

Dear friends,

Merry Christmas! We trust you are well. We wanted to share what we have been up to as a family and in the ministry over the past year.

(From Carolanne) It is that time of year again where we get to celebrate the birth of our Saviour! Many of you probably have your Christmas tree all set up with lights and decorations. Running around trying to get those perfect gifts for your loved ones and going to multiple Christmas activities. In amongst all of your Christmas activities remember to take the time to focus on the reason why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. Remember that Jesus came as a baby to save us! The best gift ever!

Many things have happened over the year. Both good and not so good things.

- Had a water leak in our crawl space that required digging up the front yard. Thankfully it was caught before it got too high and came out of the crawl space. The strata insurance was called and they dealt with everything and we got a new hot water tank and heater. (Jan. 29th)
- Carolanne's parents have both been struggling with cancer.
- Our family went to Disneyland with James' parents and also visited James' grandma and other friends and family in San Diego
- Piano lessons. Julia loves piano and has no fear at all about the recitals. She counts down the days.
- Drum lessons. Ben did his first drum recital! He was really nervous, but did well.
- James dealt with kidney stone issues multiple times.
- Ben took his babysitters course and can now babysit and stay home on his own or with Julia.
- James got his 20 year award from Power to Change.
- We took a couple camping trips in the summer.
- Ben and Julia were part of Discovery camp at our church. They invited some friends and had a blast together.
- Muchkin, our hamster, passed away due to an unforeseen heart issue.



We have been continuing with homeschooling our 2 kids. Ben is 12 and in grade 7. Julia is 10 and in grade 5. We no longer have any children in the single digits. Ben and Julia enjoy homeschooling. Carolanne loves that she get's to be a part of their learning and gets to spend the time with them.

James has been continuing his work at Power to Change with The Life Project. (We have included a recent prayer card) James does web programming, working behind the scenes to make the website do what it is suppose to do so that people can be introduced to the gospel of Jesus Christ on the internet. Every time I look at his screen it does not make any sense to me and I am glad he knows what he is doing.

(From James) In the ministry have been going very well. I have been serving as the Technical Director which means I do quite a bit of website programming to make sure our systems run smoothly and that we can be as effective as possible in sharing about Jesus. I also manage a team of others who do the same.

We work to connect visitors who come to the websites looking for help, with a team of volunteer mentors who are there to lead them closer to Jesus. We want to make it as easy as possible for any Christian to be able to share their faith in Jesus with someone online who needs to hear it.

Our ministry now has partnerships with groups, churches and ministries in over 80 different countries around the world. We give them free access to use our tools to reach their own cultures and countries for Christ. **And people around the world are coming to know Jesus!**

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This is a story I came across recently that demonstrates so clearly how a mentor can have an amazing impact on the life of someone else. A visitor name Sue* wrote to us recently to share how she was trying to get over her ex and was still dealing with the emotional abuse she had faced. Her message was delivered to the inbox of Anna*, a mentor serving on our team who has been through some pretty tough emotional and relational issues herself.

Anna asked Sue about the relationship and what she thought might be preventing her from moving on. She found out that Sue had never been religious in spite of growing up with Christian parents, but had been praying more lately and “wanting that extra support from God, but honestly [she was] not exactly sure how to get into it.”

With that open invitation Anna shared about what Jesus has done for us and that it's not a religious thing but rather a relationship. She invited Sue to pray with her and received the following response:

Hey, i said the prayer and now not going to lie i don't know what to do next. i truly do want a relationship with God as i know He can help and work miracles.

This conversation took place just a few months ago. Anna had the opportunity over the next weeks to continue discussing with her what being a Christian really means and that God's love for us is unconditional.

I love this story because it is such a great example of how somebody like Anna had the chance to share her own faith and story with someone who needed to hear it, and as a result was able to lead the person into relationship with Jesus. It's stories like this that encourage me so much in this ministry!

We do have a few areas that we would appreciate prayer. **First**, please pray that God would continue to make this ministry more and more effective in reaching people with His love. **Second**, pray for our technical team that we would be united and have the capacity and knowledge to adapt as technology continues to advance. **And third**, please pray for our financial support. We are really in need of more monthly donors to join our support team.

Thank you for your prayer and support of us in this ministry. We wish you God's blessings this coming Christmas season.

James, Carolanne, Benjamin and Julia

* names changed for privacy