

*Merry Christmas!*

*The gifts most needed are not found in the stores but in the hearts of people . . . some token of love . . . a helping hand . . . friendship . . . understanding . . . consideration . . . a smile and a prayer. That's Christmas-Living, and it's the best kind of Christmas-Giving . . . and appropriate all year. Let's do it!*

*--derived from some thoughts of Peter Marshall*

*Since neither Christmas greetings nor letters from us were written for 2002 and, until now, for 2003, you might have wondered if I'd broken my arm. Well, I did! Although not a legitimate excuse, it's about as good as it gets. I am truly sorry for the long delay and humbly beg your forgiveness.*

*In the fall of 2002, we sold our "sanctuary by the sea." We shall fondly remember the beautiful, peaceful, fun-filled haven that was ours to enjoy and share for more than ten years . . . and we are grateful. Because "everything takes longer and hurts more" (to quote my brother), we were rescued when our California daughter arrived. With her energy and expertise, we were packed, labeled, and ready for the movers in three days! Beyond that, the willingness of our children to adopt most of the furnishings was a real bonus. Hopefully, for us and our kids, we shall be happily settled in this apartment for awhile.*

*Our gang put together quite a party in celebration of my 75th birthday. More than twenty kinfolk gathered at the clubhouse (a facility available to all residents) for a scrumptious feast served up with a lot of lively sociability around balloon festooned tables. It was delightful to see the "grands" involved in the food preparation and entertainment--and even the clean-up! I was serenaded with a parody to the tune of "Hello, Dolly," and my sister played an **unforgettable** piano rendition bringing back fond and fun childhood memories. The evening ended with a not-to-be-forgotten slide show (or should I say "side show") of family pictures from long ago. Awesome!*

*Hunter James Warren, our second great-grandblessing, arrived August 6, 2003. That precious little guy is the son of Marilyn and Mark. He is lucky to have Marky (2-1/2) for a big brother; and Noah, 5, is now a "double uncle." You can bet the grandparents and great-grandparents are delighted!*



*Having scanned the calendars of the past couple years it seems we have had an abundance of medical appointments (age-related, do you think?). Also, the ongoing celebrations for birthdays, anniversaries, a b'nai mitzvah, promotions, graduations (preschool, kindergarten, high school and college), children's concerts and dramas, reunions, and a bit of travel. "Same old, same old," you might be thinking. Yet, with the great cast of characters this family provides, as they live out the different ages and stages of life, the performance is ever fresh and fascinating.*

*We missed our high school reunions last fall due mostly to my broken arm, but Carl was also suffering extreme pain from the shingles. Relief for him came only after our Texas cousins recommended olive leaf extract, which miraculously took away that deep nerve pain in two weeks. At the same time, a fine surgeon put me back together with a five-inch metal plate and nine screws. Now, after four months of physical therapy, I'm doing well and continuing my home exercise program. We are blessed.*

*Life surely isn't easy for anyone, no matter the age. Everyone struggles in growing up, growing old, and perhaps especially the middle-agers, trying to make a good life and a living while caring for both the youngsters and oldsters. We need to pray for them and for one another--a lot.*

*We have lost too many friends of late--all a part of the cycle of life, but not an easy part. We shall be ever grateful for having had them in our lives, "leaving footprints on our hearts--and we will never be the same."*

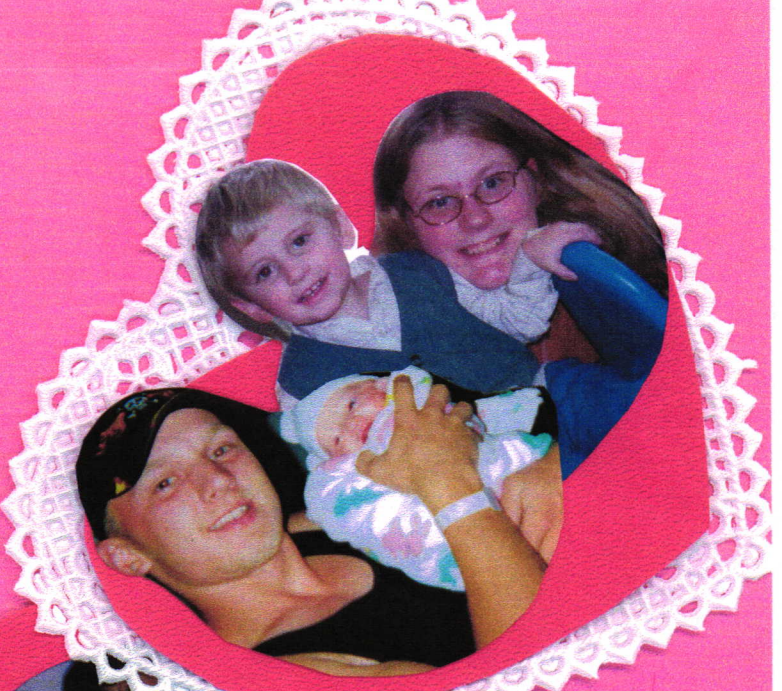
*Just thinking of you warms our hearts, and our spirits soar when we find REAL mail in our box or hear your voice on the phone. We are thankful for our loving family and faithful friends, and are praying God will keep you safe and bless you with His peace and love.*

*Remember, too, that God's not the only one who loves you--we do, too!*

*We haven't moved . . . our road has!*

*Please note the new address:*

*725 Lee Circle, Apt. L49  
Johnson City, NY 13790  
(607) 766-9931*



*Carl & Dottie*

