

Christmas 2005

Dear Friends & Family,

Merry Christmas! We hope this letter finds you looking forward to a wonderful holiday season and New Year. As in past years we praise God for His faithfulness. Once again, he blessed us with a great year full of fun family activities.

One of the most enjoyable activities Bob and I started this year was the sport of canyoneering. We took a class in April to learn the in's and out's of this sport which involves rappelling into a slot canyon and following the watercourse through a combination of hiking, rock climbing, and swimming. The swimming often involves some pretty cold water even in the heat of summer. It seems pretty funny putting on a wetsuit in one hundred degree plus weather, but when you get down into the subterranean world of slot canyons you are



Bob enjoying The Subway

glad for any extra neoprene! Soon after our class we hooked up with a good friend from our church, Mike Brunson, and ventured to Zion National Park to try this on our own. We started out in Keyhole Canyon and after two hours emerged officially "hooked". Since then we have done a number of canyons in Zion and have plans for more. Bob and I



Bob & Lisa in Keyhole Canyon

have enjoyed our time away just the two of us (thanks to our great babysitters Mari Germain and Sharon Green for making it possible). We are thankful for a new sport that brings all smiles!

At the end of July Bob headed to Mt. Rainier with a group of friends. The group included Steve Hamilton, Jim Ness, Bob, and Marcel Barel. Steve put the group together and Bob led them to the top.



Lisa rappelling into Keyhole Canyon

This was Bob's fourth time on the summit of this beautiful mountain. A special treat was they celebrated Marcel's 74th birthday on summit day! Way to go guys!



The Four Mountaineers at the Summit



Bob at high camp on Mt. Rainier

We also enjoyed a number of camping trips with our family this year. We joined Bob's relatives the Malm's, and Jim and Sharon Danhof for a fun trip near Flagstaff, Arizona. Our campsite was perfect for kids and even included a swing set Bob built out of lodgepole pines! It was a

special time with great people that we are looking forward to doing again next year. We also camped in Zion National Park with our good friends Jim and Mari Germain. As always it was a pleasure to spend time with them in the great outdoors. We are sad to say Jim and Mari will be moving to Moab, Utah the end of January to become proprietors of a bed and breakfast. We will really miss our good friends and fellow adventurers!! I guess it is all the more reason to visit them in Moab - the mountain biking capital of the world!



Our friends - Jim and Mari Germain



Hannah and Caleb in the Bike Trailer

In August we took our whole family and headed to Montana for a visit with both sets of grandparents and the Montana relatives. We had a great time there. Hannah especially enjoyed the dinosaur museum in Bozeman while Caleb loved Grandpa Potts' four-wheeler and the airplane museum in Great Falls. Speaking of our kids, they are getting bigger, brighter and more beautiful every day. (Now



Hannah Hiking (with her doll!)

do I sound like a biased parent or what?) Hannah is now almost five years old. She is articulate, a creative thinker, and always rises to the occasion. She loves horses and asks God for a real horse regularly in her prayers. Hannah also loves dinosaurs, especially the long neck ones. When asked what she wants to be when she grows up she says: "I want to be a horse rider, an archeologist, a pianist, and an artist". She loves reading books, hanging out with Daddy in the garage and playing pretend. She now knows all her letters and their sounds and is starting to put them together into words. She even got to go on a special "girls trip" with Mommy to Minneapolis this October. She was a great traveler and had a really special time with her great uncle Fred and aunt

Goldie Pahl. Hannah is truly a great little gal!

Caleb is now two and is sooooo cute! (How often does Mommy say that?) He is a curly headed blond who is sweet and fun! He loves airplanes and anything with wheels. He constantly has a toy airplane or car clutched in his fist. At night he goes to sleep with his blanket in one hand and an airplane in the other. He also loves climbing on anything, playing with his sister, reading stories, playing on Daddy's workbench, and sitting in his car seat (we call it his "cockpit"). He is a confident boy with a tender and sweet spirit. We are really looking forward to taking these fun kids on all our future adventures! We started this year by taking both Caleb and Hannah on our all day kayak trip. Because the trip



Caleb doing some Rock Climbing



Caleb Kayaking on the Colorado River

fell on Caleb's two year old birthday we decided to take him with us. We kayaked down the Colorado River below Hoover Dam for fourteen miles with a group of friends. The kids did just great helping us paddle in the double kayaks and hiking with us to one of the many hot springs along the way. Caleb even took a nap on the river with his teddy bear clutched tightly under one arm. It was a special family day and a taste of great times to come!

Bob continues to work as the Assistant Director for the Center for Business and Economic Research at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. We are thankful for a job that not only provides for us but also gives him plenty of time off for all our adventures. On an every day basis I'm at home keeping things running smoothly at "Base Camp" so we're always ready to go. Central Christian Church is still our church home where we enjoy the services and great kids programs. For Christmas we are looking forward to a very special time - Bob's Dad and Mom, and two of his brothers and their families will be visiting.. It ought to be a really great time celebrating "Christmas in Vegas"!

As I write this I am once again reminded how God, on a daily basis, has so provided for us. It's great assurance that next year will be more of the same. This is our hope for you too. If you happen to be out our way, please give us a call. Who knows - we just might convince you to drop into a canyon or two, kayak a river, or just go for a hike!



Our Family Enjoying the Grand Canyon

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This song has meant a lot to Bob and I this past year.

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

And blessed be Your name, when I'm found in
the desert place
When I walk through the wilderness,
Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord, still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your
glorious name.

Blessed be Your name, when the sun's shining
down on me
When the world's all "as it should be"
Blessed be Your name

And blessed be Your name, on the road marked
with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessed be Your name
You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will chose to say, "Lord blessed be
Your name".

Matt Redman and Beth Redman
(Revival in Belfast II /Live Worship with Robin Mark)