

Joe Ritchey Family Christmas Letter 2002

December, 2002

“For unto us is born this day in the
city of David a child which shall be
the Savior,
Which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11



The Ritchey family would like to share with you the Joy, the Glory and the Miracle of this Christmas Season.

We are all well doing well and we hope the same for you. It has been another exciting year in Chillicothe.

Joe has been working hard as usual. His job is going well and he always seems to be busy. He is still running marathons and hopes to continue to do two a year. He ran the Big Sur Marathon in California in April. The coastline was beautiful, as the weather was perfect. We enjoyed visiting family and friends at what seems like a long time ago. The trip was the first time we had been back since moving four and a half years ago. (Yes, this is the longest stay at any one place for us.) In October, Joe ran in the Chicago Marathon and even though it was cold and crowded, he ran his best time yet. When his times become noteworthy, we'll let you know. Joe continues to run the soundboard at church and we are working with the youth group on Sunday nights.

In June Joe and Darlene traveled by train to Salt Lake for an ASTM meeting and a visit with Steve, (Joe's brother) and his wife Carlynn. In September Darlene started at a new staff position at our church as Director of Children's Ministry. The job is 15 hrs/wk, but keeps her busy. She still continues to teach John (notice our calendar this year). We also celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary by flying (someone that Joe works with has a private plane) to Cedar Point and riding on all the roller coasters. The day-trip was great and reminded us of our honeymoon at Geauga Lake Park (now Six Flags), too bad it was closed on our honeymoon.

Last January, Joe's dad flew everyone (all fourteen of us which includes Joe's two brother's families) to Cancun, Mexico for a resort vacation. We had a wonderful time visiting with each other, seeing some ancient ruins, scuba diving, snorkeling, and sailing. (Okay, so we did tip over the sailboat and had to be rescued. The rescue was embarrassing and of course it was Joe's fault.) Mary Ellen and Dad stayed an extra week to rest up from so much excitement. (Actually they probably wanted to enjoy a little quiet after we all were gone.

James is in his junior year at Cedarville and doing well. We haven't seen much of him this fall. He took a road trip to Illinois this summer to visit with friends and attend an outdoor Christian music festival. He had a great time and later we found out he ate most of his meals with the girls in the next campsite.

In the spring Tim completed the Boy Scout Eagle award. Also in the spring Tim convinced us to buy him a veiled chameleon. If you don't mind having a 1000 crickets around the house they are fascinating pets. Of course Tim finished top in his high school graduating class. Tim started in the fall at Ohio University Chillicothe studying computer sciences. He seemed to enjoy most of his classes. He still likes working with his computer and has been helping out with power point in the youth group.

John now has his driver's license and enjoys the freedoms that go along with that. He is working toward his Eagle award, and spends much of his free time at church or Discipleship, (a youth led Bible study). He is looking forward to spending time out on the slopes on his snowboard this winter.

Best wishes for a happy holiday and a joyous new year,

Joe, Darlene, James, Tim & John.