



BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM,

"DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS CHRIST THE LORD. THIS WILL BE A SIGN TO YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER."

SUDDENLY A GREAT COMPANY OF THE HEAVENLY HOST APPEARED WITH THE ANGEL, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS."

*Wishing You A
Blessed Christmas
from The Johnson's*

ANOTHER YEAR GOES BY - EVER FASTER AND FASTER. WE HOPE 2016 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR YOU AND WISH YOU THE HAPPIEST OF NEW YEAR'S IN 2017. AS FOR US, WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY HEARING ABOUT SOME OF OUR HIGHLIGHTS - SO HERE THEY BE....

Well we have not one, but two BIG stories for 2016. The 1st is the Engagement of second Son Ben and his lovely girlfriend Jordan. This happened just a couple days ago. But for the second story you will have to do a bit of detective work to uncover it. It's in this card somewhere - but where? Let's see if you can find it.....

So onto Benjamin & Jordan. Ben thought it would be nice to propose to Jordan on the 2nd anniversary of when they began dating. So after obtaining permission from both of Jordan's parents beforehand, Ben doctors up a Scrabble Board displaying the Magic Question.



As Jordan reads the board he got down on one knee and produced the ring box. Unleashing the monstrous sparkler that requires a pair of RayBans to view, he confessed his undying love to her and asked for her agreement to Marry. Her answer? "Request Denied!"

Sadly, no one has seen Ben since.

Not! Of course Jordan tearfully accepted his proposal and the 2 lovebirds now are planning their wedding. After the proposal, we all met for a party hosted by Jordan's parents at their home -

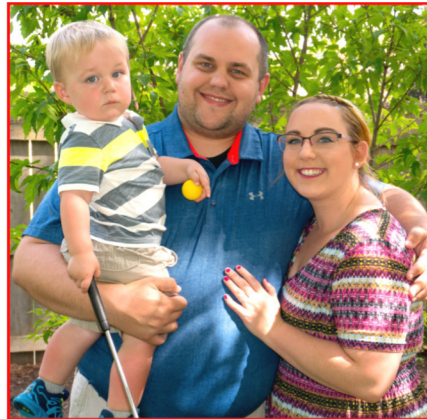
which is less than a mile from ours. Jon & Susan are wonderful people who are just as happy as we are about the impending nuptials.

As for Ben & Jordan, they are so happy and are so well suited for each other. They are both primary school teachers in Schaumburg's District 54. Jordan is just a lovely girl from a great family. Benjamin could not have chosen better. Everyone is delighted!

This past year Ben obtained his second Master's degree - this one from Olivet University in something related to education - I can't remember what. Very proud of that boy.

Now we move to eldest Bear Cub Bryan, lovely wife Sabrina and the absolute apple of our eye - that grandson Thor. I don't think Kathy & I fully realized how joyous having a Grandchild would be - but it has Blown Away any expectation we had.

Every time you see him you just want to scoop him up and eat him. He absolutely loves to hit Golf balls with his little play Golf set. He is a lefty with a great swing already. He also is quite a serious little boy and some of the looks he gives us just crack us up.



One of Thor's latest tricks is he will pick up his Sippy Cup, announce "Cheers!" and then demand that everyone clinks glasses with him before anyone is allowed to drink.

Bryan started a new job this year at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois doing much of their Emergency Management planning. He takes the train downtown most days. You can

tell he just loves being a Dad and always has Thor with him during any free moment.

Happily for us, Bryan & Sabrina bought a house in Buffalo Grove less than a mile away, so we can see him as often as we want. Sabrina has started working part time - so when Kathy is actually in town, she gets to watch him - which she absolutely loves.

We are so happy for Bryan & Sabrina as they seem to have it all. They are so blessed and we are so blessed to be in their life.

Third son Brettie is doing great and appears to be the favourite Uncle of little Thor. Anytime Thor is over at the house he is constantly calling out "Bwett, Bwett" to make sure he doesn't miss any fun with his Uncle. They go on walks together, hit Golf Balls together & watch movies together.





Brett works at a couple of places , one of which is a Party Supply Store, where he bought his favourite nephew about the biggest Halloween balloon ever inflated.

His lovely girlfriend Mary works and is in school, though luckily we see her frequently at the house. She is a keeper and someone Kathy & I love as much as Brett does. She is good for him.

Our 4th son Bradley started his 1st of 3 years of Graduate School on his way to earning a Doctorate in Physical Therapy

from NIU. Most of his 1st semester he studied Anatomy while getting to know his Cadaver named John way more intimately than he ever desired. This past semester poor John got Cut 'n Shuffled every which way possible by our Bone Sawing, Nerve Harvesting, Scalpel Waving, Bradley. This 3 year program is made up of 6 semesters of work, where he just completed his 1st. Good Boy Son.

His lovely and very patient girlfriend Christina, graduated University this year and is now teaching in the same School District as Ben & Jordan. Doing a great job and we love our Tina!



Here's a nice side story about Brad. After the Labor Day Holiday he drives back to his apartment in DeKalb. Entering his bedroom, he notices a Nickel sized hole in his ceiling directly above the bed and another one in the side wall. Wallboard dust still floating down, landing directly on his bed.

A closer examination shows these defects are Bullet Holes fired by the lovely tenant above him using an

AR-15 Assault Rifle sometime over the Holiday. How about that for a neighbor! The DeKalb police locked up Guillermo on a Class 4 Felony and our Brad hasn't been back to the Flat since. Talk about Dodging a Bullet in the most literal sense of the expression!

Kathy & I, still so deeply in love, appear to others to have separated. That's because her Highness spent a whopping 3 months over the last 12 soaking up the Sun in our Condo in Siesta Key. She looks like a female George Hamilton, she is so tan.

Hanging out with my Mom and a crew of hens from the Condo, our girl loves the Pool and the Sun. I keep looking for evidence of a Florida Boy Toy, but if there is one I haven't caught them yet - she is most discreet. Hey, a Boy Toy might not be all bad as it sure would be nice to share the financial load of Kathy with someone else. But alas, her heart belongs only to me - meaning I solely bear her cost. And this girl is expensive - but worth every dime, I guess.

We tried to see the Rolling Stones for my 28th time this fall. They announced a concert in Las Vegas that Kathy, I & sisters Laurie & Nancy paid some ridiculous prices to get tickets to. But alas, Mick came down with laryngitis, cancelling the event, just as we were about to walk on the airplane.

I Can't Get No.... Satisfaction....



Pretty quiet on the Racehorse front as purses in Illinois are so low it's an almost impossible proposition to make money. But we have had partnerships with a few horses with our friends the Blocks from Philo Illinois that still keep it so fun. They are great people.



Sadly, this year we marked the passing of our dear, dear friend, Capt. Ken Crook. Kathy & I had met Ken in England in 1997 and a deep friendship continued up until his death in Australia this past July.



Picture left is one of my favourites that was taken in England at his wedding. He flew for the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II and was just about the nicest man we'd ever met. His widow Barbara is a lovely person and provided Ken with many very happy years until his death. What a legacy he has left us with...

As for me, still enjoying my work at Hendrickson, and serving our Lord where I can. Finally exited Kemper Lakes this year as I just don't seem to play much Golf anymore. Who said life got slower as you get older? If anything - it seems busier.

So have you figured out the other Big News that the Johnson family celebrates this year? Yes? Well that's pretty cool isn't it?

OR No? Hmm. Well let's give you a hint. Take a look at Thor's shirt in our family picture. That tells you everything you need to know. Praise God!

OUR FAMILY WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2017. A WISH CENTERED IN FAITH, HEALTH, GOODNESS & PEACE,

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE PART OF OUR LIVES.

LOVE TO ALL,

Rick, Kathy, Bryan, Sabrina, Thor, Ben, Jordan, Brett, Mary, Brad, Tina, Saurau, Whirlaway, Sean &

The Great General Charley

PS. Kathy's cat Whirlaway is doing just fine, thank you....

Best Quotes Heard In 2016



“Request Denied !”

Ben’s response to Jordan’s plea to join him to watch Game 7 of the World Series. You see the Cubs had lost 3 games before in the series when they watched together—so Ben was taking no chances.

“Dad, I Think There’s A Bullet Hole In The Ceiling.....”

Returning to his flat after the Labor Day weekend, Brad discovers his upstairs neighbor Guillermo had one Helluva party over the Holiday. Police weren't amused either.

“(Silence)”

Looking intently at his Momma with a frown, Thor had nothing to say as Sabrina put the “Big Brother” shirt on him.

“What The Hell?#&% Where’s He Going?”

Prairie Rebel, the 3 year old star of Princess Kathy Racing, inexplicably fails to make the Stretch Turn in his second race, looking like he’d prefer to run in the Parking Lot as opposed to heading for the Wire. By the time he decided to turn, we traded a sure Win into 3rd Place.

“Read What’s On His Shirt, You Idiot!”

Sabrina tries to cleverly reveal her Pregnancy by having Thor wear a short that says “Big Brother”. 30 minutes in and an oblivious Rick still hasn’t put it together, an exasperated Kathy takes matters into her own hands.

“Sorry, I Hercules’d Your Newspaper...”

Via text, Brad explains to his mother why her Daily Herald is on the roof instead of on the Porch.