gaastra, Michigan to speak on the Gifts of the Spirit Seminar to the residents there. We were there for 5 days. When we got home, we celebrated LaVern's twin brothers, Dennis & Dean Burdick, 76th Birthdays in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

June we spent time with my brother, Larry, and his family, wife, Laurie, daughter Katie and her husband Oscar and their daughter, Eliza at a cabin in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota. We did a lot of shopping and eating (photo on page 2).

July was especially full with good times and sad times. We went on a pontoon ride with Andy and Angel Hoot and their family. We celebrated LaVern's 75th Birthday (photo on page 2) at church where he cleans, and his cleaning buddies celebrated with him. Later, we went to Townies Grill'd Philly Subs, a new place in town with our family. It was nice catching up on family happenings. We had Vern's cousin's visit us



Celebrating the Twins Birthday



LaVern and I with my brother and his family at Park Rapids, MN in June

from out of town and put on a meal at our place. Met one of his cousins for the first time, Carol. Shortly after that, we had a couple visitors from Mason City, Iowa visit us for three days. We had a great time grilling outside and going on excursions and showing off the town. We went to Greenfield, Minnesota to visit Lark Toys. They enjoyed a carousel ride and looking at toys from the past. Brought back great memories. LaVern's brother, Dennis Burdick, passed away on July 16th, and we celebrated his life at the Macken Funeral Home. It was good seeing all the relatives, but it made you realize how quick life can go.

In August, I had our yearly Backyard Bash. This year we celebrated a little earlier because

two of our neighbors were experiencing some mile stones in life. Remona Kisrow turned 90 years young and the Fitch's, Ron & Donna, had their 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was a small group but we enjoyed our time together.



Our Family celebrating LaVern's 75th birthday at Townies



Dennis' Memorial in June

In September we headed out on a couple mission trips. First stop was Cresco Mission and we stayed over night after sharing the night before. We left early in the morning and arrived in Brazil, Indiana where the House of Hope is at. We shared a few days there and took time out to visit Lawrence Urlick and his family. The Fall colors were just starting to come out, so it was nice to see the colors as we traveled.

October was a full month as well. Our daughter got us in a special reception for the Franklin Graham's Crusade. Afterwards we had front seats in Soldiers Field Park to listen to the Newsboys and Franklin's message. It was very

powerful and direct. We also celebrated my sisters-in-law, Janet Burdick, 75th birthday and went to the Footloose play at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. It was compliments of our son, Ben, and his wife Delora. A very fun evening for sure. Another amazing event is our Great Grandchild, Finn Peter O'Neil, came into the world October 13th . We can't wait to see him in person in April.

November is a time of thankfulness. We celebrated at my daughter's in-laws church, The Hoots! I got to meet for the first time my granddaughter's boyfriend, Freddy. They had around 40 people there. So nice for them to get us all together and be thankful for those that came.

December is usually packed filled. I spent three days with my sister to help her recover from having two stents put in her heart. She is breathing better and getting better blood flow throughout her body! PTL!



Footloose play at Chanhassen Dinner Theater



Finn Peter O'Neil

LaVern and I are celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year at the church and then we will eat with friends and family at the Pizza Ranch. We will end our day with a movie with our family celebrating the Burdick's Christmas.

WHEW! What a full YEAR! I hope all who are reading this find comfort in the ONE who brings great JOY for all of us, and HE is worth celebrating, JESUS THE SAVIOR!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE,

LaVern K. & Sandra L. Burdick



Backyard Bash I host every August



House of Hope Group