



## MK THANKSGIVING RETREAT

The college-aged MKs gathered in Colorado for the annual Thanksgiving Retreat. Our main speaker was Pastor Ted (and Robbin) Cederblom of Park Crest Assembly of God in Springfield. Ted is an MK from the Dominican Republic and Panama, where his parents Larry and Dorothy served. Ted is well-loved and did a wonderful job.

Ruth and I were joined by another “uncle and auntie,” Regional Directors Greg and Sandie Mundis. They shared with and loved on these great kids.

As before, the success of this retreat and the wonderful spiritual climate was due to the excellent planning, hard work, and prayers of our MK staff,

who are themselves MKs: Bethanie Skipper (Argentina, Mexico); Kristi (Prieser) Arnold (Haiti, Trinidad); Cristi Alexander (South Africa); and Brittany Betzer (South Africa); led by our MK Coordinator “Bwana” Chad and “Bwanita” Dargan Phillips.

We also had a great group of other MKs who worked at this retreat. Enjoy the photos and have a wonderful Christmas!

Your friend  
and brother,

*Rick  
Johnson*



## MK OFFICE UPDATE



Chad and Dargan Phillips

Yesterday I had a missionary parent say to me that she had no idea the Thanksgiving ski retreat was “of that magnitude.” This year was actually a smaller year in numbers; we had 158 MKs. Last year we had almost 190. It is a large undertaking with many college students flying in from all around the country on the busiest travel days of the year.

Once the MKs arrived, they had the option of many activities: skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, visiting hot springs, tubing, horseback riding, sleigh rides, and going to the local fitness center. The sessions were held from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m., and the evening services started at 7:30 p.m. The MKs were given lots of time for wintertime fun, hanging out, playing games, and powerful services!

We know the MKs will have fun, and we pray for lots of snow each year. This year Winter Park had a huge storm

the week before we arrived, so there was enough snow for all the events to be up and running. However, our main prayer is always that God will move mightily in the services.

Our guest speaker, Ted Cederblom, did a fabulous job, ministering from Hebrews 12. It is always difficult to describe how we felt God’s presence moving among us. The evening services were concluded each evening with prayer time, which is fairly normal. However, these prayer times were anything but normal. There was a sweet spirit in the room, and I never felt like I needed to close and dismiss the MKs quickly. You could just sense that God was working, and there was no rush to head out the door.

I received a phone call yesterday about the retreat. A young adult MK went to the retreat this year, even though he really didn’t want to go. He has never enjoyed his MK experience and had totally rejected his faith. Coming back from the retreat, he has spent many hours with his parents talking about what God

was doing in his life. He says that he is now “trying to hear from God.” His parents believe this is a huge step for him to take. He still is searching, but God did an obvious work in his life. Please continue to pray for our MKs who were at the retreat. I believe God is still speaking to them about things discussed there.

We appreciate your prayers as we lead these retreats for MKs! In the coming weeks and months we will be hosting MK retreats in East Africa, Costa Rica, and Spain. Pray with us that God will speak to each MK attending. Be sure your MKs don’t miss out on these tremendous opportunities. It may seem scary or difficult to send your child to a retreat, but let me encourage you to make that a top priority.

Blessings to each of you,  
Bwana Chad and  
Bwanita Dargan Phillips



## SPOTLIGHT on Joyce Copple

Joyce Copple is a missionary associate assisting with the development at the Christian school in Cambodia. She works with Area Director Jeff Dove. Joyce has served as an associate since 1993. In a recent newsletter she writes the following:

I really enjoy traveling to the more remote areas of Cambodia and spending the day at a wedding or visiting churches in the villages. While Phnom Penh, the capital city where we live, has changed tremendously in the 12 years I have been in Cambodia, these villages have not had drastic changes. The economic and health conditions have improved greatly in Phnom Penh, but the conditions in the villages have only improved marginally. Not many visitors come to these areas, and they seem to appreciate our visits so much. We sometimes go Sunday morning to attend or speak at an early service in one village and have lunch. Then we will attend an afternoon service before bouncing back to Phnom Penh on the roads that have been rebuilt in the last few years but are deteriorating already.

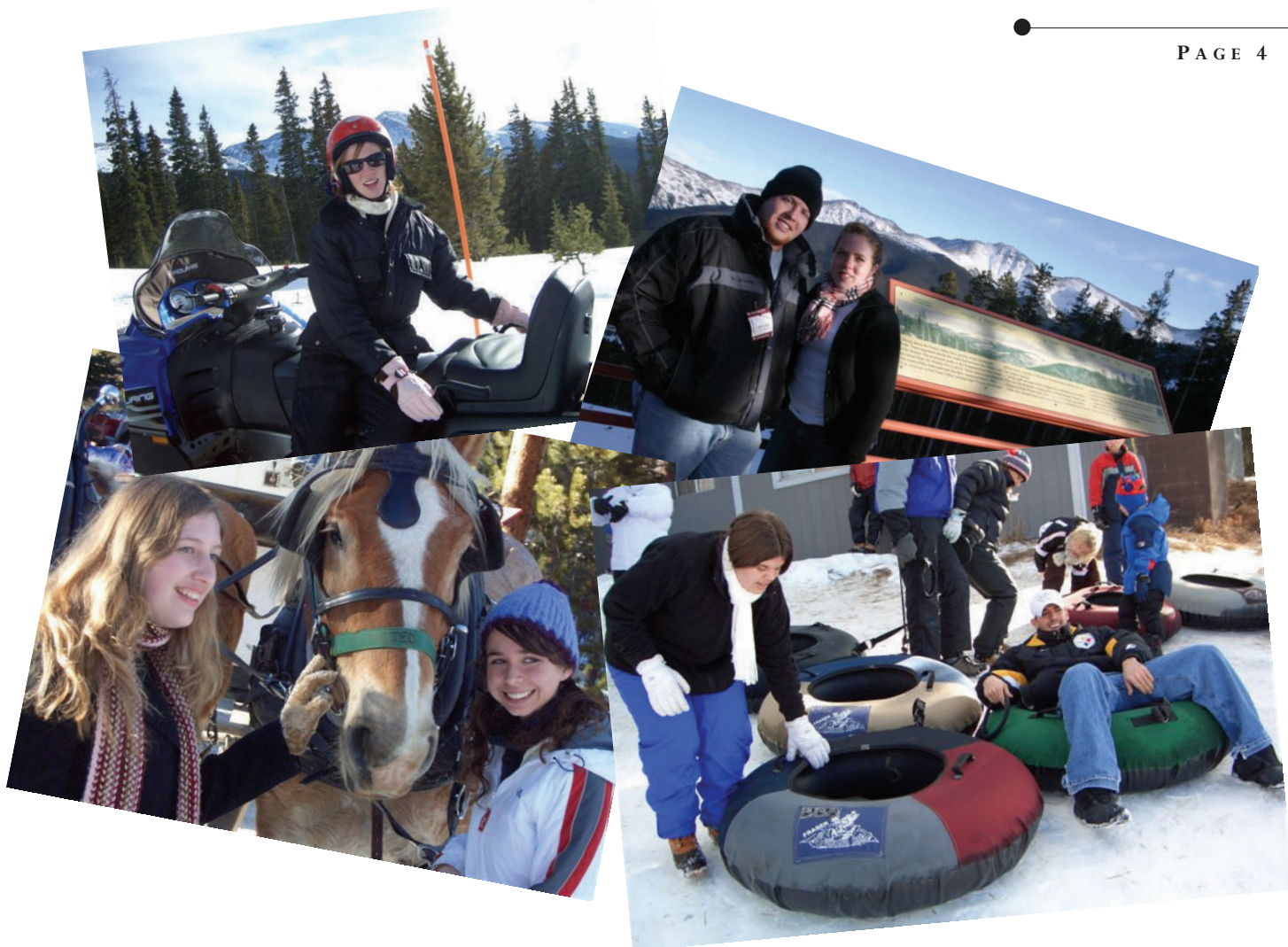
Many of the “churches” are very plain, and several are

used as preschools all week, so they often look very used. Sometimes we arrive early and park as close as we can to the church building. It often seems like the church is in the middle of a rice field, and it hardly seems like a village. Then suddenly folks start walking along the narrow, raised paths which divide the rice paddies. People of all ages come. The young children often stay outside and look through the windows during the service. They all sing joyfully with no instruments, overhead projectors, or hymnals. They usually have the words of the songs written on large sheets of white paper. The papers hang by clothespin from a wire up front. Most of the people are new believers, and some don't believe in Jesus yet. All know very little about the songs or the Bible. The Holy Spirit draws them and works in their hearts.

There are many widows in Cambodia because of the many years of war and the difficult health conditions. The life expectancy is now 53 years, which is up from 47 years when I first came. I may be many years older than the women in the church, but they never guess my age, because I am so much healthier than they are. After the service the pastor will often invite anyone



who desires to come for prayer. The ladies especially like to come to me for prayer. Most seem to have health needs or family problems. They usually place their open hands together in front of their bowed heads and look down as they share their needs. What a privilege to serve the Lord and minister to these who have so little opportunity. It is wonderful to spend my life making a difference where the difference is so evident. “I delight to do your will, O Lord.”



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