

Hi Everybody,

Blessings To All Our Wonderful Family and Friends!

Thank you so much for being a part of our lives. It is amazing how often we think about you and pray for you and are grateful for you. I know we don't always talk to everybody every day but if you are getting a holiday letter it is because you have touched us at some point in our lives and we want to remain connected to you, even if it's just a once a year touch. We think it's important. Many years we think we must be crazy to go through the time and expense of getting out what in the past has been almost 800 letters a year and yet we will hear from somebody who will tell us how much the letter meant to them and impacted them. So that motivates us to sit down and write another one for yet another year. We hope it matters to you. We know the letters are long and cover a variety of topics and they are that way on purpose. We have never been about the status quo or the norm...as that's way too easy...smile!

FAMILY UPDATE:

My wife continues to be an amazing blessing to me. We celebrated 18 years of marriage and I know that God has knit us together. I am so lucky to have a wife who understands me and loves me... I do not take that for granted especially with all the divorce, infidelity and lack of love and caring that I see in marriages today and that includes Christian marriages. The divorce percentages are very much similar in Christian marriages as worldly marriages, this is a sorry and sad statistic and one that should never be. Marriage is not easy. Nor is parenting. Both of them are well worth it and among the greatest blessings you can have. I read a prayer book daily called *31 Prayers for My Wife* by Aaron and Jennifer Smith. It has specific prayers for each day of the month. These prayers touch me as they remind me how much I love my wife, how sensitive I need to be to her and to remember that we are created differently for different purposes and that my responsibility is to love her unconditionally. That is not a chore but a blessing and a privilege! Thank you God for my wife and children.

It's hard to believe but Jackson is driving. He's a very good driver and is now a junior in high school. He's turning into quite an amazing young man. We get to do a lot of cool things together...some of them I can't tell about or I'd have to kill you... Smile!! And of course those of you who are parents know each child is different.

It's been my joy and pleasure to get individually involved in the interests and likes of all three of my children as they are very unique and different. Jackson and I took a father-son trip to Dallas for a weekend... it was awesome. We are also planning an RV trip together, trying to get the girls to come, but I don't think it's going to happen... so it looks like another boys weekend.... Not a bad thing... Smile! As well we are trying to convince the girls that we need to take a family vacation to the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas next year... Stay tuned we'll see if it happens. Jackson is going to make a great lawyer if he decides he wants to go down that road. I know that will be the case because it seems he not only holds me accountable to the letter of the law in everything that I say... but he's also quick to argue with me, point by point, to prove his case. Somehow he makes me feel like I am the one always on trial...smile! And the worst part of all for me is he somehow seems to be able to convince me, after much analysis, interrogation and cross examination... that his way is right! If I disagree, he doesn't hesitate to appeal to the judge... My wife!!! I just hope he remembers I get a discount rate on future services.

Talia continues to amaze us with her passion for life, her ability to juggle 20 things at once and get them all done with a level of excellence that is unparalleled, but most importantly of all is her love for people. Her kindness, caring and compassion is an inspiration to me. She's a wonderful, beautiful child and my only fear is that I cannot keep her a child too long... she's growing up way too quick! She is already a sophomore in high school. She has the busiest life ever and loves it that way. Juggling school, a full-time dance schedule including practices most every day after school and a slew of dance competitions and recitals throughout the year, church youth group

and of course being a mommy to her pet rabbit. Last week she had 30 girls over to the house for her annual Christmas party...We love seeing her so plugged in and involved and loving her life! A brilliant negotiator in her own right... she too could easily wind up owning her own law firm. She is relentless and determined, two amazingly wonderful characteristics. Although she may wind up a banker as it seems in every transaction I do with her she winds up with more of my money!

We got to spend time with Ricky, Kristi and Harper, up in Virginia. I don't think there is anything in the world that could be cuter than seeing a granddaughter smile and watching her laugh. She is beautiful and precious and we love her very much. Ricky and Kristi bought a new house. We are very excited for them. They believe this is the house they will spend the next 30 years in. We saw it during our summer visit. It is beautiful and awesome and we are so proud of them and the life they are carving out for themselves up in Virginia. It is very exciting to watch them as husband and wife and as parents. Ricky is advancing ahead in his job. We are very proud of his diligence and devotion to the things he loves.

It's been a great year. We cannot believe we've been in Orlando for three years and in our new home for the last two wonderful years. We are excited about holiday time. We have had so much quality family time this year. We're just so thankful that we were up in Syracuse for our annual visit over the summer and got to spend time up there with our Syracuse family. We so look forward to that every year. It is not only a great reprieve from the sameness of life, but it is always a joy and awesomely refreshing to spend quality time with Grandma Sal, Aunt Jeannine and Uncle Bob and Cousin Riley, and Aunt Lee and Uncle Chris and Daniel, Ash and Maghan. Cazenovia falls and the lake in middle of Cazenovia are two spots that never get tiring for me. I get to spend a lot of quiet time there... they are amazing retreats. On that point I hope you have a place in your life, wherever that may be, that is truly a retreat for you. Even for a day or a week. A place where you can go and get into nature and God's beauty and get away from the hustle bustle and wonderful insanity of the daily lives that we live! It is nice to be able to go away and reflect... and it's important for staying sane... that's one man's opinion.

Of course getting time in New York City area with my brother Mike, Leslie Zachary and Dylan is always a highlight for me. They live in Scarsdale which is near the Yonkers where we grew up. So I get to see some old high school friends Mike Bard and Jim Barone... it's like were still in high school. It's so funny. We laugh... we remember... we get a little stupid and a lot silly... it was a great time... just like high school... No wonder we don't learn anything!

A highlight for me this year was getting to see Springsteen on Broadway with my brother Mike. It was a birthday present from him... one of the best presents ever... a great night. if you haven't seen the show and I'm sure most of you haven't ..it'll be on Netflix as of December 16. I hope you'll tune in and watch it will give you an idea of Bruce's humanity and the type of person he is... you'll see why people love him and it's not just for the music.

While seeing my brother we took another trip down memory lane. My mom was up with us visiting my brother in New York so we went back to the old condominium where we grew up and actually knocked on the apartment where we used to live. The person answered the door and we told them we used to live there and they let us tour the old apartment. It was great to see. The inside had been updated dramatically but the old memories came flooding back. It wasn't a very big place, maybe 1200 square feet in total but it was the happiest 1200 square feet you could ever be in. How lucky we were to grow up together with the love and peace that was in that house. A memory I will always treasure. It was great to be there with my mother and brother and see it again and to be able to bring the kids. I hope it made my kids realize that life isn't about how big your house is but about how big your heart is... That's what matters!

Last month we got to celebrate my Aunt Micky and Uncle Sy's 70th wedding anniversary in Delray Beach Florida with the entire family. Family came in from California, New York, New Jersey it was just a wonderful time of family and fellowship it was so great to see Aunt Mickey and Uncle Sy celebrated for their amazing and lengthy marriage. They are wonderful, amazing

people, I have been blessed to have a truly amazing family. I must be the luckiest man in the world. God has just given me such a great family. Because everybody was in town at the same time we are also able to do my uncle Herb's unveiling (that is a Jewish tradition, where one year after the person dies, you unveil the engraved headstone at cemetery). Also 2 days later we were in Miami for my uncle Hank's unveiling. My cousin Robbie, Hank's youngest son, spoke a few words and reminded everyone there, that at some point we were all going to be where Hank was and that was no longer physically on earth... And realizing that life on earth was temporary, we should make the most of the time we have... enjoy it and make the most of it! I have always loved cousin Robbie... but that beautifully pure and truthful observation elevated him to genius status in my mind... I believe God tells us the same thing and we would be idiots to do any different. I am happy to say that in the case of uncle Hank and uncle Herb they definitely made the most of the time they had! And the good news is, just like my father who also passed away last year, they live on in our hearts in the hugest of ways, as their lives mattered and impacted those they loved, knew and touched.

IS YOUR LIFE A PLATFORM? IF SO FOR WHAT?

So how do you look at life? How do you look at your circumstances and your trials and tribulations? The apostle Paul saw his chains while in prison and his individual trials and tribulations as an opportunity to share the love of God and the good news of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. How do you see your life?

I was talking to a buddy of mine yesterday who owned a pizza place and he said that the pizza place was his platform to interact with people and get to know them. He said it wouldn't matter if he was serving a slice of pizza or in the construction business selling or installing pipes. All that mattered to him was he had a platform to interact with people! How awesome is that. So whatever platform you have in your life, remember that's your opportunity to interact with people and to build relationships. The apostle Paul didn't live his life selfishly. He knew his purpose. He was called to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and everything he did was to accomplish that purpose. He saw his life circumstances as his platform, as his opportunity to share and spread the good news about God...so the question this holiday season is how do you see your life! If you are a believer in Jesus Christ I want to remind you this holiday season that there's a big difference between knowing the message and being the message! The one thing we see that summarizes the apostle Paul's life is he was sold out to God... he was the message!! I believe our lives, no matter what platform we have to live it out in, should reflect the same, and that way you would expect to be abundantly and exceedingly blessed more than you can ask or imagine and to hear well done good and faithful servant when you go to meet God face-to-face.

GREATEST THING I EVER HEARD!!

So I was talking to a friend of mine the other day and he commented that he would die for a stranger in a heartbeat and I thought that was an amazing comment because I don't believe that I would (for a family member yes... for a stranger, I don't think so). He's a Christian brother and he said he would die for stranger because he knows for sure he's going to heaven so he has no fear of death... And he said, what if the person who I was going to die for didn't know Jesus and isn't sure that they are going to heaven. And if I die for him and keep them alive, they still have a chance to come to know Jesus and be saved for all eternity.... that's why he would die for them he said. In my heart I was astounded. I thought to myself what great faith, what great love, what a Christlike attitude...like Jesus, this guy actually was living his life as love in its purest essence (sacrificial... putting others first). How amazing is that! It was inspiring to see somebody so sold-out for God that they were willing to follow God's word, but even more so than that, that they believed it 100% and knew for sure that they were spending heaven in eternity and that was a

great place to be! I am praying and striving that God continues to mold me and shape me so that I would be more like my buddy and have a godly attitude about all things.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Paul Allen the co-founder of Microsoft died. One of the world's richest men and people had wonderful things to say about his accomplishments here on earth. But there was no mention of his eternal salvation or resting place so here we have a man by the world standards who had everything and yet when his time was up where does he spend eternity? Where will you spend eternity? I believe it's a choice. You can choose to accept God, His love and his son Jesus sacrificial death on the cross and spend eternity with God in heaven or you can spend eternity separated from God in what we would call hell... But it is a choice. Stephen Hawking, world-famous physicist, died this year also and in his last published writing he said that "there is no God". Well one thing for certain, he knows the truth now! And I believe he now knows that he is separated from God for all eternity and that he regrets his decision and wishes he would've made different choices on this earth while he had the chance. I hope and pray that you will never have any regret about the choices you made here on earth and especially those that impact where you will spend eternity,

I WAS AN IDIOT!

I was reading in the book of Exodus the other morning in my quiet time and it was talking about how God gave the Israelites manna everyday... which was food to eat while they were in the desert. The passage was describing the manna as a wafer like substance that had a honey type taste to it and I thought that's interesting I probably could've eaten that, one of the few things I could actually eat! Smile! (that's an inside joke if you know my dietary habits/pickiness.) I had recently been praying to God about two very specific issues in my life and I was seeking God for answers to these two particular issues. At the end of a couple of days of feverishly seeking God, God had still not answered me on these particular issues and as I read in Exodus that morning God spoke to my heart and He reminded me that my problems and concerns had nothing to do with the issues that I was requesting prayer for... but rather had to do with the condition of my heart. That the condition of my heart was not right. Because I too, was just like the Israelites. I too had not been satisfied with the manna of God I have been receiving. God reminded me "I am your joy"... And if you are not satisfied with me and my riches and joy you will never be satisfied with the things of the world... So I had to examine my own heart and realized that I had taken my focus off of God. I was asking God for certainty and security and God was asking me to trust him day by day. God has always provided abundantly for me in my life. God has always given me manna. God has always been there... it was me who would take my eyes and focus off God. It was me who would get distracted by the things of the world instead of focusing on the things of God. So I took great joy in being refocused on God and remembering how much I love Him how grateful I am for the life he has given me both on earth and the one to come for all eternity. I had to refocus, I had gotten distracted and off-track. I was not starving, I was not wanting and I too had begun to grumble and complain... not being satisfied with the blessing and manna that God had given, but instead desiring more of the things of the world I selfishly thought I needed or wanted. Thank you God for the great reminder.

JUST A THOUGHT FOR AMERICA!

What is happening to our world today? More importantly what is happening to America? And much more importantly what is happening to us as individuals? I have never liked this herd-like mentality, the New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, July 4th mentality... And that is not

to say that I dislike the holidays themselves... quite the opposite, I'm very fond of the holidays. I don't like the fact that people use these particular days as an excuse to behave in a way that they never would otherwise. Almost like "The Purge" movie. Those of you familiar with it know the theme, there is one day where rules don't apply, there are no laws so you can kill anybody that you don't like, hence the Purge name! It seems to me people treat those holidays the same way. They just use these days as an opportunity to get rip-roaring drunk and/or to behave in a dumb or inappropriate manner and/or to just go nuts in a way they never would on any other day.

Listen if people want to get rip-roaring drunk and behave rudely or like an idiot, go ahead, but don't say that New Year's Eve or the Fourth of July or St. Patrick's Day made you do it! Just admit that's what you want to do. Why wait for a special day? It seems to me it just gives people an excuse to hide behind... it gives people a reason to behave rudely, stupidly and improperly with no regard for their neighbor, with no sense of common decency, no sense of right and wrong.

As for me, I don't need it to be Thanksgiving to give thanks for the life I have. I'm grateful each and every day. Nor do I need Mother's Day to tell my mother how much I love her or Valentine's Day to express to my wife the love, affection and appreciation I have for her. I don't need a holiday to brainwash me into behaving a certain way.

So Jack, that's nice, but where are you going with all this! My point is I can't believe what's happening to people in our towns, cities, states and throughout the country today. I can't believe the hatred, the violence, the distrust, the disunity that prevails everywhere I go. I can't believe that people actually have to guard their opinion here in America, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we are protected by our right to free speech.

I'm not a political person. Nor am I promoting one side over the other. Yes I have views and preferences, they have never been party specific and thus they are irrelevant to this discussion. What is relevant is people's attitudes and behavior regardless of which side they stand on.

Yet as people's behavior goes, no one is thinking oh what a great country we have become when a New York giant fans get beat up in Philadelphia for wearing his Giants jersey in the parking lot around Veteran's Stadium where the Philadelphia Eagles play. It used to be you were allowed to have a preference, to like one team better. Yes there were heated arguments, great debates and shouting but at the end of the day there was not violence and hatred.

The Yankees Red Sox rivalry has been one of the greatest of all time. I remember in the early 70's being a 14 year old kid hanging around Yankee Stadium collecting autographs. As Yankee fans we hated the Red Sox, but that never stopped me from getting the autographs of Carl Yastrzemski, George Scott, Jim Lonborg, Rico Petrocelli, Tony Conigliaro, Carlton Fisk, Mike Andrews and a host of other Red Sox greats... And they signed autographs for us while we were wearing our Yankee hats! They knew we were the enemy! Why did they do it? They understood we were just picking sides and it wasn't personal. Everyone enjoyed the intensity of the game and the excitement of a good rivalry. I remember after the game the players would be dressed in a civilian clothes and head out of the stadium to the team bus to go to the hotel. And looking for more autographs we got to interact with the players... and see they were real people with real families doing real jobs... Oh yes they happen to be on the wrong team... and we conveniently and consistently told them so... and of course we yelled "you suck" from the stands... but face-to-face we thanked them graciously for taking time to stop and sign an autograph. They weren't required to do that, but they did it out of common decency and tolerance. Common decency and tolerance... What happened to that? I know times have changed and we are supposed to change with the times. We have the Internet and new technology that has wonderful benefits and blessings... But you know not every change is a good one. Somethings should stay the way they were, common decency and tolerance being the default behavior of people in America is one of those things that should've stayed the same... unfortunately it seems to me, it has not.

You see there were always boundaries! And everyone knew what the boundaries were. When the game started we rooted and cheered for our team. When it ended, the game was over. Now I understand that the future of our country and the laws of the land are not a game or sporting event. Indeed they will affect and impact the country and our future for generations to come. Yet I have seen intense fights in courtrooms, I have seen corporations and people going at each other like tigers in a cage, but always with boundaries, always within the rules of the court or the game... and it's always with the hope that truth and justice will prevail. Yet sometimes it was he who was a better tactician, a better planner, he who could find loopholes to make justice work in his favor who won. But nevertheless they still did it within the boundaries of the game.

Now it breaks my heart today to see American against American, family member against family member, neighbor against neighbor, state against state as if this was Armageddon... It's not! And you know what the next party will have the chance in two years to change things and somewhere along the line the balance of power will shift again... as it always does! And of course they will reverse what the other guy did and restore the world to the way they think it should be... And when one party's in power the other party is never happy and vice versa. Just as Yankee fans were never happy when the Red Sox were winning championships and vice versa... That my friends is just part of the game of life... And that is the way it played.

But we have a choice! We can choose to love or choose to hate! And you don't get to blame your choice or actions on some holiday like New Year's Eve or St. Patrick's Day. With no disrespect intended to my Irish friends, I am just pointing to the holiday as an example of people's behavior gone wild. At it's core, it is a wonderful celebration of a great man who became recognized as a saint.

I'm writing this holiday season to call timeout and remind us God gives us an example to love others and tells us to do that. Jesus tells us we are to pray for those who hurt us and we are to love our enemies as well as those that love us. It is an ideal based on the life of Jesus himself, that we are to love others unconditionally, regardless of how they behave and in doing so we are glorifying Jesus who lived a sacrificial life showering the world with unconditional love. Whether you agree with my view and belief in God or not, whether you agree with Christianity and Jesus Christ or not. You can still agree with the concept of something being a good idea. I am not a Buddhist but I believe in many of the ways the Buddha says people should be treated, because they're good ideas. They represent good ways to treat people. You don't have to be a Christian or believe in a particular spiritual concept to have an innate sense of common decency or respect for others and the good judgment to understand that we need to share the planet (and the street we live on) in order to survive. So as Americans how did it get to be that we can no longer tolerate each other's opinion? How is it possible that I have to worry about letting my high school kid wear a hat that expresses his views because I fear someone may not like it and beat the crap out of him, for liking one team, person or ideal instead of the other.

I really don't care who is president. I care that the president cares about the people in this country and moves and acts in their best interest. I have loved some Democratic presidents and some Republican presidents and disliked some of each party and I find myself feeling the same way about candidates in other offices... it is usually not about the party but about the person and what they represent and stand for that matters to me, but that's a whole separate issue. The issue is about you and me in America and why we shouldn't tolerate the lack of common decency from people. No sooner than we would tolerate people parading naked around our little kids. No sooner than we tolerate people handing out free heroin or crack cocaine to our teenagers. Why wouldn't we tolerate that... because it's unacceptable! It's wrong! And were not going to allow that to happen. And that should be our same attitude about how we behave towards each other. We should behave civilly and in love. We should be allowed to disagree and you should be allowed to wear the hat and shirt you want to wear, wherever you want to wear it. And guess what? We all know everybody's got a hat and a shirt. Everybody's got a team and a candidate. Everybody's got a favorite band, a favorite song and a favorite movie. Everybody's got a favorite food. We get it! We all have opinions and preferences and in this great country were allowed to

express them and say this is what I like, whether it's regarding God, sexuality, food, geographic location, education, politics and a host of other topics. This is America. This is why people want to be here. This is what is so great about our country.

And it breaks my heart that we ourselves are the ones ruining it. Oh God that it would never be said of you and I that we were not peace makers. That we took to putting on a mask and using the insanity covering of the world to behave like idiots in an ungodly manner, rather I pray that we would turn towards God. That we would share the love of God with our neighbors. That we be tolerant and accepting of each other's views, thoughts, ideas and theories on life. We don't have to like people ideas but we are called to love them. It's easy to make exceptions for family members and close friends that we love and overlook things as it relates to them. Why? Because we love them. They belong to us. Yet we need to do it more for those we don't love and respect!

I have been a Bruce Springsteen's fan since I'm 17 years old. I love Bruce Springsteen's music and anybody who knows me knows that. But I have never been a big fan of Bruce politics, but you know what it never bothered me when Bruce talk politics during his concerts. It bored me after a while but it never bothered me that Bruce was using his platform to express his views... good for him. He earned that platform and the right to use it as he saw fit and speak from his heart. I didn't have to buy a ticket to see his show. Nobody forced me to listen. I love the music and it was well worth it and I love Bruce regardless of his political views. I think he is a wonderful person, a great individual, I think he has cared for and shared and given more to his fans than any public performer in the history of rock 'n roll... that's what makes him a unique and special person whose transparency and caring is heartfelt. However, It's up to you and I to take a stand against the poisoning division that is gripping our country today.

When people asked me to define myself as a person, I answer I'm a Christian... I don't answer I'm of any particular denomination. Yet regardless of our beliefs about God we would all say we are Americans! I'm an American first... not a Floridian, not a New Yorker, but an American. I love America and it's people. My point is we may have different opinions and thoughts but we share the land. Maybe it's time to go back and listen to that great folk classic by Woody Guthrie "This Land Is Your Land" and on a separate note if you want some personal inspiration for your life, go back and listen to Robert Goulet singing "To Dream The Impossible Dream" that will fire you up and motivate you.

As for me, I don't drink (or drive) on New Year's Eve. I don't drink or go out on St. Patrick's Day. I don't put on a costume on Halloween and throw eggs at people houses and I don't go nuts on the 4th of July. I'm not saying there is anything wrong with those things, but what I am saying is I don't need a particular excuse to do those things. If I want to set off fireworks I will. 365 days a year or any day I want. If I want to get rip-roaringly drunk and scream. I will. 365 days a year or any day I want. If I want to drink green beer I will 365 days a year or any day I want. I don't need an excuse to do it and you shouldn't need an excuse to be who you are. So OK this section of our letter is a little serious... but I hope it will rally you into not just standing on the sidelines and letting this happen and read about it. I hope you will make the statement that is not okay to hate each other and beat each other up for differences of opinions. There was intense racial separation in this country for a long time and it probably still exists unfortunately to some degree today. But I think a lot of racial healing has taken place and know we are all brothers.

We are one person... each a part of the team, each with an important role to play. We get the concept in sports. We get each player does his part for the team and they're all part of the team and they win the championship together. We need to get that aspect in life. We are all individuals, with a calling and a job and a purpose and we do that the best we can. One of those purposes is to love each other and be kind to each other and show love and acceptance. It doesn't mean we have to agree, it doesn't mean we have to like each other's thoughts or opinions and it doesn't mean that we have to listen to everything everyone says. But it does mean that we have to tolerate others as we want them to tolerate what we say and do. I believe the word of God says it best when Jesus says "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Personally I would

like people be able to wear any shirt or hat they want without getting the crap beat out of them, without getting yelled at, without getting their food spit in at a restaurant because somebody disagrees with their view. (I am adding a disclaimer ...none of this tolerance applies to criminals and mad men who are out to hurt you or kill you because they're insane, crazy or just stupid idiots. I would think that goes without saying).

I love the media. I love television. I've always loved platforms to be able to express ourselves, whether it's theater, movies, TV, radio, advertising, print and now the internet... anything ! But I was taught long ago by some people that I admire very much that I always need to make sure I know the truth for myself. That teaching came from my mother and father, my brother, Bob Dylan, my ninth grade English teacher Patricia Dichiaro and my 11th grade high school teacher Bill Blanchard who all taught me that I am responsible for my own decisions and my own thoughts and actions. That the words I hear from people, regardless of the platform they used to deliver them, including a pulpit I might add, are not always the truth! But I am responsible for knowing the truth and I have the ability and right to decide what I believe is true. Of course it's a good idea in your life and in my life if the truth is based on facts... Sometimes there are no facts to substantiate our belief of truth... that's okay too... but where there are facts we should definitely take them into account! So this holiday season I ask you to take a look at what the truth is... what is inside of you ...what you believe God wants you to do... what you want to do... and that you would act accordingly.

We know the media is slanted. We understand that. So that comes as no surprise. I understand when the Democrats speak he's going to talk about his views, and when the Republican speaks he's going to talk about the views of his party. I understand that when I go to a rock 'n roll concert I'm going to hear rock 'n roll, and when I go to the opera I'm going to hear opera and when I go to hear a country music concert I'm going to hear country music...I understand that people speak in the platform they want to speak in... that is not a secret to me. Yes I may have a preference of one style of music, genre of movie or political view verse the other... but it doesn't mean the other should be abolished and only my type of music should be allowed. It doesn't mean the other teams should go away and only my team should play. No that's not the country that we live in... or at least it didn't used to be. So I hope and pray this holiday season you will deliberately go about being great. That you will sit down with someone you oppose politically and go out of your way to make it a point to let them know that regardless of our differing opinions of politics... or anything else for that matter... that you respect them as people... that you love them and that you believe that peace should rule our great country and believe we should treat each other with dignity and respect...and that you would live and act accordingly.

GREAT BOOK!

There is a great book you can buy it for five dollars it's called God Guides by Mary Geegh. It is all about praying and listening for God. It's a very short book. She was a missionary in India and I think you'll find the stories intriguing. You can buy the book at **GodGuides.com**

KNOWLEDGE IN A YEAR!

Beth and I decided to read through the Bible in a year. There is a great book called Reading God's Story by George Guthrie. It is a chronological Bible that allows you to finish reading the Bible from cover to cover by just reading a few chapters every day and in the course of the year you have read the Bible. I read it five years ago, it was awesome and I have begun to do it again... definitely a blessing... would encourage you if you've never done it to by all means do it this year. You can order it on amazon.

REMEMBER TO CARE!



I was reading the New York Post the other day and saw a picture that broke my heart. Now you and I have seen pictures like this before of starving children I don't know why this one particularly bothered me so much, but for me it represented all of the starving children, all of the suffering children in the world! This boy's name is Ghazi Ali bin Ali and I am praying for him. It is doubtful I'll be able to change his life as he is in Yemen, but it is a reminder that you and I have so much, so much, and yet we focus on what we don't have, instead of being grateful for what we do. I hope this holiday season you go out of your way to remember those that are suffering and to make a difference anywhere you can whether it's financially, spiritually, emotionally, relationally or physically... any way that you can. It does matter! We may not be able to save everyone, but if you can save one, you are way ahead of the game... it's the "starfish" story... you know it well (if not google it) ...now it's time to put it into practice.

SERMONS

Here's a website to a couple of new sermons I've preached this year in case you care to listen or watch. I always enjoy the privilege of preaching and teaching and speaking. I got to speak at many different churches and seminars and conferences this year (The Teen Challenge New England three-day retreat was unbelievable!) and of course I still love the individual ministry and counseling I get to do with people that God places in my path... what a blessing.

JackLevineHolidayLetter.com

NEW BOOKS

I wrote two new books this year. ***The Motivated Life*** and ***Success Blast***... ***The Motivated Life*** is a book about motivation and uses my catchphrase "keep the train rolling" as a starting point for discussing motivation and purpose in our lives. ***Success Blast*** is all about business success and the lessons I've learned in business. It's for entrepreneurs and career people and I think is extremely beneficial and helpful for those seeking career or business success or growth. I think this will make a great gift for them... no this is not shameless self-promotion... this is just truth. I'm very proud of this book I hope you like it. You can order both books on Amazon.

Just go to Amazon and type in Jack Alan Levine Success Blast and it will come up (or you can just type in Jack Alan Levine books)

JAKE'S SEASONING

My buddy Josh out of Houston is a former Madison Avenue exec who started his own agency in Houston and has taken on Jake's Seasoning as one of his clients. He and his team have rebranded the seasoning. They are doing some extensive marketing on it. We expect very good results. If you haven't had a bottle recently go on the website and order I'm sure you will love it.

There's a new website: JakesSeasoning.com

BRING ON 2019 BABY!!!

Looking forward to 2019, I already have speaking engagements confirmed at many men's conferences, The Gathering in Palm Beach, Igniting Men's conferences throughout the state, the Central Florida Christian Chamber of Commerce in Orlando and at a variety of different churches... I understand why musicians keep playing until they die, why writers keep writing, singers keep singing and sports guys would play as long as their bodies will allow... It's because you cannot put a price on being able to interact with people and having a positive effect on their lives. I find it to be the greatest blessing in life and probably the reason I was born. Thank you God for letting me continue to do more of it this year in and year out and again in 2019 and I pray I never take for granted the opportunity to have a platform to be able to speak, share and hopefully impact people in a positive way for the kingdom of God.

Thank you Lord for my wonderful family who are such a blessing to me. We pray blessings to all of you this holiday season... for you and your families... that you would be at peace with yourselves, at peace with others, and most importantly that you would be at peace with God and that your relationship with God would grow intimately and excitingly. I pray you continue to take God up on His promise that if we come closer to Him, He will come closer to us (James 4:8).

Hard to believe my father has been physically gone from us for over a year. Mom will be coming up and spending Christmas with us. We're so glad we get to see her so much as we go down at least once a month. But I am finding myself listening to a lot more Dixieland jazz (Dad's favorite music) these days it's like Dad is sitting in the car with me when I'm listening. I can still see him smile and talking about Dixieland music. The bottom line is he's not gone...he is as alive today in my heart as he has ever been. I consider that a remarkable present and gift from God. So you should take that the heart... your life does matter! The things you do and the people you impact do matter and will be remembered long after you're gone! So I repeat as my awesome cousin the great Robbie Grossman said so eloquently... "we'll all be in a grave at some point...let's make the time we have count!

God bless you guys we love you all the best from sunny FLA.

Jack, Beth, Jackson and Talia