

*It seems like yesterday that I was sitting at the computer writing my annual Holiday letter. Damn, where has the year gone??*

*There really isn't THAT much to report this year...except that there were no hospital visits, except for one that I will tell you about towards the end of this letter. So that is good news. I am still suffering with the foot and leg problems associated with being diabetic for 43 years, and I do fear for the loss of more toes that are bad enough to need medical attention, but not bad enough to be hospitalized. My other ailments / complications are stable, yet still present, and if I watch myself carefully, they don't bother me a lot of the time.*

*In September, I accepted a part time cashier position at Orchard Supply Hardware as a cashier, which meant standing at a cash register for 5 hours at a stretch, but because of my degenerating hip problem, I had to give it up after only 3 months. I am glad I got the chance to make myself feel useful, though, even for a short period of time. So here I am, not working again, and still on social security, but I am still keeping busy with my website photography and creative writing.*

*I have been working diligently with my doctor and nurse educator to try and get me onto the insulin pump which will help stabilize my blood sugar levels, and hopefully stabilize the complications I have. So far, the insurance company has denied me the pump, but we are appealing their decision, and hopefully within the next few months I can get it. I am looking forward to blood sugar levels that are more consistent with good health, so wish me luck.*

*I am still living with my mom in Sherman Oaks, and the arrangement is a good one. She and I are very compatible, so living here is not a problem. I see Georgia and the kids every now and then. Scott is going to be 21 in March, and is working for an outfit selling "CUTCO" knives that you may have seen in higher quality kitchen accessory stores. He is doing well, and is able to support the new car he bought (which is a good thing, because every time his car broke down, who do you think was out the car for a while?? Yes, that would be me.)*

*This year, I decided as a Christmas gift to those who so lovingly were there during the last several years of my ill health, I recorded a CD of music with a message...my gift of thanks to those who were there. It was an inspirational album of music that tells a story; a story of love and thanks. I want the album to be as special to the recipient as the recipient is to me. Now, what do I do NEXT year??*

*Katie was 19 this December 19, and as I mentioned before, I would tell you about the only hospital trip I made this year. It was on December 2, and only for the day, so I could be there when she presented me with a gorgeous granddaughter. Kristina Marie was born around 11:30 AM, weighing 6 pounds 6 ounces...sort of like the size of a roast...Katie is doing marvelously as a mother, so far, and is getting all the love and support our family has to offer.*

*There are so many things in the world...in our lives... to be thankful for. And I am very happy that I can count my blessings, and not boo hoo about the things I DON'T have. I have been blessed with a loving family, warm friends and in general, a happy life.*

*This holiday season, and as always, I wish you and your family, friends and loved ones, the warmth of the season, the joy and anticipation that the new year brings, and the hope for good health for everyone.*

*As always,*

*Michael*

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