

Merry Christmas, everybody! We are coming to an end of a very busy year, including some happiness, some sadness and some grief.

In our last newsletter, we talked about Janet's broken leg and our upcoming trip back south to visit family. We returned on New Years Day. While there, we ordered our grave marker for our plot in Mississippi, and it has been placed at our future resting place outside Kosciusko.

Janet recovered slowly from her injuries, but is fine now. However, other health issues have haunted us. Just as Janet was becoming more mobile, John started experiencing chest pains after climbing stairs. A visit to the doctor resulted in a stress test, which lead to a meeting with a cardiology team. He was given two options; placing stents, or bypass surgery. The stents, they informed us, would only be adequate for a few years, so we opted for the double bypass surgery.

The surgery was in late February, and John took months to recover. After a couple of months, he started cardiac rehab twice a week, which he completed in September.

I mentioned in last year's newsletter that we had a 21-day tour scheduled to China in May. However, we and the doctor agreed that it was too soon after surgery to travel, so that trip was cancelled. Fortunately, we had purchased travel insurance and to most of our deposit back. Hopefully, we can schedule a trip to Asia in the next few years.

On April the 16th, John's nephew, Aaron Adams, suffered a heart attack. Aaron was a doting father to a 15-year-old son and a successful businessman in Tupelo, Mississippi, running his own photography studio. Despite their best efforts, he was lost to us on April 23rd. We flew into Memphis and stayed with relatives there and in Tupelo, providing as much emotional support as we could to his grieving mother, John's sister Nancy.

Due to Janet falling and hurting herself on the stairs last year, and the fact that due to our age we are having increasing difficulty climbing the steps, we resolved to find a new single floor domicile. We also required RV parking on property, and the goal was to downsize since our current 4-bedroom 3-bath home was overkill for the two of us.

We looked at both existing homes and explored the possibility of having one built. Finally, Janet found a builder that offered homes with a built-in RV garage. They had a lot in a new development that would meet our requirements, and were willing to work with us to customize a design to provide an RV garage 42 feet long and 14 feet wide to accommodate our 40-foot RV. It will be a 3 bedroom 2 ½ bath home, around 2060 square feet of living space, with a 2-car garage in addition to the RV garage. We have signed the papers, and we expect to move in sometime in March. Our new address will be;

940 Glade Avenue, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116

Here is hoping you have a great Christmas and a happy new year.

Videos and additional pictures of our adventures are on our website at www.majorspain.com

Here's wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Please keep in touch.

John and Janet Spain

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