

Dear Friends,

December 2008

God has brought us through another year. ***The God on the mountain is still God in the valley. When things go wrong, He'll make them right. The God of the good times is still God in the bad times. The God of the day is still God in the night.*** We have again experienced God's faithfulness throughout the year and are grateful to be His children.



The year started out with David and I attending a marriage seminar. We hosted the youth SS class for a super bowl party. The girls liked visiting the dairy farm of the Heisey's in Bedford County a few days. David and I skied Blue Knob on the day that was one of the coldest of the year – thanks to the Heisey family for baby-sitting! Grandpa and Grandma Brubacker helped us celebrate Mariah's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. We closed the month of February with a trip to South Carolina visiting friends at Fairplay.

March found us in Greenville, TN visiting my cousins as we trekked northward toward home again. God has blessed us with many Christian friends and with family – it was special to spend time with a few of them. Thanks

to David for hanging out with the girls while I attended a women's retreat the end of the month.

I was privileged to attend a mother daughter banquet with my Mom and Mariah in April. Our small group also enjoyed a relaxing weekend at a nearby cabin. It was also good to touch base again with a visit to Jan in NJ, who was David's mentor as a new believer. David completed Winning at Work & Home, his second year of Men's Fraternity.



While David attended a men's meeting in Ohio I hosted the youth girls for a slumber party. The youth SS class as well as we teachers enjoyed a three-mile hike at Rickett's Glen before the rain came. Even Mariah hiked the entire trail along the many

waterfalls. Everyone was thankful to have a cabin available for the night since our tent camping would have been very wet. It was great to join friends for a Memorial Day picnic after a day at the pool.



June was filled with various activities: attending weddings, hosting our third annual neighborhood cookout, swimming, helping with the SS picnic in the Womelsdorf Park. The girls and I joined David as he attended Lab meetings in State College. Yes we did savor ice cream from The Creamery! Helping with VBS at Meckville and hosting friends from Cumberland, MD were also special times.

A weekend with friends in MD and being involved with VBS at Womelsdorf were just a few of the highlights of July. Mini golf, ice cream, and fireworks made for a fun SS class outing! David and I rode with the motorcyclists in memory of Gordon.

We truly did see the stars and hear the rolling thunder just before the rain came on the youth SS camping trip to Ohiopyle. Having dry clothes, delicious food, great discussions, and rafting the middle Yough were among things to be thankful for. Between camping weekends with the Zook family in Coudersport and friends at Dutchman's Paradise we were grateful to have the latter one rain free. Water events are great for summer thus a SS trip to the Hess waterslide proved to be a memorable time!

A family vacation to Ocean City, MD was a refreshing way to usher in September. Paige was thrilled to play in the sand! Mariah bravely jumped some waves with her Daddy! Purchasing and riding a Suzuki GZ 250 is a dream come true for me! Thank you David! A new area of outreach for us is being directors of the youth center in Womelsdorf. While I joined in the laughter, tears, and fun memories with a vanload of ladies to the Women of Faith Conference, the girls and David had a great time together. Hosting friends for football parties is always interesting. It was enjoyable to have David's brother, Ray and wife Mickey, here for a few days. Time evaporated quickly with par 3 Golfing, a game of Scrabble, touring Crystal Cave, and family dinners together.



David and I were privileged to participate in the Love and Respect seminar. God has led and blessed EncourageMen, a men's ministry formed by David along with several other men. A weekend to Greenville, TN consisted of attending a wedding and spending time with my cousin and Uncle and Aunt. David did a terrific job with a surprise 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party complete with a live band for me! Thanks to all who made it a success! It was nice to be able to be a part of Light in the Night along with other Christians, which is a nationwide alternative for Halloween.

We hosted the Brubacker family in November. David spent quite a few Saturdays cutting wood for our wood stove. Thanksgiving Day was spent with the Zook family. Mariah was excited to put together the bundles for Guatemala orphanages along with her cousins. Even Paige wanted to help.

We headed to the sunny south of Florida to spend Christmas with Ray and Mickey. Christmas Eve we were delighted to be jumping the waves in the Atlantic Ocean. David and I had a blast jet skiing on Christmas Day! We celebrated Paige's second birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Spending a week at Siesta Dunes in Sarasota was a pleasant treat.

Our prayer is that we would be difference makers in our world.

