



***Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year from the
Bonham Family!***

Joy to the World

← Meet our grandkids!

“The angel said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10

This fall we have been part of a group that is focused on restoring joy. We have learned that joy cultivates a desire to connect. Apart from relational connection and joy, serving God and others becomes “just duty”. In a season that focuses so much on gift shopping and get-togethers it is easy to forget what brings real joy.

One of the things that brings us joy is our family. Our oldest granddaughter, Lucy, turns 16 the day after Christmas. Grandsons Elliot, Abel and Oliver are now teenagers and Arlo and Zed are both 9 years old. Penelope turned 4 in September.

Another joy is the way God had blessed our kids. Marci and husband Caleb and family moved to a delightful new home this fall. It is close by us. Matt and his wife Hope and family have moved to Caseville, Michigan to take on a new responsibility as pastor of children’s ministry at a church in Cass City. They will be about three and a half hours away, but we are thrilled with their passion for this ministry.

And we are rejoicing over two good medical reports for Mary this fall. Both indicated that her stage four cancer is dormant and not progressing. This has helped us change focus from death to making the most of the life we have. We continue with counseling, leading Journey Group and Loving Well marriage groups, training Growth Group leaders at our church, coaching staff at the Path of Life School and coordinating with others doing marriage ministry.

All of this involves and requires connection with God and others. And we could not do it without our connection with you, our partners. This is what brings us joy – the assurance that Immanuel is with us, that you stand with us, and that as we persevere there is joy awaiting us.

We look forward to returning to Texas for the cold months of January and February and continuing our online ministry as well as writing more training material. The book I have been doing on and off work on is close to being written. Next comes edits and design work. Work on it has been frequently disrupted, but getting out of town should be of great help.

I am impressed that God sent angels to speak to shepherds about news of great joy for all people. At Shepherd's Heart we desire to be all about restoring joy that comes from connecting with the Wounded Healer of our souls.

Joy to you and yours,

Mark and Mary

The Bonham's

