

Dear Friends from far and near,  
If you belong to Him, He is with you and has this year all planned, so it will bring Him glory...

It was in the fullness of time that God planned for Elizabeth to give birth to John. I remember so well when Bob had our family memorize that verse. I have tried to see other situations through that verse...God's timing is always perfect, so let us not grow weary as we wait for Him to answer our prayers.

Shortly after John's birth, Jesus was born. His coming is found throughout the Old Testament. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

This great God and our heavenly Father has blessed me beyond measure this last year which has been difficult, humanly speaking. I have received messages and gifts from so many that I am overwhelmed....people I had almost forgotten have been praying for me. If you're one of those, thank you..

Physically, this has been difficult but He has never left me alone. I have been in the hospital three times...some lengthy stays. I was in twice for anemia and while there, I had a heart attack. I had no idea anything could hurt so much. Again I was there for a TIA, a mini stroke which is not really a stroke but has the symptoms without the damage. Because there was nothing more they could do, I was discharged and am now under Hospice care which takes good care for me. My six months with them is almost up and they will have to discharge me from their care. This is a mixed blessing because, as it is, I have weekly visits from a nurse and all my meds are provided through the mail without cost to me. By this time we have learned I cannot care for myself completely, so at my children's insistence, and especially my daughter's, I have moved in with her. We are gradually moving things from my home to hers. Why do I have so much? I am praying I can store some of my nicer things so my four children can eventually pick out what they want. The rest will be sold along with my home.

God has abundantly provided my every need. I use a walker all the time and could not get along without it.

I thoroughly enjoy my children and it is a joy to discuss wonderful books and the scriptures. This year we did Christmas lite and enjoyed the beautiful music we had accumulated over the years...

Trust you had a blessed Christmas and were able to spend it with family and dear friends. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I was visited by my sister from Michigan, my oldest son and wife from Michigan, my daughter from Knoxville, a grandson, wife, and three children and two dogs from Virginia, my grandson here in Florida with his wife and two girls, and my son and wife and four grand-kids from Indiana. It was non-stop and delightful. Could anyone ask for anything better? All my children were around me and I loved the conversations we had about the Scriptures and issues of the day...there are many.

In Psalm 77 the Psalmist seems to think trials should not happen in old age...Then, as always, he sets his theology right. "I will go in the strength of the Lord God. I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. O God, You have taught me from my youth, and in this day I declare Your wondrous works."

In His care,

Julie Collins