

# BITS and



A Farquhar Family Production

December 2023

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*"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." James 1:17-18.*



Little did Dann know when we mailed our May 19th letter that the family was planning a huge 70th surprise birthday party for him on May 21st.

When his grandchildren led him into the house, family, friends and co-workers were gathered inside and totally shocked him. This event did require



Birthday Pie (thanks, Chuck)

Nancy to spirit away his cell phone at 1am to obtain contact information for the invitations; talk about playing spy! With Dann's hand involved in tech, keeping the secret was nearly a 'Mission Impossible,' but we pulled it off with style.



Our middle son Michael was able to visit briefly in June before deploying on the USS Bataan in July. We pray for his safety and that of his fellow Sailors and Marines. Thanks to modern

technology, we have heard from him a few times. Plus we discovered Amazon and Target will deliver to ships—well, actually to their FPO addresses—but it's much easier than going through the customs declarations at the US Post Office.



Nancy, Michael, Dann, Matt, Ben, Rachel

Dann attended the annual International Conference on Computing and Mission in June, along with Isaiah,

One Collective's new IT worker. This is always a favorite time of networking and worshipping with other IT folks and learning about changes in technology. He was acknowledged as having attended the most conferences since its inception, 32 of the 34 conferences held since 1989! What loyalty!



Horseback riding, roping calves, and steer wrestling: we celebrated Father's Day at the rodeo, a first-time experience for all of us. Fear-raising feats

and patriotic pageantry made for a great day. We just might do it again!


## 2023 Timeline




 June and July took us to Pennsylvania for Nancy's 50th (gasp!) high school reunion. What a mix of meetings—some we immediately knew and others who seemed strangers but ended as friends. A bonus was spending time with Dann's brother Kevin, also in Nancy's class. Of course, no trip to Pennsylvania would be complete without Nancy heading north to New Hampshire with her sisters Mary Lou and Julie for time with cousins. Ice cream every day, plus beautiful scenery, and amazing family, made it a trip to remember.



Dann, Nancy, Jan, and Kevin


 Nancy is the new chaplain for the American Legion Auxiliary of Elgin. This has given her the opportunity to pray for Auxiliary members, veterans, and active duty military during meetings and special events. It is a privilege to build relationships with the women in this group.

 Dann and Nancy had a blast volunteering for Compassion International at two recent




contemporary Christian concerts, Phil Wickham/Brandon Lake and for King + Country. Of course the music and shows were fantastic. Even better, it was a privilege to help children in under-

resourced places around the world find monthly sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, check out [compassion.com](http://compassion.com)

 As chairman of the missions team, Dann had opportunities to host visiting missionaries this fall. James and Samantha are with Missionary Flights International ([missionaryflights.org](http://missionaryflights.org)), a great organization which serves the Caribbean, flying in workers and supplies. Pray especially for their flights to Haiti, as there is still great unrest there. Also visiting were Jeff and Sarah, based in the US

but supporting workers around the world with CRU ([cru.org](http://cru.org)). Their vision and insight for seeing the gospel of Christ brought to many by many (not just the West) is especially inspiring.

 Our local church takes advantage of RightNow Media, an online resource for Bible Study videos and materials ([righnowmedia.org](http://righnowmedia.org)). We often use them for the studies Dann has led at First Baptist Church. Dann and Nancy were able to attend a conference with many of our local leaders, which included great worship, thoughtful and challenging teaching, and time to reflect on God's heart for loving and serving Him.



**ONE** One Collective Elgin started its winter shelter earlier than planned when 11 degree



temperatures were forecast at the end of November. They will continue hosting folks through March 31. Pray for those with housing insecurity and check out [onecollectiveelgin.org](http://onecollectiveelgin.org)

Never being one to leave a paper trail, Dann is now working on documentation of the last 36 years of system integration in areas such as:

- Expense tracking
- Payroll
- General ledger
- Donor records
- Vendor management
- Building security
- Network architecture
- Internet services

Working with Isaiah creates a great combination of Dann's years of experience and Isaiah's recent education and willingness to learn. Dann is grateful to be part of an organization sharing God's love in 66 countries throughout the world.

**Thank you** for the many years of your friendship, support and prayers. We hope that this season will be one of thankfulness for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

*Dann & Nancy*

Send financial gifts marked:  
'for the ministry of Dann  
and Nancy Farquhar' to:  
One Collective  
2155 Point Blvd Suite 200  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 429-0900 online <https://give.onecollective.org/30US0442>

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[ndfarquhar@gmail.com](mailto:ndfarquhar@gmail.com)  
<https://news.farquhar.us>

Dann and Nancy Farquhar  
806 W Highland Ave  
Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 931-5018  
D: (847) 682-6003  
N: (847) 682-6004