



Our Holiday Letter comes to you a little early this year for reasons that you'll read about below. We hope you and your family are enjoying or coping well with whatever life is bringing your way. We are looking forward to hearing from you and catching up soon.

But first, and briefly, we are all doing fine. Devon graduated with honors in Economics from Portland State University (it took 3 colleges and nine years, but she did it!). Raymond and Devon then flew off to Turkey for a wonderful 17-day father-daughter trip (Wendy's father died when she was 26 so she wanted Devon to take the trip she never had). On Nov. 8th Devon and her good friend, Jess, left for Chile to travel through South America teaching English as they go. Wendy will "retire" from her position at OHSU in February. She has loved her job in women's health and plans to continue in private practice as a certified women's health coach. Raymond is enjoying his private practice and expects to continue this wherever we end up. We are still "in line" for Canadian residency, and still on the horizon is our continuing desire to hook up with the Red Cross Federation as disaster volunteers.

One other important thing in Wendy's life: many of you know that Wendy's dad, Marvin Bock, invented the microwave oven. That was back in 1938. But he was never given the recognition he deserved. Thanks to the Internet, his contribution is now being acknowledged. If you Google "marvin bock microwave oven" you can find some interesting stories!

And now for the main reason we're writing to you so early this year. We recently met Waleed Nesyif, a 22-year-old Iraqi student in Canada whose plight is representative of the pathos and confusion stirred up by all the warring in his country. And we realized that, at a time when there seems to be so little we can do in the face of the ever-escalating horror that comes to us daily from the Middle East, he presents us with a rare opportunity to express our hopes for peace and display our compassion for suffering.

To this end, we are asking for your help. All it would take is a pooling of small donations from each of our friends to make a meaningful difference in the life of this one remarkable young person who, in turn, has the potential to impact a much wider community.

Waleed earned an International Baccalaureate degree from Pearson College, one of 12 world-wide campuses of the United World College dedicated to preparing young people for world citizenship. He had been granted a full scholarship there. Now Waleed is struggling to find a way to stay in Canada long enough to complete a four-year educational program at the Emily Carr Art Institute. We have included a photo of Waleed and a personal statement from him which we believe helps convey why he is such an exceptional young man and how he's been given a rare and tremendous opportunity to build on his unique experiences and become successful as a filmmaker.

The Institute has offered him a scholarship covering half of his tuition, and we have a wonderful friend who is financing the other half. But he still needs \$11,000 to cover room and board for the coming year. We are striving to create a viable future for Waleed and to this end we are setting up a fund for him. If you would like to join in helping this young man, please send a contribution to us and just make out the check to Wendy. Any amount is appreciated. If each of our friends were to give just \$35.00, we could achieve our minimum goal. Additional funds will help pay for his other living expenses. Maybe someday we'll each find ourselves sitting in a movie theater watching one of Waleed's films and smiling that we were able to help him on his journey.

hope you have an abundant Thanksgiving and we wish you a Holiday Season filled with love and joy. We feel blessed to have you in our lives and in our hearts. We also want to send a special Aloha to our friends in the Hawaiian Islands who have experienced fear and loss from the recent earthquakes.

With love and aloha,