

**BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL;
AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!
BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL,
AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:
PSALM 103:1-2**

WE DO BLESS HIM FOR THE INEXPRESSIBLE GIFT OF HIS SON & WITH HIM ALL THINGS

FAMILY NEARBY



Olmsteads



Ratzlaffs

OUR TOWN



2018 RELATIONSHIPS IN LIFE AND MINISTRY



Literacy Mentors



Friends & Fresh Lamb Livers



Our Small Group Project

51st Yr. Still learning



**A Blessed Christmas to All
Jack and Cheryl Shiflett**



**Police Buddy
Last ABWE Security meeting**

A Christmas Hello from the Shifletts

Once again our hearts are full of thanksgiving to the Lord for His Kindness.
For the brave, interested or curious here is a bullet point look-back over 2018

Continuance from last year

- Cheryl continued as a literacy mentor at an at-risk school
- Jack meets with African-American pastors who serve in a conflictive part of our city.
- We both were involvement for part of the year with the Syrian refugees

New this year :

- January – Jack spoke at a men’s retreat in N. Carolina with a lot of Military men in attendance.
- We had a delightful surprise visit from friends from Spain- a couple we know and love.
- February - We participated in the annual Missions’ conference in Boise Idaho
- March - We started in a life group from our church that now meets weekly in our home.
- Summer - Two of our grandchildren served on overseas missions’ trips with our church. And we were able to rent a house in the mountains on a lake for two nights with both families (with most of our grandchildren) enjoying being together —boating, fishing, hiking, eating and lots of laughing!
Jack began attending our church’s 12 step recovery/discipleship program that led to mentoring 3 men and performing a beach wedding for one of them.
- September - We traveled to Harrisburg, PA for Jack’s last meeting with the Risk Management Network in his role as assistant director for security and crisis management for ABWE. This marked our transition so we are fully retired with ABWE! We then added on a trip to Michigan to visit Cheryl’s sister and family.
- November - Jack ran his first 5k after a long recovery from an injury. And we had the family together for Thanksgiving here!

Just in case Jack thought he would now get to take it easy and sleep in, the church we attend has asked him to be on staff part time to mentor life group coaches and to encourage the rest of the staff. For now he has agreed to try 20 hours a week starting the first of the year.

During the year we also had a number of really fun short trips to the coast at regular intervals to visit Christy, Tom and their three children. There was always some sport they were competing in that we got to go see. What a privilege to be close to both of our daughters and their families and to share life together!

It is such a joy to look back over the year for these Christmas letters and to remember how kind our Heavenly Father has been to us and how thankful we are to Him—especially for the greatest gift of all—His Son!

May you have a blessed Christmas!
Jack and Cheryl

For a ministry report document and future plans click or paste <http://bit.ly/2S4hbR2>