

December  
2009



**Olive Branch International, Inc.**  
2921 St. Andrews Drive  
Findlay, OH 45840

## *Merry Christmas!*

It's kind of miraculous. I get to be home for Christmas. It's been what, over 25 years? You may be thinking, huh? Surely you've traveled home for Christmas some time! Yes, but this year I actually get to stay home and still be surrounded by most of my family. Here's a picture of the circle....

**May 1984** – left Ohio for Florida

**August 1987** – moved to Belize, where

Bobby & I served as missionaries for 20 years

**June 2007** – to Arizona with Shiloh Christian Ministries;  
Alicia & Caleb attended Shiloh Christian School (SCS)

**May 2009** – SCS closed its doors after 30 years of service;  
the search began for another good school for the children

**June 2009** – a cross-country visit to family & friends in  
Florida; we looked into schools there, but no jobs opened

**July 2009** – a teaching position opened in Ohio at

Faith Academy of Findlay, with room for  
Alicia (10<sup>th</sup> gr.) & Caleb (gr. 7) as well.



So guess what – after 25 years of living far away, I find myself back here in the **Big O**, full circle. It feels a little strange, but good! (Go Buckeyes!)

Our 22-year-old Elizabeth (left) has a bit different circle now: As of April, she and her new husband Zach Marlatt live in the big CA (California, not Central America!), stationed at USMC Camp Pendleton until July. AND... they are expecting their first child in February!!! Woo hoo! We're going to be grandparents! Our hearts are with them, and we hope to see them soon.

Are we still planning to do mission work? You betcha! Bobby shared in church recently that while he was complaining about not being in missions, the Lord grabbed his attention – he *is* in a mission field! As a bus driver for a local school district, Bobby prays constantly over the children and has had numerous opportunities to share his faith with fellow employees.

I (Denise) join fellow staff members of Faith Academy of Findlay to pray, lifting up the school body, the city, and the surrounding area. The Lord desires His light to shine in every part of the world. With things the way they are, many people here in our own country are in desperate need of the gospel!

***Just like every believer* – we are missionaries in our “Jerusalem” (Acts 1:8). Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind. As we celebrate His birth, let's look for opportunities to share His love with those who need it most!**

We are very grateful to my parents, Richard & Alice LaFontaine, who have allowed us to live with them while we get our footing. Mom & Dad, shown right with my brother Rich, my sister Lori, and me, have been instrumental in many aspects of Olive Branch International. We thank God for them!



In January we were saddened with the passing of my Grandma LaFontaine, age 99. However, my mom's mom, Mary Ziegman (left center), will complete 100 years of age on December 27! Grandma is pictured with Elizabeth (left), Alicia (top), and Pearl (right) – a friend from Belize. In fact, we stay in close contact with our friends from Belize, and several have visited us over the past 2½ years. The ministry in Spanish Lookout continues to flourish, to the glory of God.

Thanks to all our family & friends in Florida, for your warm, southern hospitality in July! Alicia & Caleb (right) enjoyed spending time with their cousins.



Bobby, above center, is finishing his pilot license here in Ohio. Though his plans were delayed, he's still determined to complete the process.



In May, Alicia & Caleb served with the Civil Air Patrol in a reburial ceremony for soldiers of the Civil War. Above, AZ Gov. Jan Brewer poses with the cadets; Caleb is in camouflage to the right of the governor, with Alicia next to him.



Above: Alicia's high school class – also some of Denise's students for English, History and Spanish.



**OBI Sponsorship Program** has linked faithful sponsors with 37 students at Jose Gilberto, Guatemala (left) and Jehova Jireh, Honduras (right). At least 5 more students are in urgent need of sponsors for the 2010 school year. Please contact me if you would like to help a child receive a good Christian education and break out of the cycle of poverty in his or her life.



There's so much more to share... Just know we love and appreciate you and miss our friends in BZ and AZ. May God's multiplied blessings be yours – at Christmas and all through the New Year!

With love in Christ's service,

*Bobby & Denise*

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