



Merry Christmas!

From Pat and Patty Ripley
December 2016



Merry Christmas from our winter home in Florida, warm, sunny, Florida!

The highlight of our year was a reunion with our children and grandchildren. Almost everyone was able to be there and we had a great time together. The reunion was hosted by our daughter Cherie and her husband Norm at New Life Island, the Christian camp that they run together. Having all the camp activities and housing available to us was a real blessing. Our family is so large that we can't stay under one roof anymore!



For three weeks this spring, Roland, Patty, Chris and Benjamin traveled to Australia and New Zealand to the World Guernsey Federation Conference. After visiting with Guernsey friends in Sydney, Australia and visiting some of the beautiful sights there, including the Sydney Opera House, we headed over to Queenstown, New Zealand where we met the rest of the Guernsey Conference Delegates. Besides touring the beautiful mountains and valleys of both the North and South

Island of New Zealand and visiting many Guernsey farms, as well as sheep and red deer farms speckled throughout the country, we enjoyed local tours of cheese makers, milk plants, the famous Milford Sound, whale



and dolphin watching cruises, the native Maori Indians, Hobbiton movie set, and many other amazing sights. The end of the tour was the World Guernsey Conference Meetings where Pat gave a speech on niche marketing in the United States. While we were in New Zealand, we received the sad news of Pat's sister, Grace, passing away. We were so grieved to be half way around the world when this happened, but thankful that we will see her again in heaven.

In April the farm purchased Hillcrest Dairy in Moravia. This facility allows us to package and sell our own milk directly to the public. We also make our own cheese and butter, and for Christmas we made eggnog. We are excited about the future possibilities for this new endeavor. Soon we hope to be selling A2 Guernsey milk, cheese and butter.

Traveling to the various fairs and shows takes up a good portion of our time each summer and fall. A couple of our grandchildren did very well on





the show circuit. Elizabeth (Dan & Shari) won Master Showman for the Guernsey breed at the New York State Fair while her brother Daniel won First Place Senior Showman of the Guernsey division at the national show in Kentucky. We only took eight animals to the Pennsylvania All-American show but we came home with two first places and three second place ribbons.

At the New York State Fair we did quite well. Some of the awards we won were: total performance, exhibitors herd, premier breeder and premier exhibitor. We had a good season!



This past year brought two new great grand babies to our family. Alex & Amaran MacKenzie (Cherie & Norm), welcomed Ambrose Ian in August. He was four weeks early but healthy and strong. He is doing well.

Seth and Amber (Tom & Crystle) brought Lilah Marie into the world in October. The little farm girl is growing up fast.



Pat made a trip to Oklahoma with a load of pine lumber. He returned with a load of cedar and a passenger, Howard (Gramp) Lansdowne. Who came out for deer season.



Our son-in-law, Norm MacKenzie, is half-way through his chemotherapy treatments for his prostate cancer. God is good. Norm has improved greatly over the last year. We are praying for a total elimination of the cancer when he has his last treatment on Feb. 14.

At this time of year we always want to take time to remember the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." He lived, died and rose again so that if we put our faith in Him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved", we can be assured of a place in God's family and live with Him eternally in glory.

May you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Pat and Patty Ripley