

## Merry Christmas 2020 and please God, can we have a Happy New Year in 2021?

2020 has certainly been a year that we will never forget, no matter how much we might want to, but it started off well! We met with Matt, Cassie, and her mother Carol at Disneyland and had a great time. We made our sixth trip to represent DisAbility Ministries at L.A. Abilities Expo. We visited Disneyland again to celebrate Dale's birthday.



In March, Sharon was in the Philippines to interview deaconesses to document their ministries. She interviewed ten of the hardest-working women she has ever met and was excited to start this project to interview all Filipina deaconesses! Then Covid-19 reared its ugly head and Manila was locked down. This meant the end of interviews. No more interviews meant she got some great hammock time (left), but things got scary when the airport was about to close! She came home a week earlier than planned and was still self-quarantining when our lockdown began here.

Our Elsie (right) had been sick with mast cell tumors for over a year when she just couldn't go on any longer. She laid down in front of us, sighed twice, and was gone. She had saved my life more than once, literally, and got me through some very difficult times. Losing her was the hardest part of 2020 for me.



The absolute highlights of 2020 were the births of our great-nephew and great-niece! Carsen was born in January (right) and Sophie came along in June (left)! These two are already Zoom pros! Sophie looks at the camera when we say her name and Carsen first said "Uh-oh" while on camera and has recently shown off his new walking skills!



Dale is still serving on the Board of Trustees at church. We are both part of our church's virtual choir, which is a whole lot more challenging than you might think! Sharon still works with Disability Ministries, chairing two subcommittees, Mental Health and Fundraising. Both of us have been trimming a huge, overgrown bush in the backyard, an on-going project! Sharon painted the bedroom a lovely gray-green. She also found time to apply for a Doctor of Ministry program in "Creative Writing and Public Theology." She has been accepted and now needs to apply for a scholarship to make it possible! This program will prepare her for a future that involves even more writing. Her studies will begin in June.

Merry Christmas! May the light of the world shine on you and through you to brighten up the whole world!

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