

MERRY CHRISTMAS

What a privilege to serve the Lord as Hard Hat missionaries! Sherry and I are celebrating our second Christmas with the mission. Since we joined Hard Hats, the Lord has allowed us to work on five projects; the most recent was new construction at Dalkena Community Church.

Since our last newsletter, we traveled from Winlock in western Washington to northeastern Washington to the little town of Dalkena. The church had been praying for a new building for the last 20 years. Because of growing numbers, they outgrew their present auditorium. On August 1, we broke ground for the new 6000+ square foot building. Twenty-five volunteers from the congregation along with help from Hard Hat associates Dan Humphrey and Jacob Thiel were able to construct the shell of the building. By Thanksgiving, the roof was shingled and the walls weather-tight and ready for the harsh winter weather. We give God praise for safety on the job, favorable weather, financial provision, wonderful meals and provision of sacrificial labor by so many.

One of the unique features of the new auditorium is the beautiful laminated arches that stand 25 feet to the peak. They were a divine provision. Another church donated them to Dalkena because they were not measured right and were too small for the original building.

Our time at Dalkena was an awesome experience. The church is situated on the beautiful Pend Oreille River that flows north to Canada. The church provided us a wonderful spot to park our



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While staying in Dalkena, Sherry flew by commuter jet to Portland and then by bus to Longview every third week. She continued to serve as volunteer executive assistant to Dave Williamson, CEO of Hard Hats. The church at Dalkena generously provided the funds to fly her back and forth. Her assistance at the office is invaluable so she is not allowed to get too far away!



The project at Dalkena was halted for the winter to allow for fundraising and a needed rest for the volunteers. The building is quite imposing as it stands 35 feet to the ridge. I am quite sure that this building will be a gospel lighthouse for Pend Oreille County. Sherry and I enjoyed wonderful fellowship with the saints there and hope to return for the building dedication when it is finished. If you are ever in northeast Washington, please go by and see the new building!

At this writing, Sherry and I are back in Longview. Our RV is parked in the driveway of some wonderful new friends, Louie and Louise Ulrich. Living in an RV is an adventure. We experienced a week of subfreezing temperatures (down to 9 degrees). The holding tanks froze and we could not take showers in the RV. Happily, our host family allowed us to use their showers instead. God provides in so many ways. We are now thawed out with no broken plumbing!!

Joe may have the opportunity to travel either to Liberia or Mexico City for Hard Hat projects in 2010. As God leads, we will be praying for the finances to travel. Both projects will involve construction. We are asking for your prayer in discerning God's leadership. You, family and friends, are our prayer partners and co-laborers in the work that God has called us to.

What a joy it is to serve the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May you enjoy God's richest blessings this Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Joe

FAMILY

Our children have had some growing opportunities this year. The most challenging was for Patty when her job was suddenly gone. She tried to find work in Texas but was unsuccessful. At this point in her life, she knew she had to step out of her comfort zone. She packed up and moved from Texas to Denver, Colorado. She had made some job contacts before she moved and had a part time position at First Option Mortgage. No one else would talk with her until she was in Denver. Thanks to her Uncle Walter, she had a place to stay. The first morning on her new job, she was asked if she might be interested in a full time position and she said she would. They said they would let her know in a week, but that afternoon the new position was offered and she took it—God is good! Starting as an Administrative Assistant she quickly became proficient at her job and was soon promoted to Loan Processor. She now has her own apartment and is one of the top Processers for the company nationwide. She is still single and we are praying that God will lead the right man into her life.

John is continuing to grow in his Christian walk and remains active in his church in Denton, TX. He plays bass guitar in the praise & worship band and volunteers with the children's church program. He has been working to become debt free and is just about there. When achieved, he will be looking forward to starting his own family. John spent several years with St. Bernard Sports in Dallas as a salesman and certified boot fitter for snow skis. Wanting to expand his opportunities, he had sent out his resume' to different locations. Some time had passed and he was contacted by CD Ski and Sports. John was told that the main reason they were interested in him was because of his character; his job experience was secondary. At this writing, he has just completed his second week at his new job as an assistant manager in their Grapevine, TX store. We are looking forward to spending time together in Denver with our children and family.

This year I also got to spend time with my nephew Jackson in LA. By the time this letter reaches you he will be 9 years old—so Happy Birthday Jackson! One of the biggest blessings for this year was when my sister-in-law Susan flew me to LA. My older brother Kim was already there for business and we were able to be with our younger brother Doug for his birthday.

May God bless you all during this Christmas season and into the New Year.

Sherry



Donations toward our ministry may be sent to
CWCF, PO Box 636, Kelso, WA 98626 and
Designated for Account 377.

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