



Christmas update from Mark and Mary Bonham

On New Year's Day Mark will be sharing a message at our church entitled "A Weary World Rejoices", a line from the carol, "O Holy Night". As we come to the end of 2022 we identify with that title. It has been especially weary during the last couple of months, which is one reason why you haven't heard much from us.



Bonnajean Bonham

We noticed that Mark's mom was increasingly frail around the time of her 92nd birthday. She had a couple of falls that resulted in a broken tailbone and fibula. Fortunately, she was in assisted living and received good care. We made three trips to Gladwin to help with her care, eventually getting hospice involved at the beginning of November. The last four days of her life we were with her around the clock, until she passed on November 15. Her funeral was on the 19th, in the midst of a winter snowstorm. We helped clear out her apartment and have been taking care of closing her estate. Mom's deep faith and her longing to be home with the Lord gives us comfort, while her presence is deeply missed.

At the beginning of December Mary came down with a severe respiratory infection. Mark led a training session for small group facilitators at church on December 3 and then he contracted a similar infection a few days later. To date we are still experiencing its lingering effects. So yes, we are weary.

The world is weary because of the burden of sin. We see war, famine, division, animosity, racism, sickness and confusion abounding around the globe. There is brokenness in our nation, our churches, families and individuals. It is very similar to the world Jesus entered in his first coming. Isaiah 9 describes it as a time of darkness and despair. But Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light – a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow." It goes on to speak of joy and rejoicing, of chains being broken and a great day of peace, which all begins when "a child is born to us, a son is given to us." Christ enters our reality and works transformation in the hearts of those who trust in Him. Soon he will return and complete the work in our fallen, weary world. And we will rejoice that there is a Savior for our family and yours.

Thanks for standing with us in 2022! We are excited about the possibilities unfolding for 2023. More on that later, but until then -

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!

