



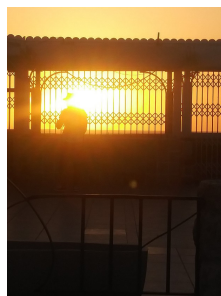
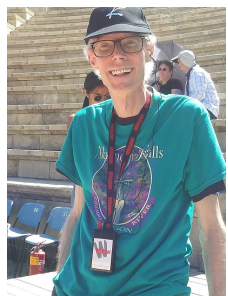
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Dear

No hiding it, the highlight of our year was a trip to Israel! Portland Bible College initiated their first Faculty/Alumni tour. Hope we got in on the start of a grand tradition. It was just a week, a rushed, intense week, totally magnificent. From the limousine ride to the airport by our personal chauffeur (Chris) to the week spent with perhaps the best friends, bus driver, and tour-guide one could imagine, it was a total blast.



Highlights included Tel-Aviv and the Mediterranean coast, the headwaters of the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, including Peter's house where Jesus not only healed Peter's mother in law but actually resided for a season. This is also believed to be the house where the roof was broken up to allow a lame man to be

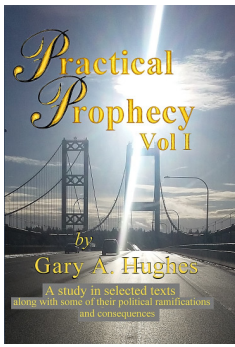
lowered in. There appears to be something still going on with the ceiling as a Catholic visitor's center was built over the site with glass panels in the floor so my guess is they never did get everything fixed properly.



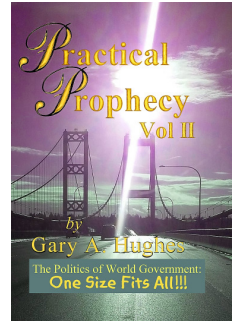
Other sights included Jericho and the lower Jordan (very muddy at this point). We got to float a bit in the Dead Sea and took a couple days in Jerusalem although the Temple Mount was closed due to Ramadan..

Sandra discovered some new and exciting technology, *The Hug Transmitter*. They work in pairs or even within a wider network. Once you get them set up and operating you'll stay connected with friends all over the world. We used to sing what the world needs now is love, sweet love but there need never be a shortage again. Thank you, Sarah McCarty, for keeping us right on the cutting edge!





Been working on the very same book the last four years. Actually started out as one volume, outgrew that, so it split into two. The first is pretty much all Bible and I haven't made any drastic revisions as the story hasn't changed in 2000 years. The second however is political and I've really been wrestling. I'd have it all laid out and read it over and say, "I'm not convinced." More prayer and revision. And then something would smack me on the side of the head, a Bible verse or sermon illustration (often the furthest thing from the preacher's mind!) and off I'd go in a flurry of re-writes. Or I'd be at a political meeting and oops, this sounds like one of Jesus' parables! But after four years there seems to be a break in the process and it's time to start fine-tuning the index.



Sandra has opted for a less stressful position at the library. Being a supervisor has morphed over the years and she found herself doing less of what she was really good at (and called to) every year. So while the dust is still settling it feels like a win-win for everyone.



The rest of the year has been exciting too. The usual birthdays and events and the Lord always has a few special surprises. A young man I'd been out of touch with the past few years texted me one Saturday that he needed to get back with the Lord and in church. So we've been working to help that happen. Seems life really is all about people and just playing our part in the grander scheme of things.

