

It's hard to believe that this is the seventh Christmas that I've been given the privilege of sitting down to pen a combined Christmas greeting and a word of "thanks" to the greatest "family" a groomer could ever ask for. When we opened HOT DOG! Groomers nearly seven years ago, we knew only two things... HOT DOG! Groomers would be operated without debt of any kind and HOT DOG! Groomers would ultimately always belong to God. We knelt in that open warehouse, empty save a couple of cages and a fluorescent shop light suspended over a grooming table, and told God that it was His grooming shop and that we were only His stewards. We know with certainty that it was His desire that we not be on Main Street in one of the high-end strip malls, spending small fortunes on advertising. He wanted no doubt to exist that our success was His and His alone. Many of you have been witness to His unbelievable blessing and watched as walls have gone up and texture and paint have been applied and our little grooming shop has actually started to look like a real grooming shop. We have been blessed by clients like you who are more like family and friends than simple customers and we have been blessed as you have returned week after week and month after month and entrusted us with your pets.

Last week, a new member of our "family" commented that she was "blessed" to have found us. Wow! That is a humbling yet awesome eye opener! We always acknowledge how we have been blessed by God and blessed by our customers, but we never really stopped to think about the other side of the equation. The Word of God makes it clear that we are to spend our brief time on this earth blessing God and being a blessing to others just as God and our fellow men are a blessing to us. It is really a beautiful thought! I honestly hope and pray that the five of us, our spotted dog included, are as much a blessing to you as you are to us. We hope that you feel that we are family just as we feel you are family. We hope and pray that we are doing all we can to make our Lord and Savior proud of us and His little grooming shop.

May you be blessed by God and encompassed by His holy angels this Christmas season and throughout 2012!

Your HD!G family, Robert, Melissa, Lilia, Liam & Aidan