

2011 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Joe and Darlene

Dear Family and Friends,

As you can tell from the paper we were hoping to send out a Thanksgiving letter, but as always, time seems to get away from us. We have so much to be thankful for regardless of the season. Though we work a lot, we still had plenty of time for family, friends, fun, and faith. We'll try to give you a brief recap of the year.



Plateau Valley at sunset.

Work

Work for both of us included changes this year. Darlene became the Food and Beverage Manager at the ski resort about 2/3rds of the way through the season. In August the resort was sold to a retired CEO from Vail. This winter she is the Assistant Manager again with the hope of only working 3 days a week. Joe is on his fifth year on the Moab uranium mill cleanup project. He was able to present papers at two conferences in Germany and contributed to a separate project in western Spain. His work year culminated in receiving an award from the Secretary of Energy on behalf of the team of his co-workers. Joe continues to work in ASTM standards development in groundwater, geographical information systems, and now hydraulic fracturing to enhance petroleum recovery.



Joe with Secretary Chu at the DOE Honors Award ceremony

Family

Darlene traveled to Ohio to spend Easter with Tim and Rachel and Mother's Day with Ma Froelich. She and her cousin Patty made a quick trip to WV to visit with her Aunt Stella, who later past away in October. Darlene was able to take her mom to the funeral before she met Joe in DC. It is always good to be with family no matter what the reasons.

In July Darlene flew back to Ohio and Joe joined her later to visit Tim and Rachel and to attend our niece, Sara Froelich's wedding. What a beautiful bride she made! We again spend time Joe's dad and MaryEllen and brothers, Mark and Steve, and their families. Funny how everyone is getting older.



Joe's dad and nephew Evan at a family gathering in Ohio.

We made trips to Germany in both May and September. We spent a couple of days with Mandy and John during each trip, the latter including visits to Spain and the Czech Republic.

November has been quiet with no travel. James spent Thanksgiving with us and he and Darlene prepared a Lebanese feast. (He is not real fond of turkey.) Also they hit the stores on Friday to catch those sales.

Friends

Darlene's good friend from Chillicothe, OH, Laura Hambrick, visited us for a week in May. We had 8" of snow the first day she was here. Springtime in the Rockies! We saw most of the Crosley family either in visits here, in Kansas City, KS or with Koko on our trip to CA. Also Darlene was able to spend time with friends Chillicothe and in Champaign IL.

August found us in Denver for a few days. They opened an IKEA store, which is always fun to visit. Joe was able to have lunch with college friend and fraternity brother Cary Yuan.

Fun

You know we always make time to have fun. We've enjoyed hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, trail running, skiing/snowboarding, and four wheeling.



James, with us on a trail ride near Moab.

Faith

Darlene has been teaching primary school age kids at church and taught VBS and spent a week at church camp. Joe continues to sing and play with the worship team. He gave a sermon in November. We were able to attend church in Chino, CA in June. There are good memories from when we lived there.



John and Mandy in Germany.

John and Mandy's ministry in Germany with Young Life has been going well. James is volunteering in Moab also with Young Life. Tim and Rachel traveled to Guatemala

on a short-term mission trip in May to work with local missionaries. Keep them in your prayers. We appreciate all of you who are supporting them with your prayers and your finances.



Tim and Rachel in Guatemala.

Of course you can find us by e-mail at: joe@joeritchey.com and darlene@joeritchey.com. We also continue to maintain a website at: www.joeritchey.com.



Us in the Powderhorn Resort parking lot.

Again we are thankful for family and good friends.

Best wishes for the coming year. Know that you are always welcome here in Mesa, Colorado.