
NIPELY NEWS

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Greetings from Texas

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Geri and I continue to live in a foreign country. It's been so long since we've lived in the United States that we've become acclimated to our new land. The good thing is that for the most part there is no language barrier! So Howdy and Merry Christmas, y'all.

Why did Christ come?

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Even the word Christ tells us the answer, he was/is the Messiah. "And this is the testimony, God has given us Eternal Life, and this life is in His Son; he who has the Son has life and he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life." I John 5:11-12

The Baby Jesus did not come to have shepherds or wise men visit, but as he said: "I have come not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved." John 3:17

We hope you have Him with you this season and all the year round!



Scotland - Home of Braveheart!

The scene above was taken at the William Wallace Memorial near the old capital of Scotland, Stirling. It was August, but yes Geri is wearing a jacket and woolen cap. We spent 8 days touring with a small group of folks around Edinburgh and we stayed in an old building converted into a hotel in the city of Stirling.

One of our visits was to the birthplace of golf, St. Andrews on a peninsula out into the North Sea. We saw Loch Loman and lunched on its bonnie bonnie banks. A trip to Scotland is not complete without visiting a distillery making single malt Scotch Whiskey. And of course when in the UK, one must eat in a Pub and have fish and chips.

We visited several castles and saw the chapel where most of the kings and queens of Scotland were crowned (sitting on the Stone of Scone).

More information found at

http://www.johnnipe.com/Travel_Log/Scottish_travel_log.pdf

Thoughts

Power always sincerely, conscientiously, de très bon foi (*in very good faith*), believes itself right. Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views, beyond the comprehension of the weak.

John Adams in a letter to Thomas Jefferson (02-20-1816)

Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts and murders itself. There was never a democracy that did not commit suicide.

John Adams, Letter, April 15, 1814

Every New Year is a direct descendant, isn't it, of a long line of proven criminals? Ogden Nash

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter."
e.e.Cummings

Immature love says: 'I love you because I need you.'
Mature love says 'I need you because I love you.'
Erich Fromm

The church is the only fellowship in the world where the one requirement for membership is the unworthiness of the candidate.
Robert B. Munger

Church merger - One year later

There were those, mostly in the old Aubrey First Baptist, who felt that the loss of identity would happen through the absorption into the more populous Rock Hill Baptist entity. And, that identity is certainly less observable today, but, so is the identity of the old Rock Hill congregation. The Holy Spirit has worked to forge an amalgamation that none of us could have foreseen. It is a new entity that, like the child of parents, resembles a bit of each; but is wholly unique and has a character of its own; First Rock Fellowship.

The result has been baptisms at an unprecedented rate (unprecedented for either of the original churches), baptisms of newly saved adults, teens and children. And now there even exists a large part of the membership that were never part of either of the original churches.

We have been blessed with resources of people, funds, energy and zeal and I know that God has more tasks ahead for us. I pray that we are as obedient in the future as we were a year ago.

John and the Aubrey Independent School District

Last year in August, I was asked to long-term sub in the middle school for a young teacher who was on maternity leave and I believe I reported 5 weeks in the classroom having been successfully completed by October.

I started three day a week tutoring in January and had completed 3-4 weeks when it was discovered that the teacher for whom I had subbed had found out that a tumor on her tongue was stage 3 cancerous. I was asked to sub until she could return. As it turns out, I finished out the year in the classroom (now instead of telling people that I taught for 8 yrs, I say 9 yrs). It was a very stressful and difficult year, but the good news is the teacher's full recovery, successful speech therapy, and strength to once again do the job. (Not that I would have agreed to do it again - that would have either killed me or caused a (cont.)

Changes

This past year we replaced our patio with a stamped concrete one. The area under the raised desk (off the ground only 6-8 inches and inaccessible) had become home for frogs, mice, rats and snakes.

Fishing dead frogs and rats from the swimming pool had become an onerous task so the expense was worth it (of course 3 of the 5 cedar columns holding up the pergola were full of termites - add that to the benefits and expense!).

We also had the main areas of the house redone with engineered hardwood. All hallways, the office, and the living room had carpet or laminate removed. At the same time, the interior walls of the house and all exterior trim were painted.

Finally, we had the garage walls repaired (some car damage: see the story [Mom and the Vacuum Cleaner](#) for more detail, though there was other damage as well. We also had the walls and ceiling painted, the floor painted with epoxy and baseboard put all around. The floor is **BLUE** and I mean **BLUE!** It looks clean and neat, but did I mention that it is **BLUE?** It grows on you (or else!!)

divorce!)

I'm back to occasional subbing and currently tutoring 3 days a week. I'm starting to think this may be the last year, but time will tell.

Family Affairs

It is great to report that all of our family are doing well, Danielle and Patrick have celebrated their 5th anniversary, they continue to work and play hard. We have a pair of grand-dogs, Diesel (a female MinPin) and Lulu (a female Chihuahua) who have play dates occasionally with our two dogs (also a MinPin and a Chihuahua). Both continue to work at the same places, Patrick at Essilor and Danielle at PepsiCo.

Jessica has kept David around for about 8 years now, so I guess she's planning on keeping him. Their three children are really growing up. Bailey and Ashtin are in fifth grade now and Peyton entered Kindergarten this year (please pray for her teacher - she needs help with patience!!). Bailey has decided that he wants to be an X-games specialist and Ashtin wants to pitch in the major leagues. Peyton has her mind set on being a princess and already can act the part. All kidding aside, they are doing a great job bringing up the three kids and don't seek grandparent help very often.

Geri and I continue to spend our days wondering where it all went wrong, but I'm sure some of you will have suggestions. We still live in beautiful, downtown Krugerville, TX smack dab in the middle of Horse Country, USA (Irv knows what I'm talking about!). We used our pool more this year than we had in the past couple. We try to have a "date night" every Friday and usually find Beth-Marie's Ice Cream parlor for dessert.

We have two spare bedrooms now, each equipped with a queen sized bed and one comes with an adjoining en-suite bath. So, we have room for company, should you be so inclined. Just remember, Benjamin Franklin said that "Guests like fish begin to smell after three days". With modern refrigeration, we might be able to modify that to 7 or 8 days!!

I started this year to jot down stories from our lives, there is no particular chronology, but as we remember them, we put them down. They can be found at: <http://stories.johnnipe.com>

Some Meaningful Photos

Found on this page are some photos you might find interesting (and it doesn't matter if they are or not - I'm including them!). From bottom left going Clockwise, Ashtin, Peyton, and Bailey waiting for dinner; mom and mom (Jeanne Hutchinson - who met her savior this year); Chris Walden performing one of about 50 baptisms this year; the John Nipe family posing for Christmas last year; and the offspring of Harold and Catherine Nipe about 1982.

Background is snowstorm on Christmas Day, 2012 from our back porch

As I am writing this, I am looking out at a winter wonderland. The ground is covered in about 3 inches of white ice (looks like snow) and it is still coming down. Two days ago it was 80° F and we were in shorts.

Geri and I want to close by wishing you a blessed Christmas and to remind you that Jesus' mission still lives with us.

