

"Ah, when shall each man's good be all men's wish, and peace
lie like a shaft of light across the land?" ROBERT BROWNING

2600 East Division #78, Mount Vernon WA 98274 November 2003
bradford@fidalgo.net

Dear Ones,

Isn't it difficult to fathom that we're about to close another year? Is it aging that makes time slip by so fast? I've just reread last year's message. At that time we were still hoping that our nation would not enter into a war. This year we are left with the hope that the "end of hostilities" will soon come and the Iraqis are left to establish a government that will bring peace to their citizens.

The knee that I had broken last November has healed, and I am independent of mobility aids. The Christmas trip to Florida was made a bit of a challenge as I visited the beautiful beaches of Sarasota and the everglades via wheelchair. We celebrated our fiftieth year of marriage while there.

The purchase of the building for our adult day care program actually occurred in January of this year. We have benefited by being able to close our year without a deficit..

There were four big family occasions this year. In June we attended Melinda's graduation (cum laude) from the University of Washington. What an accomplishment that was for her!

In August grandson no. 2 was married. All our children and most of our grandchildren were here to be a part of that celebration. And we have just celebrated another momentous occasion - our oldest child's 50th birthday. In September some of Lester's family visited us as a part of their journey from Maine to Alaska to here.

Dorcas is still the roller operator for a road-building company. Julie continues her career as nurse practitioner in Fresno, CA. She is responsible for the care of up to 60 patients a day. Joel is enjoying his career as high school physics teacher in his home town of Natick, MA. Ethan is a programmer for AOL in Seattle. Melinda has started working again after taking those 18 months off to return to college. When the state's economy improves she hopes to get a job in social work.

My activities don't seem to change much from year to year -- they just proceed at a slower pace. I enjoyed the season's skiing. We appreciate our valley having an abundance of over-wintering waterfowl and the raptors that follow them. Hiking was good -- we had an unusually dry summer. I was persuaded to participate in a 45-mile backpacking trip that took three of us across the Olympic Peninsular in six days. I learned some new alpine plants at a three-day botanical outing at 7000 feet. (I was most impressed to see a willow species that is only two inches tall!) I joined a favorite professor for his annual three-day field class in glacial geology -- a good review of the local mountains' distant past. Our building crew for Habitat for Humanity is as active as ever. We've been together a long time, frequently working two days a week. We're impressed by having college students on their school breaks traveling here to volunteer a week of work on our projects. Right now I have taken on the tutoring of two students in algebra. I like the subject and enjoy teaching.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Love and peace,