

20 December 2010

Dear Ones,

It seems impossible that another year is almost gone. Looking back on 2010 causes us to rejoice at the overwhelming grace and faithfulness of our Lord! We now have five grandchildren. Steve and Ruthie have Elion who will be three years old in January and Ksenia who had her first birthday last week. Mike and Johannah have Naavah who will be three years old in March and the twins, Lybia and Evey, will be one year old in February. Our niece Becky has Joey who will be four years old in March. It's great having all these little people in our lives! They are so special. Cora, our oldest daughter, made a big move this year when she got a new job that took her an hour away from Ovid, where she's lived for a number of years, and she has been able to purchase a home near her job. She hosted us all for Christmas. We had a wonderful time.

The farm has had quite a few guests this year. We finished the decorating on the little guest house and our first guests stayed in it in July. There have been a number of visitors using it since and we also used it for counseling sessions and small group meetings. As one guest said, "There's only one thing wrong with it. Time goes too fast when your in it!"

Our friends Don Isaac and Jeanette Frey were married in March and are now living nearby. It's been exciting to have them part of our family here and they are also a great blessing to our church family.

We have been very busy with ministry related things this past year. Ann did YFC horsemanship after school clubs in the spring and did a week long summer horse camp for them in August. She also has been mentoring one of their staff members. Ed has been supply preaching, teaching an overview of the Old Testament in Sunday school, and hosting a weekly preachers' breakfast. In each of these areas, we see the fruit that the Lord is producing in people's lives.

We oversaw the training of leadership and startup of a Celebrate Recovery program which began last January. We combined it with Divorcecare and Griefshare, ministering to those suffering losses by divorce or death of loved ones. These programs have been used by the Lord to bring about some incredible changes in people's lives. Our leadership team has been simply wonderful and the growth in each of us as we've worked together this past year has been inspiring. Celebrate Recovery was developed by Saddleback Church to help people with their "hurts, habits, and hang-ups." We would recommend this program to **everyone** in the church. The growth we've seen in everyone involved this past year has made us realize how little progress we generally make in overcoming our "hurts, habits, and hang-ups" in the normal course of our lives. What a huge difference it makes in our effectiveness in ministry when we do!

We also went for training to bring the Truth Project to our church. We were involved in two groups through the summer and fall. This is excellent material which is very well presented. Every serious Christian should try to go through this 13 week series put out by Focus on the Family.

We were thrilled to be a part of preparing people for ministry in Africa this year. This spring, we traveled to Iowa to spend a weekend with a short term team going to Tanzania. It was great working with them and seeing their increase awareness of how best to minister in a foreign culture. This fall, we hosted a pre-field orientation for ACMI, our overseeing mission organization, for the missionaries they were preparing to send to different fields. It was an awesome week. You can read more about it in the "Showcase" that was sent out with this letter. (Cora has volunteered her time and talent to put together the Showcase for ACMI the last two years. We are really proud of the nice job she did on it.)

There is much more we could share, but mostly, we just want to thank each of you who are involved in any way in making it possible for us to serve in this ministry! We are so blessed to be able to see what God is doing in people's lives here and around the world. What an honor to serve our Lord in this way. Our prayer for each of you is that you would have the same joy in your life that we are experiencing in Him.

Serving Him,  
Ed & Ann