

# Merry Christmas 2013!

## 2020: the Long Year

I liked Christmas 2013 better, so I figured I'd just send our picture from then:



Last year (Christmas 2019) I was supposed to write a Christmas letter. We took the family photo when we gathered, but nada. This year we didn't get a chance.

"The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line, Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it." — Omar Khayyám

The good news is that new years bring new joys: we're so fortunate to have two adorable little grandkids, who are full of fun and are also a blessing to their parents. Seidou is four, Ari is two. Tchapo and Abagaile are doing a fine job of raising them to be lovely, happy children. Tchapo went out on his own this year, leaving the



banking world behind for

He's happily producing video promotional materials for all sorts of folks, and is so glad to be independent. (notice the little Togo in the eyeball).



Seidou is a good brother to Ari:



Ari and Seidou will soon have a cousin, as Rosemanie and Merveil are expecting a child in June. They're living the dream in Nevada, where they enjoy hiking and traveling throughout the southwest (which they find very beautiful). Merveil is a photographer and an entrepreneur, and it seems to us that Rosemanie is his muse. We're glad that they have found each other and are making a life together -- albeit far away from "home".



Thad graduated from high school, and also from his two-year program at Morehead State University. He was simultaneously a Blue Bird and an Eagle -- a Bleagle. Now he's a Wildcat of Kentucky, and the first semester went well (except for the Covid). He's planning on something that has "Engineer" in the title. Despite our grins, we were sad to leave him at UK back in August.



Anna has been busy working in the nursing home, trying to keep the Covid away from all. So far, so good -- she gets vaccinated on the 7th of January, thanks to Pfizer. Lots of patients and staff have come down with it, though :(



I didn't get the chance to go to Canada this year (well, Anna and I went up for Spring break, and crossed back into the US just before they closed the border). We miss our friends there, and our Canadian home -- but understand why Canadians don't want us right now, clueless bozos from south of their southern border.

They report doing very well -- people wear masks, social-distance, etc. Why can't we?

Hopefully a change at the top will translate into sounder policies, based on facts and science -- in our family we're particularly fond of both. May our country come together to help create a more just world. Why did we get so lucky, and so many others not?

We're so fortunate -- so many are suffering -- have lost their jobs, their businesses, their pride or feelings of self-worth, their health, and even their lives. We're blessed that West Africa seems to have been spared what we imagined would be a humanitarian disaster. Our friends in Haiti seem to be doing well, too. We don't know why parts of the world like these have been spared, but are delighted and relieved that they have been.

We're thankful for our family, for our extended families throughout the world, and for the many good friends who help to keep us sane (at least I think we're sane -- but somebody tell me if we're not!). We're thankful for Zoom, which appeared in the nick of time; because of it, we've actually reconnected with some friends who had fallen through the cracks of our lives, and for that we're profoundly grateful.

May your 2021 bring you everything that will leave you feeling grateful! May you be blessed with good health, good friends, enough to eat, and lots and lots of empathy.

*Love, Andy and Anna and family*