

## 2012 in Review from Joe and Darlene Ritchey

Yet again we can say that we have not relocated this year. In fact, none of our children's families have relocated either. In part this is due to the renewal of the contract for the project Joe has been working on in Moab Utah for the past 5 years. You never know, however we hope to remain on slopes of the Grand Mesa for another 5 years.

The highlight of the year has been the anticipation of the birth of



our first grandson to Tim and Rachel. Gavin Miles Douglas Ritchey was a welcome addition to the family on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

A close second was the ability of the immediate family to spend a

few days together in Ohio in late August and early September. John and Mandy were able to spend a few weeks in Illinois and Ohio from their work in Germany and Darlene, Joe, and James traveled from Colorado and Utah to join with other family members.



Joe's recreational activities slowed just a little still finding time to trail run, mountain bike, dirt bike, and snow board just not quite as much. His health has remained good though more grey hair and occasional reading glasses are a reality. Joe was able to attend his 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion and also reconnect with several of his fraternity brothers from his college days.

Darlene worked at Powderhorn Ski Resort last winter in the Food and Beverage Department. This winter she is volunteering in Guest Services and anticipating part-time work in another department. She spent part of the spring, summer, and fall traveling and visiting family and friends. Her big activity of the late summer and fall was coordinating beginning an AWANA program at church for kids ages 3 through 13. They've enjoyed having about 30 kids per week through the fall.

James is in Moab working on the Department of Energy cleanup project with Joe. Also, he plays piano with his church worship team and is active in YoungLife with students in Moab. James was able to travel this fall to Reykjavik to attend the Iceland Airways Music Festival.

Tim and Rachel, well you know what they've been about this year. Both continue their work and volunteering at church. Their townhouse has been slowly transformed to be baby-friendly.

John and Mandy have been with YoungLife at the Schweinfurt Army Garrison in Germany for two years. YoungLife's contract was renewed though they learned the Army post is scheduled to close in 2014. Please pray for them as they seek God's guidance for their next endeavor.

This year we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We began celebrating in May when we chartered a small plane to fly over the Canyonlands National Park.



In July we completed a long-time dream of traveling to all 50 states by visiting Hawaii and the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.



We also were able to travel to Montana to attend the Standing Arrow Pow Wow for the Kootenai Tribe and for a visit to Glacier, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks.

Peace on earth is a continuing wish and this year is no different. As we look back and think forward the Ritchey Family is well aware of our many blessings while many families experience difficulties. We trust you can find joy in your circumstance and be an encouragement to those around you.

**Best Wishes for Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**