

## Merry Christmas 2007 from Bob & Monika Marks & Family!

Greeting and blessing to all of you! If you would like an update on the Marks family's 2007 year read on.

This has been a blessed year. In January Jeremiah started his first professional job, after graduation from Baylor, working in Dallas for Price Waterhouse-Cooper, a top accounting firm. He loves it and is learning a lot. PWC is paying for him to take additional classes and in another year or so, he will be able to test for his CPA license. He chose PWC since it was in Dallas so that he could be with Leslie who is working on her Masters at University of North Texas in vocal singing (opera). We are so proud of her not only for her great voice, but also for her high academic achievement. If you'd like to hear her sing, visit [LeslieMarks.com](http://LeslieMarks.com).

We are very grateful to the Lord for continuing to provide scholarships for Josh and Marilee at Baylor. They are following in their brother's foot steps and are currently majoring in business. Josh moved onto campus at University House and really loved it. His dorm was just next door to Bob's building so he could pop in for a visit and help whenever he wished. Marilee has enjoyed her apartment and was happy to add her longtime friend Tashlie Hulman from Seattle as her new roommate. We welcomed Tashlie and her family to Baylor with a celebration dinner at the ranch. Marilee has had a very difficult and rough fall semester as both of her roommates: Tashlie and Kara left and dropped out of school for the semester. Marilee has had to face living alone for the first time. Her friend, Michael Tindall, has been more than willing to fill up her time. She has some

company with Tashlie's dog who helps her to feel safer. Josh and Marilee are both working part time at steak restaurants to make some extra money.



Marilee & Tami at River Ranch

My good friend Signe Shuck came for a visit for a restful scrap booking week. We had a needed break from our regular work and enjoyed our River Ranch Retreat.

Bob was off for a wonderful trip to East Asia with his good friend and Ph.D. advisor, Dr. John F. Walkup.

### I. WHAT'S HAPPENING

Our good friends Jim and Ellen Walker came for a restful retreat on the ranch. We loved showing them around the Waco area.

In the spring, Joel helped me to get the barn ready and we rented it out for the first time to Kappa Delta Sorority. Marilee helped to get the group here. Almost 200 girls and guys enjoyed bonfires and smores and played games. They liked our place so much that they begged for us to have them back in the fall.

Tragedy struck with a huge flooding storm this spring. We suffered a lot of damage with many beautiful trees swept away on our river bed, including our favorite leaning tree that went out over the river and was used to hold our bait traps. A raging river took out our pump house and made our sprinkling system

useless. Since we couldn't water, except by hand, I prayed all summer for rain and boy did we get it - a record was set for this area having the most rain. The weather experts can't figure it out, but I can. The storm also damaged our



Monika, Marilee, George W., Tami & Ginene. W, for some reason, has his shadow on the wrong side of his face.

promenade deck behind the barn and did a number on our ½ mile country road. We still have not recuperated, but we are grateful that the house, barn, and cottage were spared. Bob and I have never been afraid of storms, but now after living in Texas, we have become very concerned with the high winds and the river rising.

I also enjoyed taking my friend Carrie and going to the National Equestrian Championships which were hosted by Baylor in May. I also went to my first Dalmatian show with a serious Dalmatian breeder, judge, and trainer. It was an experience as the breeder said that my Dalmatian, named Genesis, was more of a beautiful specimen than any of the champions. I would have to agree. I need to give Genesis some more training for her to compete.

During Spring break, Josh, Joel Newhouse, and Michael went to Padre Island. The girls were so cute that Josh said he lost his head and went swimming with his cell phone. Joel said the trio was a Babe magnet. Marilee and Tashlie went to Galveston.

My dad Charley and I went to Corpus Christi to visit with my cousins Jim, Dave, Dick, and Carolyn. It was great as I hadn't seen Dick or Carolyn for such a long time. We are planning another reunion next Jan.

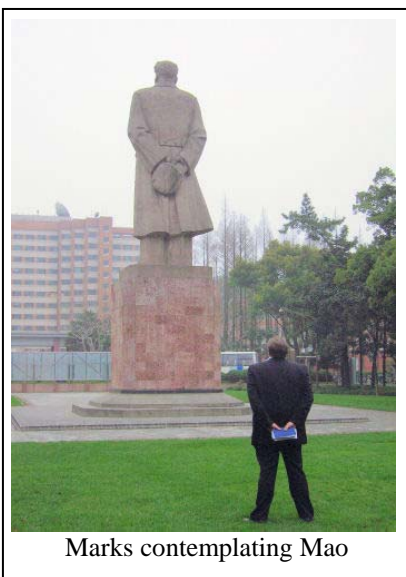
## II. ROAD TRIP!

Ginene Ferrell and I have been planning a road trip to the East with our girls since they were 7 years old. We had been dreaming and planning it for so long that we were almost afraid to believe that it would actually happen. We were so excited when Ginene and her daughter Tami Ferrell flew from Seattle to Waco and we picked them up at the airport. After resting at the ranch, since the girls had just finished their finals, we began an incredible road trip adventure with Marilee, Tami, Ginene and me for almost a month.

Our first exciting stop off was in Memphis to visit Graceland. I loved seeing all about Elvis as he was my favorite singer in my youth. (Now he's number 2. Bob's my favorite.) The girls tolerated it well and we even ate in



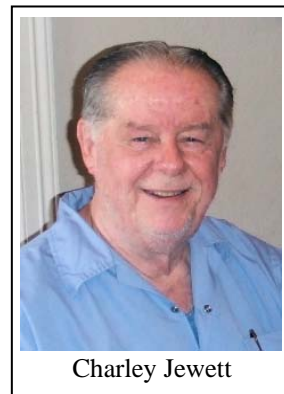
Mao contemplating Marks



Marks contemplating Mao

a 50's diner. Next we were off to Nashville where we had planned to go to Opryland and were sad to find out that it was closed. We did get to see the Grand Ole Opry area and do some shopping. (a high priority for the girls) and we ate dinner in an unusual aquarium restaurant where the fish swam all around you. We took a tour of Belle Meade Plantation where the Morgan horses came from. I thought it was very interesting. During this time we were shocked and saddened to find out that one of Marilee's very best Waco friends, Jenna, died in a car accident in Fort Worth. We headed for *Dollywood*, and stopped and enjoyed two shows, a wonderful Christian musical play and a magic show called *Magic Beyond Belief*. Next we went to Johnson City to visit Ginene and Craig's old college stomping grounds where Ginene's husband, Craig got his Masters. We were ready to get out of our very packed Lincoln and rest for a few days on our mountain farm retreat in West Virginia. We had a marvelous time visiting with the family, riding the four wheeler with Bob's brother Uncle Ray, reading by and swimming in Bob's Aunt Betty's pool. Aunt Betty and Bob's cousin Debbie Ellis cooked up a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July Dinner and invited all of the relatives. Ray built big bonfires for us and made our trip very special. Bob's Uncle Gene Marks took the girls on quite a hike to look at some property

lines. We got to see how Gene and Eula were progressing on their new country mountain home that Gene is building himself. We were sad to leave as we all wanted to stay longer but we needed to get to Washington D.C. We drove through the scenic Cumberland Gap to Washington D.C. Our highlights there were the Holocaust Museum, the DAR, the *Air and Space Museum*, the *Spy Museum* (the girl's favorite), the *Washington Monument*, the changing of the



Charley Jewett



Marilee and Tami outside the Broadway show *Legally Blonde*.



Tami and Marilee on Times Square

guard at the *National Arlington Cemetery* and *George Washington* at Mount Vernon. We were really on a whirlwind trip and loved walking around the mall to see all of the national monuments. Ginene had wanted to take Tami here most of all.

After all of this sightseeing, we needed a calm break so we headed to Ocean City, Maryland and stayed right on the beach and along the boardwalk. It was glorious to lie in the sun and the girls thought parasailing over the Atlantic Ocean was the biggest adventure of their trip. We could hardly leave, but New York beckoned.



Three ladies in New York.

Times Square was so beautiful at night with all of the lights and we enjoyed the Broadway shows such as *Les Miserables*, *The Phantom*, *Chicago* and *Altar Boyz*. We

loved the *Times Square Church* and of course we did all of the normal New York highlights such as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the Empire State Building, and going to the World Trade Tower Memorial Church. We even had time to get our nails done as well as shop and shop, especially for purses. Ginene and I will never forget one crazy taxi cab driver. Marilee is still dreaming of eating Chicken Marsalis at *Carmines*.

With our car packed to the gills with purses, we drove to Hershey, Pa and toured the Museum factory. I loved the trolley tour as we got to hear of the amazing story of Mr. Hershey and all the influence this Christian man had by building the entire town, schools, hospitals, and all the thousands of troubled and orphaned kids he took in and still to this day sponsors and takes care of, including paying for their college tuitions. We wondered why we didn't send our kids there. The Hershey Hotel was beautiful and we loved the dinner we splurged on there.

Next we went to Lancaster County which is in the Amish Area. We saw some of the most beautiful farms and liked shopping in the little quilt shops and antique stores and of course we pigged out at the homemade dinner in an Amish Restaurant.



Monika and Marilee at Graceland

We had to drive Ginene, Tami, and Marilee to the Newark airport as they had to fly home to work and school. Ginene and I were amazed that we were right on our budget for our long trip. I was very sad to drop them off and drive by myself to Indiana. I had planned to have Marilee with me so that we could go to Marilee's cousin Jamie's Wedding, but the Baylor schedule did



Shopping in DC.

not cooperate and she had to fly home. Jamie's wedding to Randy was at Rick (my brother) and Tam's home on July 7, 07. (This happens to be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hershey Kiss!) The bride was so beautiful of course and Rick's wife Tammy had the yard and flowers manicured to perfection. I enjoyed getting my hair fixed at Jamie's hair salon as she has recently gotten her cosmetology license. On a sad note, my dad Charley fell down some steps and broke his leg and ankle in 3 places. I had hoped to help with the wedding when I came a few days early, but what I ended up doing was helping Dad at the hospital and follow up visits. He was not able to come back to Texas until he got his walking cast off. I also got to visit with my best school friend

Peggy while I was there.

Instead of heading home to Texas, I took a little one month detour and drove by myself to Seattle on a mission to rescue Tashlie and see my friends. On the way I stopped to see Bob's Cousin Brent Hersman in Cheyenne, WY. Because of the fires, he convinced me to go up through Yellowstone. I loved driving and seeing Yellowstone again. Of course it was great to see some of my Seattle friends Alice, Signe, Karen, Diane, Una and Christina. I feel so at home at Ginene's. We also got to go to Stephanie Geho's beautiful wedding and reception. Bob flew to meet me and we stayed downtown in a wonderful hotel on Capital Hill, so he could speak to students at the Discovery Institute. While he was working, I would meet Ginene for lunch as she works very close by at S.P.U.

While in Seattle, Bob and I were able to have a wonderful dinner with old friends Marlin and Diana

Newhouse at their home and we were able to tour their new farm that they have just moved too.

When Tashlie was ready, we loaded up the car with her boxer, Roxy, and drove back to Waco so she could start the fall semester at Baylor. We did enjoy stopping to hike in the Kolab, Utah canyon area. On the way home, I was able to find a mate for Genesis. I bought a cute male Dalmatian puppy and we named him – Revel- ation. .

### III. BOB'S WORK IN INTELLIGENT DESIGN GETS NOTICED

During summer, Bob and Walter Bradley taught a ten week sequence on God and science to interested Baylor graduate students. Anything to do with God being revealed in science is controversial – even at Baylor of all places.

Bob was taped in a pod cast interview that talked about his involvement in evolutionary informatics – a field related to intelligent design. This and other things led to a terrible action: Baylor removed Bob's web site on evolutionary informatics without even telling him! The site was on Bob's personal space on the server. Bob had already had a problem when the Dean returned Bob's grant money that he had gotten for Dr. William Dembski to work with Bob on their research.

One of Bob's engineering specialties is simulating evolution on a computer to design things. He's been doing this research for over 10 years. His most recent work in evolutionary computing

From [ExpelledTheMovie.com](http://ExpelledTheMovie.com).  
The movie will probably be released in April rather than February.

with William Dembski

suggests there might be a Creator and all of a sudden his work becomes controversial.



Monika on the 4 wheeler in WV right before our wonder dog, Ringo, became flatter.

Bob was forced to get a lawyer for the first time in his life and try to reason with Baylor. They have been negotiating since August and they are still at a standstill. Baylor says that it is not because it is about intelligent design research, but that Bob did not follow the protocol. However, Bob has four other web sights (like [TimeScales.org](http://TimeScales.org) and [NeoSwarm.com](http://NeoSwarm.com)) with the same protocol and they have not been shut down. None of the other faculty have had any of their web sights shut down--only the one that might lead to casting doubt on aspects of Darwin's ideas on evolution. Bob's banned site is now on a third party server at [EvoInfo.org](http://EvoInfo.org).

John Gilmore, Bob's attorney from Minnesota, says Baylor's actions are a violation of academic freedom and clear viewpoint discrimination. Bob is not suing Baylor. He still thinks Baylor, overall, is a good place. He's having a blast working with Randall Jean on blood glucose measuring, Russ Duren on neural networks, and Ian Gravagne and John M. Davis on time scales. And he still works on organizing ministry for Baylor grad students.

But with Bob's work on evolutionary informatics, we are experiencing severe religious persecution. At Baylor! The odd part is that his research is almost all mathematical and most people cannot understand it and it does not even mention God or a Creator. Bob says that the

### Will this man ruin the scholarly reputation of your university?



(August 30, 2007) Robert J. Marks II amidst a fraction of his 120 journal publications, 140 conference papers, 21 book chapters including reprints of 10 of Marks's papers in collections of seminal works, six books (author, co-author, editor or co-editor) published by IEEE, MIT Press and Oxford University Press, three patents, and 56 supervised doctoral dissertations and masters theses.

Marks is the recipient of a NASA Tech Brief Award and a best paper award from the American Brachytherapy Society. He is a Fellow of IEEE and the Optical Society of America. His consulting activities include Microsoft Corporation, Pacific Gas & Electric and Boeing Computer Services. His research has been funded by organizations such as the National Science Foundation, General Electric, Southern California Edison, EPRI, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Office of Naval Research, the Whitaker Foundation, Boeing Defense, the National Institutes of Health, The Jet Propulsion Lab, NASA, and the Army Research Office.

But since a portion of his work is critical of Darwinism and suggests there may be a Creator, he must be shunned, ridiculed, denied academic freedom, and have his web site shut down. Yes. This man will ruin the scholarly reputation of your university.

So beware.

The Discovery Institute posted this on their web site the same month Bob's web site was removed by Baylor. I thought it was very clever. I took the picture! Bob's banned site is now on a third party server at [EvoInfo.org](http://EvoInfo.org).

math he developed with William Dembski is very powerful and that now many people are reading his work because of the controversy. Bob has been continuously in the news. He's featured in over 150 different articles around the country and he keeps track of them from the web. Many articles have been in the Waco paper and in the Baylor student paper, *The Lariat*. Bob's conflict was also written up in *World Magazine* and *The Baptist Standard*. One columnist in Canada who supported Bob said to make a difference you have to stand up for your beliefs. She ended her column with "Be a Bob, be a problem!" (Bob liked that.)

What is so amazing is that Bob has been very quiet and only supported Baylor. It is everyone else that God has raised up in his defense. The only time he has spoken is when, *Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed*, the movie with Ben Stein came to our ranch and interviewed him. Even though the movie was completed, they managed to put him in. Bob went to the pre-screening last week in Dallas. We hope all of you go online and look up the trailers on it: [ExpelledTheMovie.com](http://ExpelledTheMovie.com). The movie opens in April on 1000 screens – about the same as Michael Moore's last documentary. I hope you go to see it - you might even see our river in the background.

It is shocking to see the change in our country in the persecution of Christians who believe. We are lucky that Bob has tenure as he is



Marilee, Tami & Ginene at the Lincoln Memorial.

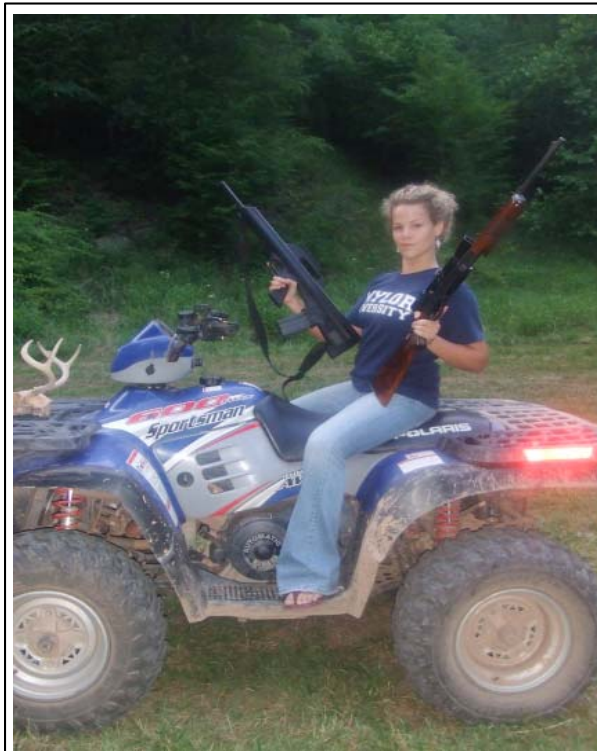
Cambridge University Press and Oxford made the better deal. Bob's last book, *Neural Smithing*, published in 1999, was published by MIT Press.

#### IV. BE HEALTHY: RUB A FRIEND

My massage business is going strong in between trips. It is so much fun to work with my partner Joy Carruth. We have been taking a lot of new classes to continue our education. We are now *Migraine Specialists* as well as getting more proficient in the *Michael Critz Muscle Restore Technique* with the upper and lower body as well as the extremities. I have also become a specialist in carpal tunnel syndrome and I have also been able to help some clients with frozen shoulder syndrome. I still love it and I wish I was stronger so that I could do more. I must manage how many massages I give or I will be hurting a lot.

#### V. BACK TO "ALMOST HEAVEN"

While lying in the sun enjoying myself by our river, I said WOW – this is almost heaven. "Almost Heaven" that's what I call the farm in West Virginia. I reminded myself that it was



No one messes with Marilee: Barefoot and dangerous!

October (hard to imagine at 90 degrees) and that I had promised I would not let another fall in West Virginia pass me by. I prayed about whether God would really want me to go – since I have traveled a lot recently.— well, Ray called and said I was needed in West Virginia immediately for an odd property tax problem. So off I went on another road trip driving to West Virginia where I met Ray.



Bob unsuccessfully tries to convince Joel to stay in Texas.

The colorful fall foliage in the mountains was breath taking. It ended up being a perfect time to go as so many of the cousins were visiting that it felt like a family reunion, since Gene and Eula and their kids Lesa and her husband Mike and grandkids and Chris and his wife Kelly were all visiting. Of course it was wonderful to see Aunt Betty and cousin Debbie and Kurt Ellis

and their daughters, Jennifer and Misty. It was a 4 wheelin' paradise as Gene had fixed the roads and trails. Ray and I even went on a big search to find our long lost property that Bob and I inherited from his parents but have never seen. We could not have found it without the help of Bob's Dad's cousin, Paul Marks. We are very grateful to have found it in Ritchie County.

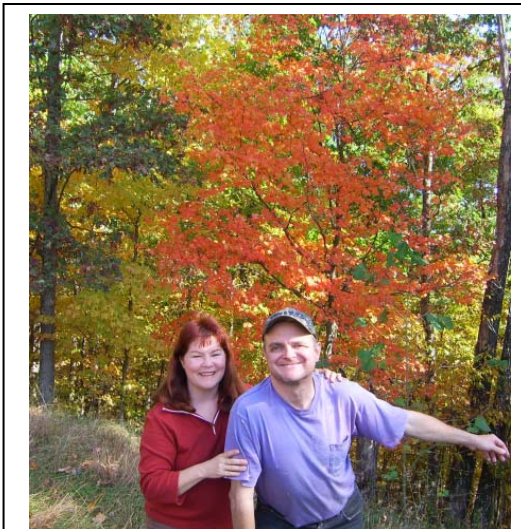
My massage table came in handy, especially for Kurk who had a frozen shoulder. We think he got hurt from trying to save his prized motorcycle in the famous garage fire on Betty's property..

On the way home from the farm, I was delighted to stop and see Justine and Jr. in Cross Lanes. They took me to see Kay Kay and her husband and their 6 dogs. Later we got to visit their son Mark and Kim and their grandkids in their new unique underground home. Justine



Joshua with Genesis and Revel.

our River Ranch with Bob and me. Ray wants to help us with our ranch, and help with our parties, weddings, family reunions etc. in our party barn, and bed and breakfast. We really need his help when we travel too. Ray likes to build things and Bob doesn't, so we really need him. Since the whole family likes him, we think it will work out great! Can't you see Ray as a D.J. in our party barn with 200 dancing Sorority girls? Bob told me



Monika and Ray and a West Virginia autumn.

to try to get him to come, but we didn't know if he would ever leave Garfield Heights. He said, "YES!" after thinking about it for awhile. Ray should be pulling up with his moving truck in just a couple of days.

After I got home to River Ranch, Joel confirmed that he would be moving from our barn apartment to his home and family in the Seattle area. He started really missing his sisters when Christi and her friend had a birthday party at the ranch. He went swimming in the river and built a bonfire for them. He realized that he was missing out on fun experiences with his sisters. Joel flew home and then decided to move. After being with us for 2 years, we will really miss him, as he seems like a son to us. However, we are glad that he is with his wonderful family, but if they get tired of him, we want him back. We

even let me have a few of her prized oil paintings in exchange for massages for her and KK. It was so hard to say good-bye to them that I stayed 2 extra days. Just this week, we received some sad and heart wrenching news about Jr. His cancer has spread to his back and ribs. Please pray for him!!!

#### VI. BROTHERS TOGETHER

The biggest news of all happened while talking around the campfire: I asked Ray to consider moving from Ohio to Texas and living on

have known Joel since he was around 2 years old. He is one of Jeremiah and Josh's best friends.

In November, I flew to Ohio to help Ray with the overwhelming job of cleaning out his house and packing things up. We had a great time visiting with Bob's Aunt Iris and Jennings Moss. We miss them so. Ray just left this morning in the moving van to drive to Texas. I wonder if he will get here before I even mail these letters.

#### VII. JEREMIAH & LESLIE & NEW YORK

Thanksgiving was special with Jeremiah and Leslie coming down on Wed. thru Sun. for a visit. Jeremiah fried 2 turkeys and I baked one. Leslie and Marilee enjoyed baking apple and pumpkin pies together.

Jeremiah and Leslie asked me to go with Leslie to New York on Dec. 1 – 6. So I did to help Leslie as she



Joshua at River Ranch

It was so cold in N.Y and the air was very polluted so I was grateful to get back to warm 85 degree weather in Texas where the air is fresh and the big men don't crash and knock short women down. Texas men tip their cowboy hats and say "howdy ma'am". I love to visit New York, but I would hate to live there.

Marilee and I'll be back in Seattle from December 27 through the first week of January.



Jeremiah & Leslie in New York

auditioned 3 different times in Opera Singing - right in Times Square. She hopes to make it into a prestigious summer program. Most of our time in N.Y. was centered around her auditions, but we did manage to see a Broadway show or 2, get pedicures, see the 9-11 Church Memorial and of course shop and shop for lots of purses and some Christmas shopping. We will never forget one purse shopping experience. I think Leslie is so very brave, not only to go through with 3 scary auditions with such calm and grace, but also to learn how to navigate the N.Y. subway. While there, Leslie received some very sad news of her beloved Grandpa's passing away. She sang a special song for him in his honor at 2 of her auditions.

Jeremiah was able to take off work for one day and come to Times Square and meet us to be with Leslie and help her during some of her grieving. It worked out amazingly well, since Jeremiah had just that week begun a rotation at work on audits. His audit was in Newark, N.J.



Leslie & Monika at Carmine's in Manhattan

#### VIII. LAST THOUGHTS

I'll end with one of Bob's favorite Bible passages at the end of Ecclesiastics. It keeps him humble and his work in perspective "Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!