

BOB & MONIKA MARKS

CHRISTMAS LETTER, 2010

Dear friends and family,

We hope you all are having a Merry Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year! 2010 has been a very busy year with many changes for this Marks family.

Our Family

Marilee, just after Baylor graduation, got a job offer at Front Desk Networks where she is the sole marketing manager. She loves getting a good paycheck and is having a great time buying lots of new clothes and a new car. She also moved home. We love having her around on the few evenings when she is not with her new boyfriend, Kris Kaylor. Kris graduated from Baylor and now teaches and coaches at Waco High. They love to play on the Ranch with four wheeling, fishing, canoeing, target shooting and Kris even got



Tami & Marilee at River Ranch.

Marilee to gather wood for bonfires. They both enjoy their dogs. Marilee was happy to have Katie Higgins and Tami Michaels visit her at River Ranch this year.

Joshua started off the year with a fun trip to Las Vegas with a bunch of friends. Josh is going to Baylor and he shares a house with some friends. He enjoys going to our church, Antioch.

Jeremiah applied for graduate schools this year and was accepted to the University of Washington. We like that he is going to where Bob taught for 26 years. We are really proud of how hard he is working for his M B A. He earned a scholarship and he is a T. A. Leslie wanted to be in Seattle since her family lives there. They moved in August. Ray, Josh and I helped them pack and load the truck along with Leslie's mom and Uncle Bob. We had a going away party that was fun and sad. We really miss them not being in Texas. However, they are coming home for Christmas. I visited them in Sept. It was great because Gene and Eula Marks surprised us with a visit to Seattle and we had a lovely dinner together along with Signa. It was very nostalgic for Jeremiah and I to walk around the U Dub campus and see Bob's old building and Jeremiah's brand new business building. Of course now I have one



Marilee and Joshua at a Baylor Bears football game. Baylor did well this year. They beat Texas!



Marilee and Kris Kahler

more excuse to go to Seattle so that I can see my very good friends.

Leslie went to Houston in March and competed in the very prestigious *Young Artist Program*. She won second place and we all enjoyed watching the competition. Of course we think she should have gotten first place. She sounded fabulous and looked beautiful. In October Leslie and I flew to New York where she was asked to audition for *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway! We had mixed feeling about whether we really wanted



River Ranch: Firearms are restricted in Poland, so the Tompolskis had their first shooting experience during their visit. Here, Ante demolishes a log with Ray's Bull pup.



Katie Higgins & Marilee



The Tompolskis from Poland.

her to get the position as she would have had to move to New York. However, we had a great time going to a prestigious Day Spa, shopping, eating at my favorite N.Y. restaurant, *Carmines* and watching a few Broadway shows.

Ray is such a blessing! He helps with everything and has built so many great things around the ranch. Ray helps Charley get around. I love the raised up garden that Ray built me and I am learning how to have a spring, summer and some winter gardens.

Grandpa Charley has had a difficult year with 4 surgeries. He just got out of the hospital after being

tortured with C H F and having a pace maker installed. We went to Corpus Christi 4 times for cataract eye surgery. He had about 4 months of recuperation with the aneurysm surgery. He did make it to his 53 Honey Creek High School Reunion in Terre Haute, IN.

Bob just had a book written about him!!!¹ We didn't even know the 3 authors. It turns out the material is taken directly from Bob's Wikipedia biography. This was an easy book to write. Bob received many awards this year, but I am most proud of him in that he was

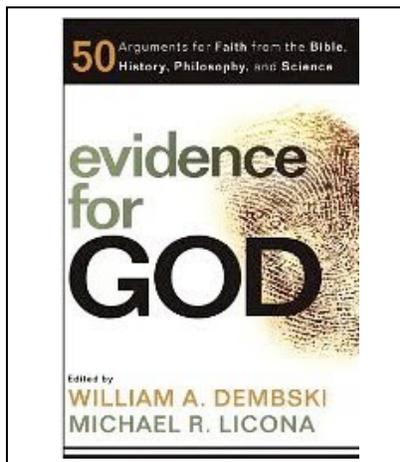
¹ Bob's bio on Amazon.com <http://www.amazon.com/Robert-J-Marks-Lambert-Surhone/dp/6133246952>

named one of *The 20 Most Brilliant [living] Christian Professors*.² Those on the list “shine brightly among their peers as towering figures in the academic world.” Others on

article about their work in the Baylor Lariat.⁵ He continues to work with Ian Gravagne and John Davis at Baylor on time scales⁶ and Charles Baylis on radar and radio modeling.⁷



Marilee is the *Marketing Coordinator at Front Desk Networks* in Waco. She is the *Business Development-Marketing Committee Chair of the Waco Young Professionals*. The role of this committee is to create promotional materials to market to the Greater Waco business community.

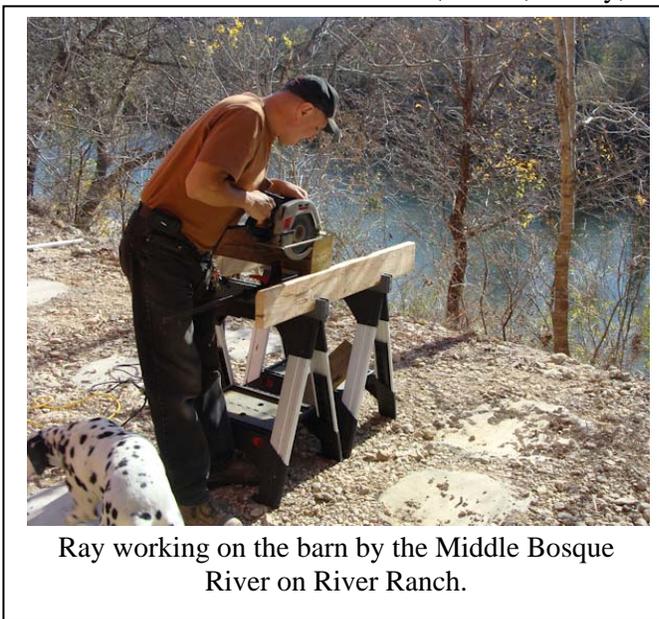


the list are pretty impressive, and includes

William Lane Craig and John Polkinghorn.

Bob was interviewed by the Waco Tribune about

Melanie and Marsha’s gang. It was great, but I had hoped my crew could have made it. It was also wonderful to see Rick and Tam, Jamie, Randy, and



Ray working on the barn by the Middle Bosque River on River Ranch.

the honor and joked “For the record, I don’t deserve this. But I have lower back pain and don’t deserve that, either.”

Access Research Network ranked Bob’s paper with William Dembski as the #1 in the 2009 in the *Top Ten Darwin and Design Science News Stories*!³

Bob also had a chapter in *Evidence for God: 50 Arguments for Faith from the Bible, History, Philosophy, and Science*. William Dembski was an editor.⁴ Bob has been doing research for the United States Navy on *swarm intelligence* with Ben Thompson, a Baylor Graduate who works at Penn State. Ben visited Baylor last semester and our family got to spend an evening visiting. There was a nice

little Lane as well as Chris and his son. In August our Polish missionary friends, Antek & Agnieszka Tompolski & their daughters Ella and Hania visited us for several days at our River Ranch. They

² Bob’s listing as a brilliant professor! (We all knew it.)

<http://www.collegecrunch.org/professors/the-20-most-brilliant-christian-professors/>

³ ARN Page:

http://www.arn.org/blogs/index.php/3/2010/01/12/2009_top_ten_darwin_and_design_science_n

⁴ Bob has a one of the 50 chapters in this book:

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0801072603>

⁵ The Baylor Lariat story about swarm intelligence:

<http://www.baylor.edu/lariat/news.php?action=story&story=85016>

⁶ TimeScales.org “For all your time scales needs” is Bob’s humor.

<http://timescales.org/>

⁷ An article on Bob’s work with Charles Baylis.

<http://www.baylor.edu/lariat/news.php?action=story&story=82473>

all got to shoot guns for the very first time. Firearms are restricted in Poland. Not even farmers own guns. The Tompolskis also liked four wheeling and canoeing.

Bob and I have done a lot of traveling together. Some of the highlights were our trip to visit Don and Hong Wunsch in Rolla, Mo. We liked walking in the Meramac River Park and visiting with them and their son, Donnie, in their lovely home. Bob had just got back from Washington D.C.

Another highlight was being at the home of Walter and Ann Bradley where they hosted some of the

Bob into going floating down the Guadalupe River. He came out like a bruised red lobster. In July, we took 3 vehicles and drove to West Virginia to the farm. It was really fun to have Kris come with us. Josh and Ray went early to help set up the cabin. While we were there, Joel and Aaron Newhouse came as well as Mathew Westcott. All of us enjoyed the



The river refreshes on hot Waco days. Grant (Kris's cousin), Joshua, Jeremiah, Kris & Marilee.

distinguished faculty and we got to meet Baylor's new president, Judge Ken Starr and his lovely wife. If you recall, Ken Starr led the impeachment of Bill Clinton and shared with Bill Clinton *Time Magazine's Man of the Year* in 1998. Vacation highlights included talking



West Virginia. Bob's Uncle Gene Marks gives us a tour of West Virginia's rugged land. With Gene, Bob and Ray have lots of land there. Much of it is wild & wonderful.



Jeremiah and Monika at the University of Washington in Seattle. Jeremiah is getting his MBA there.



Monika & Leslie in New York City

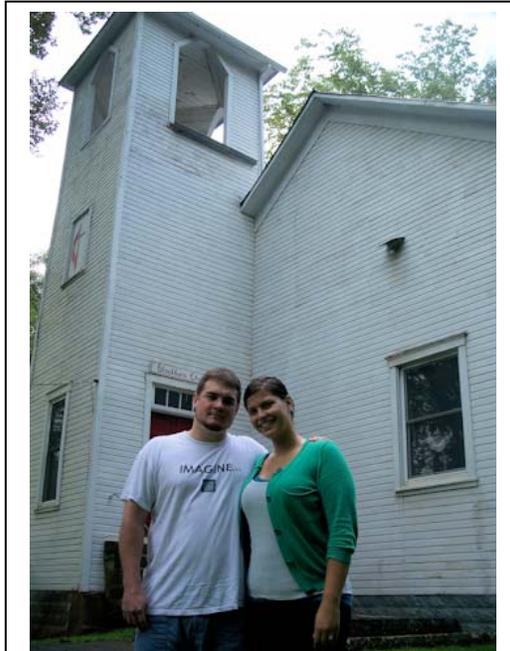
strenuous and invigorating mountain hiking hosted by Uncle Gene. I was sure glad to be rescued by Aunt Eula in her car as the rain storm struck. It was great to have a dinner where all of the local cousins Debbie and Kirk and all of their family, as well as Chris and Lesa and her children were able to meet together for dinner hosted by Aunt Betty. 4 wheeling and building giant bonfires are always the top favorites of our trip along with target shooting. Ringo just can't get enough of Ray's friend Gary's shooting. He barks and barks and tells him to hurry up. We took all of the wiener dogs but left the Dalmatians home with Grandpa. Ray enjoyed extending his West Virginia vacation with a trip back up to Ohio to see his friends I am still enjoying working hard on River Ranch. I joined the McGregor Garden Club. Esperanza still captures my imagination, and my heart especially when she saves me from a den of rattle snakes! She had fun playing with the Dalmatians in the snow. Snow is a rare event in Waco and doesn't last long, so we have to play fast. I am still raising chickens and meat rabbits as well as our own hay and our field crop. I am in the long process of making a sunken garden for

pomegranates will be successful. We have had extensive flooding and a lot of damage this year with the road and our ravine that empties into the river. Ray is very busy building our large deck at the back of the barn with a view of the River. We are still working on our new hay barn, but we still need lights, fans, windows and a drain pipe. Ray keeps very busy helping me with my projects and taking Grandpa to lunch at the Mc Gregor Coffee Shop.

The election was very important to us this year. I have joined the *Republican Women's Club*. I think it is very important for us to be involved and help out a little with the election. Ann Bradley hosted various prayer groups which met to pray for the election and I think it is imperative that we pray a lot for our country.

I am still very busy with my massage business. I love it, even though it is exhausting.

This year we celebrated Thanksgiving a little early with Kris's family coming for dinner. Marilee and Kris flew to Seattle to have Thanksgiving with Jeremiah and Leslie and her family. Marilee wanted to have her



West Virginia: Jeremiah & Leslie outside the Blackburn Church in West Virginia. The property for the church was donated by Jeremiah's great great grandfather, Arnold Moore.

my blueberries and I am just planting thornless blackberries. We hope our new fruit trees of apple, plum, pecan, fig, pears, and

friends meet Kris and for Kris to see the northwest. They enjoyed going to Leavenworth and seeing Christina and her fiancé. They also enjoyed breakfast at Snoqualamie Falls. The time went by way to fast, especially for Marilee and Tami.

Come and see us if you can and know that we think of you often and you are in our prayers.

Please come and pick out your favorite Dalmatian as we have 8 beautiful and very adorable puppies that will be ready for your Happy New Year.



Bob on the Guadalupe



Family RULES! At Gene & Eula's home in Blackburn West Virginia.

Late Breaking News!

On Christmas Day, Jeremiah and Leslie visited us in Waco & circulated Christmas Cards. Inside each was a picture that looked like this...



It's a boy and is due on June 4th!

As you can tell by picture on the right, Bob thinks there is a resemblance!



Bob swears there is a resemblance.