

December 22, 2009

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We love this time of year. I must admit, however, that I prefer this year's weather over last! Last year we were enjoying a white Christmas, complete with ice, snow, and no power. This year is mild, a bit damp, but all in all, quite pleasant. Kim and I have endeavored this year to focus on the Advent season as a time of preparation to remember Christ's birth. Though it hasn't always been easy, we have chosen to take a bit slower pace as Christmas approaches.

The Awana ministry continues to grow. Commander College has become a very important part of our ministry. Equipping the Awana Commander can be the most important thing that we can do to serve a local church. We are so thankful for our



Ed & Kim, Matt & Joy, Heather & Joel

ministry team. These faithful volunteers are such an encouragement for us. Our focus last club year was the development of several training teams to help new clubs start Awana and to encourage the new clubs in their weekly ministries. We now have in place enough quality trainers to conduct trainings at several new Awana Clubs at the same time. God is so good!

This year has been a wonderful one for our family. Heather is teaching music at Willamette Christian School. Joel was the music director for Corban College's play "State Fair" and continues to sing in the Willamette Master Chorus. Matt graduated from College in May and was married to Joy in October. We are so blessed to have her in our family. Every parent prays for good, Godly spouses for their children. He has answered our prayers twice in Joel and Joy. Matt and Joy live in Salem not too far from us.

We've been missionaries for fifteen years now. It has been long enough that we are now attending weddings of clubbers that we met as Cubbies or Sparkies. Sometimes God allows us to see the fruits of our labor. Our ministry allows us to look on from a distance as young people grow up to serve the Lord in various ways. What a blessing!

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support of the ministry in 2009. We pray that your Christmas will be filled with joy that only Christ can bring.

Because of Calvary,

Ed & Kim Gossien
Awana Missionaries
Western Oregon

"...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 niv