

The Howington Christmas Letter

Christmas 2021

This is year three of our good old fashioned Christmas letter. Like most of you, 2020 was quite a ride and we didn't send a letter last year. Here are some of the highlights of our year. Written from Tim's perspective.



Terri

So, what do you do when your college freshman says the night before, "we ought to go see Arkansas in the elite 8 in Indianapolis. Terri said, "I'll go!". And they did. She has missed that boy while he has been spreading his wings in college and they had a great time. Terri has continued to work with young children (birth to preschool) at Fellowship Bible Church NWA. This year (and last) have been pretty challenging for her team. Navigating the pandemic with young families and her role swapped to the pre-school area. As always, she is a trooper and plowed through. We had some sad news in the last few days, her step-mom Carole passed away unexpectedly. She lost her step-dad in 2016, her mom in 2019, her dad in 2020 and her step-mom in 2021. It stinks sometimes getting older but she continues to manage life with grace and faith.

Tim

This has been a challenging year for me as well. In February, I went to see a cardiologist to see about some chest pains I was having. They had me set up for a number of tests, but, before I could get in I had a pretty bad episode and admitted myself to the hospital. The cardiologist decided to do a heart cath to poke around and see what was going on. While I was on the table, I had a heart attack. 100% blockage in my right coronary artery. The doctor later told Terri that they were literally at the spot of the heart attack when it happened and put a stint in immediately. Talk about being at the right place at the right time. We are so thankful that God spared me and was involved in the details. Our ministry Freedom 5:one continues to grow and we have opened a new division to focus on financial health in the community. The Lord has sent us a couple of new staff to manage this new division. We are super encouraged.



Joshua

After an exhausting freshman year (2020-21) with a lot of the normal freshmen struggles being away from home, a pandemic, getting Covid, dad having a heart attack and a lot of discouragement. We were all concerned about his academic struggle. We thought it might be an anomaly with all the stuff going on, but, as he came back for his sophomore year the struggle continued. And, he was super focused. Upon further investigation, we discovered that he has ADHD. We would never have thought of this since he is not very hyper. But it turns out that ADHD for the calm soul looks like a lack of focus. With some medication Josh has had a breakthrough semester. At mid-term he had what I call the Aldi's grade point (1 A, the rest D's), as he tracked his grades after the medicine he had a 3.75. To say he (and we) are relieved is an understatement. The last 16 months have been tough for him but we are so proud of him for hanging in there and hanging on to the Lord for strength. Things are looking up!