

## 2008 Joe and Darlene Ritchey Family Update

Dear Friends and Family,

We want to take this time to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Here is a recap of some of the exciting things in the Ritchey Family life this year.



The family at Christmastime 2007.

We will start with the youngest family member this year. John is in his senior year at Judson University in Elgin, IL and plans to graduate at the end of April. He had a wonderful and exciting internship over the summer that took place in Naples, Italy at one of the US bases working with the Military Community Youth Ministries. We want to thank all of you who helped make this possible. He could not have done this without your prayers and support. John was also chosen to attend an international Youth Conference in Israel over his spring break. The Lord has given him many opportunities during his studies for the Youth Ministry degree.

Tim recently moved to Cincinnati. We took great pleasure in being able to visit him over the Thanksgiving holiday. Joe's brother Mark, wife Gail and their kids came down on Friday and we enjoyed a day at an indoor water park near where Tim lives. In August, Tim graduated from Cedarville University with a degree in MIS (Management Information Systems) and he is working as an IT technician for the CashLand Co in Cincinnati, where he has worked (in Dayton) for the last couple years. We were able to see his office and meet some of the people he works with. He is attending a nearby church and is enjoying the activities of the young singles group. He purchased a new car, at least to him, a Mazda 3 with the very important sunroof. Darlene liked the red lights on the dashboard. In all Tim is doing great.

James just returned from a 6-week tour through Europe. We have not yet heard about most of his adventures. He has been enjoying living in Los Alamos and working as a sampling technician with a highlight of his year's work a four-day raft trip down a portion of the Rio Grande River stopping to sample springs along the way.

Darlene finished out the best season ever at Powderhorn Ski Resort counting all the money that came into the resort to the end of March when the lifts closed. We had snow outside our condo until the first of June. After traveling back to Ohio to visit family and friends she was asked to assist the Events Manager, who coordinates weddings and other events that take place over the summer. This ski season Darlene is assisting the manager over Food & Beverage and Housekeeping of the ski lodge. She has been learning all about the food service industry and managing people. "You go girl!"

Joe's work continues to go well. In June their contract was extended for another year and the team has stayed intact. They are a phenomenal group of people that are a pleasure to see every day. The contract is to provide infrastructure, business, and technical support to relocating 16 million tons of radioactive material from a site along the Colorado River in Moab UT to a new disposal facility 30 miles away. The project allowed him to present a paper at an international conference on remediation of former uranium mines and mills near Dresden Germany. Darlene accompanied Joe and they took time to travel to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden after the conference. Joe has also continued to support development of standards through ASTM International. Particularly he has been assisting the Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining. Joe always finds time to play getting his first experience on a snow mobile and telemark skiing though mostly snow boarding. Joe was able to take several weekends dirt biking in Colorado and Utah and regretted only one casualty this year to good friend Larry's wrist (oops).



Darlene with friend JJ at Mesa Lakes, CO

Of course you can find us by e-mail at [joe@joeritchey.com](mailto:joe@joeritchey.com) and [Darlene@joeritchey.com](mailto:Darlene@joeritchey.com). We also continue to maintain a website at [www.joeritchey.com](http://www.joeritchey.com).

Again we are thankful for good friends even if we don't get to see you as often as we like. We are definitely showing the signs of our years (grey hair, extra pounds, wrinkles here and there).