



**Happy Holidays To All**  
**Merry Christmas – Happy Hanukkah – Happy New Year**  
**Good Bye 2010! Hello 2011!!**

Dear Friends and Family,

We're tempted to say it was the best of years and the worst. But that wasn't the truth. We have no reason or need to plagiarize Dickens. It was just somewhere in between, which means just great. That means that while we did have minor aches and pains we've had none of the major illnesses and problems to be feared at our age and we've been spared seeing close loved ones in any of these difficulties.

We're also tempted, again inspired by Dickens, to say our 2010 was a tale of four or five or six cities: Christchurch, Tokyo, Brussels, Vienna, Darlington, and London, as we spent considerable time in each. But that wouldn't be right as these "home-stays" account for less than half our year. The other half of our year was spent in wandering, mostly around New Zealand and Japan. We've already much reported much of this on our web site ([www.chandlerbates.net](http://www.chandlerbates.net)) so we won't go into it much here. We've posted 65 of what we modestly call the best photos of us in 2010 at [www.chandlerbates.net/~YIR/YIR2010/YIR2010-Trav/1nzF.html](http://www.chandlerbates.net/~YIR/YIR2010/YIR2010-Trav/1nzF.html).

If you want an intermediate treatment with more words than this letter or photos in PDF, see [www.chandlerbates.net/~YIR/Docs/yir.html#2010](http://www.chandlerbates.net/~YIR/Docs/yir.html#2010)

We're now in London for a few weeks sharing the pain of most Brits arising from the difficult ice and snow conditions and with friends the more joyful part of celebrating the end of the year and our annual renewal. Once we leave here – weather permitting, of course – we'll begin a whole new adventure with a flight to Florence, Italy, where we are renting an apartment until the end of March. That will be followed – if legs permit – by a bike tour around Italy or Sicily (that's almost Italy) or somewhere else. But that will be the topic of next year's letter. For now it is time to

***Wish you all a most happy, successful,  
and most of all healthy year in 2011.***

***Jan and Gerry***  
*December, 2010*