

## Joe and Darlene Ritchey 2007 Christmas Update

We are trying to get our Christmas wishes out early this year because as you can tell from the return address, we have moved again. We feel we should include a gift card to OfficeMax for purchase of replacement address books, but as we are cheap and think, by now, you should have learned to use a pencil.

This year, again, has been filled with many blessings and seemingly few disappointments.

We, Darlene and Joe, are now living near Mesa, Colorado at the Powderhorn Ski Resort. No, we haven't retired, but we decided since it will be decades before we can, maybe we should start living like we are retired. It all started when Joe's employer Pro2Serve obtained opportunities to work on a 5-year contract to begin relocating uranium mill tailings from along the Colorado River in Moab, UT to a site 30 miles up the road on I-70 at a spot called Crescent Junction, UT. Joe's office is in Grand Junction, so he drives the 80-mile round trip. The drive takes him up/down the CO River canyon and up some 3,000 ft of elevation gain. He loves it. It is really beautiful and full of wild life. So far, we haven't hit any. Darlene finished work at the end of August in Los Alamos and moved here in October. She will start next week in the cash room for the ski resort. The benefits are good. She is planning on taking lessons soon.

You can find out about Powderhorn at: <http://www.powderhorn.com>.

You can find out about Joe's work at: <http://www.gjem.energy.gov/moab>.

You can also find some interesting stuff about the family at: <http://www.joeritchey.com>.

In brief:

**We** – Are doing well. In Jan/Feb we were able to visit CA stopping on the way back to hike down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, through the spring and summer we took in several dirt bike outings, and in September, toured Italy for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are looking forward to our sons coming for the holidays.

**James** – Has moved into an apartment in Los Alamos. He is working for Pro2Serve as an environmental technician. James started leading the worship band at church in June and is doing a great job. He is hoping to visit Europe next summer.

**Tim** – Is working near Dayton as a computer technician while finishing some classes at Cedarville. He is sharing an apartment in Xenia with some friends from school. He and John spent Thanksgiving together and are looking forward to Christmas break and doing a little skiing.

**John** – Is going to school at Judson College in Elgin IL near Chicago in his junior year. He was chosen to go to Israel for his spring break. He is also hoping to do his internship in Germany during the summer.

Our parents are doing well. Joe was scheduled to stop in Cleveland the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> to see everyone on his way back from a trip to DC, but the trip was cancelled at the last minute. Guess he'll have to ski instead.

Our good friend from Champaign, IL, Ben Ellis, passed away in October. We will miss him. Darlene traveled in November for a visit by train, also stopping in Kansas City for a short visit with Larry & Charlotte Crosley.

We thank God for how you have touched our lives in many ways through these years. Please know that you are welcome to visit by train or air; there is a lot to do summer and winter. Our new address and phone: PO Box 173                      email: darlene @joeritchey.com or joe@joeritchey.com  
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