

## Merry Christmas 2019 – From Roger & Laureen Traver & Mountain Top Marriages



Christmas is about gifts of love and the surprise of what is inside the present! This year has been a year full of extraordinary surprises and gifts of love given to us from Jesus. It is so much fun to be a “child of God” because Christmas can happen all year long! God is such a GOOD father and he continues to lavish us with a GOOD life. Our pastor’s wife preached this Sunday about how we as Christians should “Remember the Good”. Phil. 4: 8

Those of you that know us well realize that we enjoy traveling. Therefore, our marriage ministry that requires much travel is a blessing – not a hardship. We have no trouble with jet lag or being able to sleep in the car or at any motel or housing provided. We have friends and family across the world and see the Holy Spirit moving in miraculous ways to save, heal, deliver and make marriages strong!

Each month of 2019 we have unwrapped several “special gifts” which many times have combined ministry along with family & friends. What an AMAZING year!

**January** – 2<sup>nd</sup> we flew to Kauai, Hawaii to spend a week with son, Steve, Trea and the 3 grandkids in a VRBO by the ocean. After our family left, we flew on to Honolulu and held a marriage seminar for Pastor Rod Shimabukuro & spoke on Sunday morning at New Hope Church.

We arrived home on the 14<sup>th</sup> and left for Kansas City on the 18<sup>th</sup> to visit Mark, Lori and our other two grandkids over the weekend before we held the MTM Chateau Avalon overnight retreat on Sun. and Monday.

We arrived home on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and had a few days to take down our 2018 Christmas decorations in time to start our marriage home group that we teach for our church. We met twice a month until April & had 10 different couples that attended. We love to entertain in our home!

**February** – 1<sup>st</sup> we were scheduled to share at the Charis Christian Center Celebration of Marriage Event. However, we got a call from Laureen’s brother on Wednesday that Mom (then 100) was not doing well. After prayer, we decided to leave on Thursday for the 17 hour drive to Illinois. MOM went peacefully to be with Jesus on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. She lived a long good life – loving Jesus. She was not sick. She just decided to “go home” – and she did – within days. We got there in time to say good-bye and help with the services. Even in loss we saw God’s hand and experienced the love & presence of Jesus.

We managed to arrive back home in Colorado in time for the Feb. 8-9 El Tesoro Retreat in Woodland Park, CO. which is only a 45 minute drive from our town home.

**March** - Since the beginning of the year, Roger had a couple incidents with his heart fluttering. Not necessarily always because of Laureen, but because of an irregular pulse!!! We prayed for him to receive his healing and he had peace concerning a simple out-patient procedure which was scheduled on March 7<sup>th</sup>. It happened without a concern, therefore, from March 10-17 we entertained our good friends, Franco's, from Olathe that came to visit us. They also did a major repair job on our upstairs shower while they were here! PTL!

March 23 was our MTM board meeting held at our home. We have 8 awesome couples that serve with us! We also celebrated Roger's birthday and a clear bill of health! No more flutters!

**April – May** – Ap 6 we held an all day MTM meeting at the beautiful Penrose House.

April 9<sup>th</sup> we were guest marriage teachers at Charis Bible College in Woodland Park

April 11<sup>th</sup> we were on our way to London, UK.

April 13<sup>th</sup> we taught a seminar in Cambridge- which was a new contact. After that meeting our good British friends, Barrie & Carol Dupree, took us to their place and we enjoyed them and their friends & church until we went to Stoke-On-Trent for another weekend of meetings.

May found us at home for a few days – entertaining the Yadens, friends from north of Denver. Then off to Shawnee, Kansas for graduation of our grand-daughter, Makinzie. Home for a day, then drove to Glenwood Springs, CO for a special Shakespeare play performance by two of our other grandkids, Gabe and Holly. Trea, their mom, was the director and it was superb!!! They attend a Christian school. Hannah helped with make-up, costumes and hair!

May 27-31 we headed to Estes Park, CO to teach our annual week long marriage retreat!

**June** – The handprint of Jesus was all over this month as He daily brought us His surprises! It started out to be a Florida celebration trip for Makinzie's high school graduation gift. We met them in Clear Water, Florida. Then Steve's family joined us in Englewood. We secured a big beautiful VRBO house equipped with pool and hot tub, near the ocean. What a blessing!

After the kids all left, we headed north up the east coast. We had driven from CO so planned to stop and see friends & family all the way to Canada. Amazingly, everyone was available the exact dates that we would be coming thru. Before we left Florida, we visited Pecks, (friends from way back), Krauss in Myrtle Beach, my niece, Amy & Ike in Baltimore, Pratts (previous ministry board members) in Cape Cod, and Roger's brother, Dave. Other stops were Niagara Falls, Custer Park and the Black Hills. It was incredible to revisit the eastern states of America!

**July**- We had a house full of guests from Hungary that stayed at our place the end of June while we were gone. We returned home on July 4<sup>th</sup> and then we took them to the mountains for several days. They got to see moose, elk, & deer in Rocky Mountain National Park. We love Estes Park.

Big surprise - some close friends on our ministry board, Russ, June, & son, Matthew, asked us to go with them to Alaska. It was a 2 week trip. One week visiting by land and the other by sea (cruise). We had just done the East coast tour, but it did not take us long to say yes! We had a wonderful time showing them around and introducing them to our Alaska friends, Pastors Ray & Rosie from Valdez and Wayne & Virginia Clark from Fairbanks. From our connections, we were invited back to do MTM ministry in 2020. Yes! We are looking forward to go back!!

**August** - We held another ministry board meeting on Aug. 10 at the beautiful Penrose House

Aug. 31- Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> we taught our annual MTM Branson, MO., Ozark Mountain Retreat.

**September** - 3<sup>rd</sup> - We celebrated our wedding anniversary while in Branson!

Then we stopped off in Kansas City after the Branson retreat and held another all day Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> MTM seminar at Pastor Richard Castaneda's church. When we minister around the KC area, we always get to see son, Mark and family. Caleb was getting ready to move into an apartment with some friends. Our grandkids are becoming adults! Makinzie is taking nursing classes in college.

After arriving back in Colorado, Curtis & Mei Lin Jones, missionary friends from Hong Kong (where we have ministered several times) came to stay with us at our home.

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> found us teaching at the Penrose House in Colorado Spring. Sept 27-29 son, Steve & family who live in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, came to our house to celebrate Steve & Gabe's birthdays! Gabe is now a teenager!

**October** – We took a quick road trip to the mountains around Dillon & RMNP & watched the bull elk bugle in Estes Park. We enjoyed the beautiful fall colors and stopped in Denver on the way home to visit Roger's brother, Bill & Karen. It is great to have them closer! Our last MTM seminar for this year was Oct. 18-19 with an overnight marriage retreat in Woodland Park.

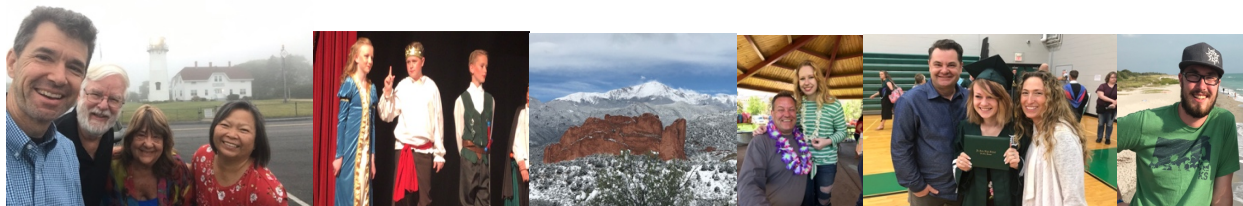
**November** – We have good friends, Will & Barb Graham, from the UK coming to visit us from Nov. 5-7. We are so blessed to have friends from all over the world that have invited us to minister in their countries, but that also come stay with us! (This year we had friends come from UK, Hungary, & Hong Kong as well as from all over the U.S.)

Nov. 17-24 is the Cross Points Missions Conference that we attend each year. Our son, Mark, is the missions pastor. The church has supported our ministry with prayer & finances for years.

After the conference we always go on to Branson, MO to see the Christmas lights at Silver Dollar City. This year all the kids and grandkids will join us for Thanksgiving.

**December** – We end the year with a ministry board Christmas party on the 6<sup>th</sup> and our final home group Christmas party on the 9<sup>th</sup>! As you can see, keeping up with ministry, friends and family keeps us busy! We fly out Dec. 20 and will be in California over Christmas week. Steve & Trea & family will get to join us. Mark & Lori will be busy with church activities in Shawnee, KS and a missions trip to Mexico.

So, there you have it. A year in the life of Roger & Lauren Traver!  
Keep Climbing! And Merry Christmas!



Pratts/Cape Cod

Holly & Gabe/left 5 min away

Hannah

Mckinzie

Caleb



Mom (100).

MTM retreat

Big horn

Dupree -UK.

Steve's & Us

Gordon's/Alaska

