

Dear Friends.....Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

This past fall has been an organized whirl-wind of large events, planning meetings, training experiences and brief stops at home. My time at home though unusually brief has been extremely rich: full of love, rest and revival. I am amazed at Barb's ability to deal with my intense travel schedule, her demanding high school teaching routine, as well as providing specialized care for her dad. Barbara is a wonderful wife and I am so thankful for her.

The family continues to grow..... and fast. Our newest is Miela, born October 2nd to Lesa and Chad. Also, by mid-February, Ryan and Beth will be parents of a baby girl as well. As for Barb and I, we're thrilled about the new additions to our family, and you can see how much our baby, Belle, has grown over the past year.



November 2006



December 2007

As you know, every year for the past seven, we have produced the General Sessions for the Youth Specialties National Youth Workers Convention, held in at least three different cities each Fall—15,000 in total attendance. These are always very rich times for the youth workers that attend. Our Outside the Box team is confident that we are significantly involved in influencing these youth leaders in at least four ways: inspiring them to stay in youth ministry, feeding them in lacking areas of training, expanding their creative experiences and helping them grow and develop spiritually. It is an honor to be involved with Youth Specialties in their service to youth workers and we look forward to serving with them every year.

Here is an interesting fact for you: Out of the forty some events that Outside the Box produced last year, only five of them were for adults. Without a doubt, our well defined niche is youth. As a sixty year old, I am privileged to spend most of my time around teens and working with the innovative young adults on our staff. As long as the creative juices flow, the ideas work, my team says I "still have it", and the body stays healthy, I will keep serving in youth ministry. As a team, Outside the Box is not opposed to more adult-world ministry, but for the time being, God has not opened the gate to many of those opportunities. We continue to trust His leading in bringing us each of the projects and events that He has for us...whether adult or youth focused.

There are two youth events that we are now planning and for which we would ask your faithful prayer support. They are called Paradise and Fuel. Both are unique in that our team will be responsible--even more than normal--for the creation of the content for these events. In addition, both of them have never happened before so there is not an established history on which to build.

We are very excited about these events. I'm including the websites, dates, purpose statements and our role in each event. Please pray for unusual creativity, strong biblical formation, the availability of the right talent and strong foresight into the needs of the audiences.

PARADISE – www.paradise08.com – May 25, 2008 in a field in Kansas

Paradise is a journey to awaken this generation to the supreme majesty of Christ, adoring Him as King and arising to bravely join Him in accelerating His kingdom purposes. Our role is to write a four hour program of worship that is the centerpiece of this event. We will use only songs from scripture and only words of scripture for the entire script. The intention is to take away all potential distractions from worshipping Jesus, the King of Kings.

FUEL 08 – www.fuel08.com – Every weekend in the month of July 2008

3-5 Yampa, ID. 10-12 Pasadena, CA. 17-19 Toronto, CANADA. 24-26 Orlando, FL.

Fuel is a follow-up event to NYC 07 last summer. Students will learn to walk with Christ and will be provided with a strong vision and opportunity for commitment to living a life set apart from the norm. FUEL is about igniting passion in a generation of youth that longs to go deeper. Our role is to design a program that engages students and draws them to walk with Jesus. As part of the program itself, students will film and produce videos, write and perform drama, give testimonies and challenges, create and display art, as well as serve and report on community service projects. We want students to be enlightened to their potential and live as a generation that burns for Him.

Besides events, we have the privilege every year to write, design, and shoot/produce/edit many different videos, short stories, clips and still media. This has become a significant part of our ministry. As you may remember two years ago we helped Dare 2 Share produce a curriculum training series called The Gospel Journey. (Check out www.gospeljourney.org for more information about it.) We filmed GJ with a main teacher, Greg Stier, and eight students high in the Rocky Mountains drawing from “MTV’s Real World” for our format. The piece has been so successful that Dare 2 Share has asked us to produce another DVD curriculum.

In January we will take seven new students and two teachers from Dare 2 Share over to Maui for an eight day shoot. Yes, I know this will be “tough” but someone has to do it. Please pray for Holly Ingels and me as we guide this unique project. Tens of thousands of students have experienced the training of the last Gospel Journey, and it is changing lives and worldviews in helping its viewers understand the Gospel. We will keep you posted as to when this becomes available.

The financial foundation of Outside the Box Ministries continues to come from two sources: the projects themselves and your gifts. Both are essential. I am asking you to consider making a special gift to our ministry this year-end. We are in the process of raising \$50,000 by December 31, 2007. Also, would you pray for and ask others to join our support team? Your gift will help sustain our ministry.

In the months ahead you will get letter/email communication from Outside the Box on a very regular basis. In order to accomplish this, you will hear from others on our board and staff. Some of what you receive about Barb and I will not look the same, but this will be a great experience for all: more consistency, more information and more relationships. Everyone wins.

We all love what God has given us to do. We love you and are thankful for our friendship with you. And, most importantly, along with you, we are amazed at the TRUTH of GOD sending HIS SON, JESUS to be our SAVIOR, our KING of KINGS and our LORD of LORDS.

-- Rolly and Barbara

To keep our costs down, we would like to transition as many people as possible to an email-only version of our prayer letters. If you can help us with this request, please send an email with your name to info@otbm.org If you already receive an email version of these prayer letters, you are on our list. You can also read all OtB prayer letters online at www.rollyrichert.com or www.otbm.org