

The Times of Our Lives



Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. Jeremiah 33:6

2021 can best be described as a time for healing and hope. We were shocked to see our nation's capital overrun by a mob before democracy prevailed. We grieved for the millions of citizens afflicted by the pandemic before a vaccine offered light to those seeing dark times. While we're enlivened to see a period of healing, it can also be confusing and frustrating. Whether we're overcoming emotional, spiritual, or physical distress and we feel stuck with no way out, it's helpful to know that we are not alone in times like these. When we face difficulties, the best thing to do is to place our focus on the Lord, the source of hope and healing. Instead of allowing our thoughts to be filled with worry, fear and anxiety, God, our Great Physician can completely heal our broken hearts and bind our wounds, healing and making us whole.

As we enter 2022, we will continue to look to Jeremiah 33:6 for optimistic encouragement through periods of healing and hope. Happy holidays to all, for we are thankful for his abundant peace and security.

The Bachelor

Justin continues to make Scottsdale, AZ home, with his two-year old Riggins the Aussie keeping him busy. He is also flourishing in his fifth year at TEKSystems, landing a major account at American Express and leading to two promotions as Operations Lead for the Southwest Region and then Division Lead for the Phoenix market.

Loosely attributed to Proverbs 4:20, Justin said, "I am forever grateful to all my mentors at TEK, I always turn my ears to their words and not let them out of my sight."

On the social scene outside of work, Justin enjoyed many bachelor parties and weddings in 2021. Several of his fraternity and high school brothers are moving on to the next chapters in their lives, celebrating in Cabo, Palm Springs, Tulum... with more to come.

Boomerang

"We are really in a boomerang generation," Mannie said after Samantha moved back home in September for their temporary digs while they get their employment situation settled.

John followed, "We're all back to readjusting our daily lives having a toddler running around. Gabriel continues to amaze us and brings blessings and joy to our home."

Vaccinated!

A poke can do wonders, as Justin and his friends were back on the happy trail for bachelor parties and weddings... while Riggins keeps tabs on him.

The one-blue-eyed wonder makes occasional visits to the Bay Area and tracks Gabriel's every move. The two have become inseparable and have become friends for life.



Antonio, Gabriel and Samantha ventured to Maui for a family trip after a nearly two-year hiatus from work. They are getting situated for the time being and will call the East Bay or the Tri-Valley area home.



Clock is Winding Down

"Not less than 15 months," said John, as the clock continued to tick towards his retirement plans from PG&E. The company survived another bankruptcy and has sold all its property buildings in San Francisco. And after spending more than 30 of his 37 years in the Finance organization, his group will be transferred to a newly established planning, engineering, and strategy group.

"I don't think I can ever go back to a new work location across the bay in Oakland," said John. "My days of commuting in a vanpool or BART are over."

Sneaking Out

Mindful of the virus still lingering in 2021, with delta and now omicron, Mannie and John were able to take a few short jaunts to their usual weekend hotspots in the Napa Valley.



There were a few work-pleasure visits to Maui and Honolulu for the couple, in addition to celebrating a pleasure-only trip to Kauai for their 27th wedding anniversary in May.

In the Fall, Mannie and John took a step back to memory lane with a short jaunt to Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, for a low-key adventure.

And once boosted, the couple ventured out a little further when the international community slowly opened their borders to foreign tourists. Initial plans were to cruise the Mediterranean through Greece and Turkey but that was derailed when closures and cancellations were driven by outbreaks in this part of the world. The couple readjusted and instead spent three wonderful weeks in Switzerland (Zurich, Luzern, Interlaken area), France (Riquewihr and Strasbourg), Germany (Heidelberg, Cochem, and towns along the Rhine and Moselle



Rivers), and the Netherlands (Amsterdam).

2022 Preview

"Here we come, 2022!" Mannie and John said. "The schedule and flights are set, pending whatever omicron throws our way."

During the Easter season, starting in late March, the duo will trek through the Balkan states in southeastern Europe – Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia.

Then in late Summer, Mannie and John will return for a combo river cruise-land tour through the Danube and major cities of Prague, Budapest, Vienna and Salzburg, and Munich before witnessing the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, an event which has been held every 10 years (delayed from 2020) since the 1630s.

"Our fingers are crossed, hoping these postponed trips will finally happen."

We wish you all the best for a safe and happy holiday season! And may the New Year bring all of us more peace and abundant blessings! The Davids