



I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

by Henry W. Longfellow



Greetings from Ray and Anna Wiseman,
This year has seen a few changes for us and our family.

December, 2010



Anna's diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's has caused much of that change. Regardless whether she has that illness or not, her memory loss has made her give up many of the things she once did. At one time she acted as my executive secretary, looking after many things related to my writing career, including proofreading. In addition she kept the family books, cooked, shopped, and generally kept me out of trouble. Now the tables have turned and I do most of those things for her. (She still does a great job as proofreader.)

I remain in near-perfect health, if you overlook a problem called 'trigger finger' in the middle finger of my right hand and periretinal membrane in my left eye that seriously affects my vision—treatment, possibly surgery, ahead for both conditions. My type 2 diabetes has all but disappeared—especially since I have dropped a few more pounds. And I have experienced no more of the symptoms that brought on the open-heart surgery of a decade ago.

Time pressures caused me to give up my weekly column, although I still manage our critiquing operation. We now have six people on the team, each specializing in various genres. At present we are dealing with two children's books, one historical novel, and one philosophical novel.

We visited our flying son, Ken, in St. John's Newfoundland in September. We had planned to drive, camping with our new trailer, but detected concern on the part of family members. Anna no longer drives and my vision problem no doubt influenced their attitude. So, realizing they feared we would crash the car and trailer along the way, we decided to fly with Porter airlines. So, the airplane crashed on landing in Halifax. It ran into equipment at the gate—no injuries, but about \$1,000,000 to Dash-8's right propeller and engine and pressure equipment in the plane's nose.



What was Ken doing in Newfoundland? He had accepted a short-term assignment maintaining and flying a Hawker Siddeley jet between St. John's and Greenland. He has since returned to Victoria with the plane. While in Newfoundland, he took me to Greenland on one of his trips. After returning from Greenland, Anna and Ken's wife, Star, joined us, and we all flew to Halifax. This took us half way home for free! The picture on the left shows First Officer (co-pilot) Ken at the controls. They managed to land without bumping into anything! We flew home with Porter the next day after a night in a hotel.

Alan continues to struggle with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, although he presently works full time as minister of worship at Rexdale Alliance in Toronto. His wife, Karen, now works full-time at the University of Toronto. It takes a special person to support her husband through his illness, assist in his ministry, and work full time! Their oldest son, Peter, is in the first year of a music program at U of T.

Brian, who works in Vocational Rehabilitation at St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton Ontario, recently took on a new role as Vocational counsellor in the Community Schizophrenia Service. While both James and Bethany work, Jared remains in school, studying for his Masters in Chemistry at the University of Calgary. Brian's wife, Joan, works for the Province of Ontario, and in January will take

on a new role as a Case Worker for the Ontario Disability Support Programme. She struggles daily with the pain of fibromyalgia, but manages to maintain full-time employment.

David remains with the computer science department of the University of Western Ontario and his wife, Cheryl, privately teaches music students. It's great to have a computer whiz in the family to rescue me when things go wrong. Both David and Cheryl are involved with the Karen Schuessler Singers, David as tenor and Cheryl as librarian. David and Cheryl have no children, although David does have a new BMW motorcycle.

I didn't mention Ken's kids. Julie lives near them in B.C. with her daughter Mhiya. (Can you believe it? Those young folks, Ray and Anna, are great grandparents!) John lives with his Mother in Oakville, Ontario. That's Mhiya, age 2 and a bit, practicing at the keyboard, so she can someday take over from Great Uncle Alan.



Ooops! I almost missed Linda—the gal we met at a Bible study nearly 20 years ago and who morphed into the daughter we never had. She continues working toward her M.Div. Degree at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto and acts as youth pastor at Tweedsmuir Presbyterian Church in Orangeville while making her living as an equestrian. She is a little bit camera shy, but just to prove she really does exist, I'll include this action shot of her with one of her equine friends. Working with horses has its dangers—in the last year she suffered a broken hand and cheekbone, but managed to lead a youth mission to Dominican Republic the next week.

Christmas blessings from,

Ray and Anna Wiseman

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***May the message of Christmas fill you with joy
and happiness and the new year bring
fulfillment to your wildest dreams!***