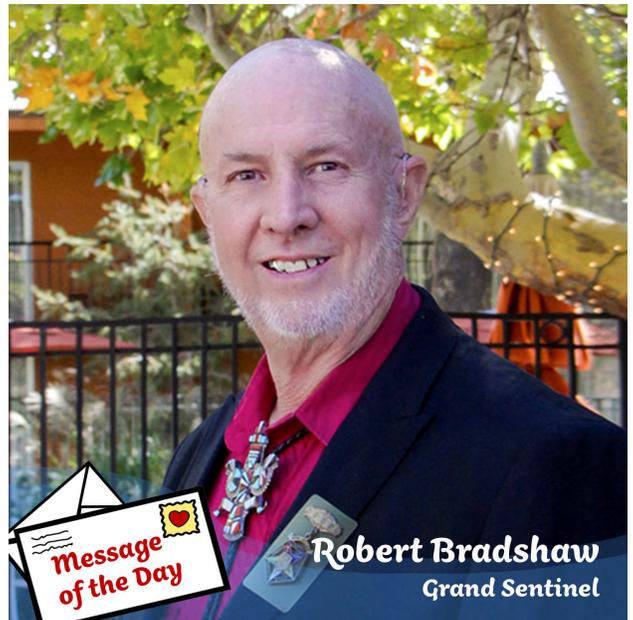


Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I Bring you “Christmas Greetings” from the southern portion of the great state of New Mexico! I hope you are all well. Please be careful during this holiday season. For whatever reason, we saw a spike in the virus shortly after the Thanksgiving holiday. We do NOT want a repeat of that.

At the risk of understatement, this Christmas is going to be different from what we are used to! But, perhaps there may be a silver lining. It may be that we should “re-focus” for this Christmas. What is the celebration and meaning of this season? At the risk of sounding “Hallmark”, what is the real Christmas Magic? This is the Celebration of the birth of Christ. A celebration to be shared with those we love and cherish. Over the years, we have been bombarded with the idea that we need to provide materialistic displays of our affection. Is that really what is important? A quote from an un-named source stated, “True happiness is not found in materialistic things, it comes from the love and laughter found with each other.” If that is true, then we must strive to maintain and improve our contact with those that are important to us. During the pandemic, that would be phone calls, cards, letters, email and internet meetings. There may be other ways that I am not aware of. We hope no one will feel abandoned or un-cared for.



With the release of a virus vaccine, we are hoping for a good turnout for the 2021 Campout. The Campout will be at Bonito Hollow outside Ruidoso, New Mexico. Dates are from Sunday, July 11, 2021 through Wednesday, July 15, 2021. Additional information is posted on the OES website. Further help can be obtained from Wayne Walker or Bob Bradshaw. Make your reservations soon!

I recently had a birthday and that reminded me of a “Pickles” cartoon. The gentleman was preparing to get in bed and said to the wife (who was already in bed), “Did you brush your teeth yet?” She replied, “Yes, and while I was at it, I brushed yours’ too.” “God, bless our spouses.”

Respectfully, Your Brother

Robert “Bob” Bradshaw, GS