

Dear One (*Querido*),

This long-overdue letter can only begin with warm affection for you, which I feel Spanish conveys so much better. I am writing this from my daughter's home in Fraser, Colorado, where I've enjoyed Christmas and an extended visit. The bright sun, beautiful mountains, and daily walks have been refreshing and restful.

God knows the plans He has for us: plans for welfare, not for calamity, to give us a future and a hope. This past year, I have been asking God to provide purpose and vision for my future. During church on the first Sunday in the new year, we sang one of my favorites, "Be Thou My Vision." Vision in this song is a Person—the LORD of my life.

God has cared well for me these past two years. They have also been full of much grieving and missing Doyle. Reading Scripture, I see passages where the Lord says He will be a husband to the widow. Care and provision are a big part of that. Psalm 5:11 says, "But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy." My Lord has returned joy to my life for which I praise and thank Him. In light of recent world events, the next part of the verse is my prayer for you, "Spread your protection over them, that those who love Your Name may rejoice in You." It is also a time to act and pray for the salvation of many lost people at home and abroad while there is still time.

NOW FOR A LOOK BACKWARD AT 2025...

January: As I drove into my driveway on my birthday, I noticed a van. Who could that belong to? Lisa, Andrew, Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah surprised me on my birthday. The Dusings drove down from Colorado to celebrate my birthday with me. I felt so overwhelmingly loved!

March: I began a 12-week class for widowed persons. We had a family get-together at Lisa's in Timberline Lodge for spring break. This included the Millers (Jed, Michelle, Mikaela, and Brody) from Kansas, the Dusings (Andrew, Lisa, Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah), and me. It was so great to be with my family!

April: A dear friend, Elly, helped me host an Easter Tea, and I invited many of my pickleball friends. I gave a short talk on the importance of the resurrection.



Late May: My daughter Lisa was invited to be the speaker at back-to-back women's conferences at Capernwray Harbor on Thetis Island in British Columbia. I was invited to accompany her. We had nine beautiful days. It was a tremendous privilege to listen to her messages from 1 John.



April–October: Advice from a tax consultant led me to consider selling my home, and I began house hunting. This continued until late August. The Lord guided me throughout the process, and with help from others, I was able to put my house on the market before the end of summer. About the same time an offer for my house came in, I found a townhome in Rapid City that I liked. Also, a friend wanted to buy my horse to use for riding lessons.

Work on packing and getting rid of things began in earnest. Many friends and family helped pack boxes and clean out the house that Doyle and I had lived in for 27 years. The Lord greatly strengthened me to keep at the tasks and provided an auction company to haul off much of what was in the garage and shop. The leftovers and old piles of wood were loaded into a rented dumpster and hauled away. Closing on both properties (our house and the townhome) was set for November 15. It is in a nice area located near my church, with snow removal and lawn care provided.

November and December: With less property to maintain, the Lord is providing a simpler lifestyle. Life had felt so complicated. I am still able to ride my horse a couple of times a month. With the house hunting and move, I had put off any travel. With that mainly done, I visited Michelle and family in Kansas for two weeks over Thanksgiving and then traveled to Colorado for Christmas and part of January. Lisa and family helped host a Gratitude Party at my new home on New Year's Eve for many of the dear people who helped with the move.

As I look back over the year, it has been one of the most difficult of my life, as well as one in which God's faithfulness, care, and provision were evident. Thank you for your prayers and support. **My new address is 304 Enchanted Pines Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701.** Please visit! I have room for company!

With warm regards,
Chris Spader