

# **Odyssey 2004: The Moss Family**

## *Journal - Week 3*

*Day 15 – We surprised Chelsea and met up with the Wentworths who moved out here 3 years ago. They took the lead as tour guides and showed us all the perfect places to view the Multnomah Falls, Mt. Hood and the Columbia River Gorge area. Beautiful scenery! We went up to Timberline Lodge and the kids played in the snow – yes, snow --- in June. Actually, Mt. Hood is the only place in the U.S. where Olympic skiers can train all year long. We had dinner at the Huckleberry Inn and enjoyed every minute of our time with the Wentworths. Jessica and Chelsea had a great time together. Good friends and good times! After seeing the snow-covered Mt. Hood, Chelsea said “It’s like you always see these places in pictures, but you never get to go there!” We are so thankful that we are getting to go “there!”*

***Trip Trivia: Today in Salem, Oregon, we were at the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel which is the longitudinal line exactly halfway between the North Pole and the Equator!***

*Day 16 – We started the day with Mt. St. Helens. What a beautiful, snow-covered mountain/volcano! It’s amazing to see the damage still evident in the terrain even 24 years after the powerful eruption in 1980. There were several excellent visitors centers leading up to Mt. St. Helen’s including the Johnston Ridge Observatory. All were very interesting. Then it was on to Seattle, WA. We meandered through Pike Place Market, a colorful farmer’s market made famous by the fish-flinging folks at Pike Place Fish. They obviously love their job and were quite entertaining- singing and flinging! (Their story is the basis for several motivational books and corporate training videos.) This was a bustling market with farmers, artists, craftsmen and street performers.*

*Day 17 – Pacific Science Center in Seattle, WA. There were six buildings full of hands-on science and math exhibits and a butterfly conservatory. We all loved it! We also took in an excellent IMAX: Lewis and Clark: The Great Journey Westward. We stayed at a Wingate Inn which had an indoor waterpark! Beautiful hotel and gorgeous view of the snow-covered mountains in Montana.*

*Day 18 – We stopped for our second oil change today in Butte, Montana. Then we drove on to West Yellowstone arriving late afternoon. We drove in briefly to look around as we’re planning to be here all day tomorrow. Just in the few miles we drove inside the park, we saw a herd of mule deer and a beautiful buck with velvet antlers of at least 3 feet! It was grazing, then it crossed the river right towards us. Of course, Greg documented the entire encounter!*

***Trip Trivia: There is no sales tax in the state of Montana.***

*Day 19 – Yellowstone National Park – We spent the entire day in Yellowstone. We took the full 141 mile scenic route stopping at geyser basins and lookouts along the way. The longest we stayed at any one point was Old Faithful. The geologists love to flaunt the “faithfulness” of the world’s largest geyser as it routinely erupts every 92 minutes, and yet it pales in comparison to God’s faithfulness to us! We watched it erupt and then meandered through the Old Faithful Inn which is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We saw lots of deer and bison throughout the day. We took video of a bison crossing the road right in front of our van!*

**Day 20** – *Grand Teton National Park* – Absolutely magnificent mountains! The Teton Cascades were massive, poignant and snow-capped. Jenny Lake complemented the beauty of these majestic mountains. We had lunch in Jackson, Wyoming, a quaint little Western town with personality oozing out all over! Then we drove to Pinedale and enjoyed a brief visit with Karen Ladygo Stewart and her two boys. That was fun time well spent! We also saw the world's largest mineral hot spring in Thermopolis, WY. All of the hotels in this area had "mineral pools"- swimming pools fed by mineral springs.  
**Trip Trivia: Vice President Dick Cheney and Harrison Ford have homes in Jackson, Wyoming.**

**Day 21** – We experienced a "cattle crossing" in Buffalo, Wyoming today! As we rounded a curve in the mountains, a big sign warned "Caution: Cows on Road!" Sure enough, a huge herd was being moved right across the road! There were at least 10 cowboys and cowgirls on horses rounding up the herd. Now that was a fun experience! We saw Devil's Tower (the backdrop for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*). This massive volcanic stump stretches 875 feet into the sky. We were at Mt. Rushmore for the evening lighting ceremony. It was an inspiring ceremony that aroused feelings of patriotism. Thankfully, we all had our jackets because it was cold!  
**Trip Trivia: Saturday night in Rapid City is "cruisin' night." We were in standstill traffic thinking everyone was going to Mt. Rushmore until a friendly local resident gave us the "inside story!"**

The words to describe week 3 were "magnificent mountains." The beauty of God's creation has been clear to us this week. Psalm 92:4-5: "For thou Lord, hast made me glad through thy work. I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O Lord, how great are thy works."

#### **Trip Trivia – Week 3**

- **Interesting City Name: Boring, Oregon (It appears to live up to its name!)**
- **15 straight days without rain**
- **Second oil change: Butte, Montana**
- **Favorite Town so far: Jackson, Wyoming**
- **Favorite Activity this week: Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA**
- **Total # of License Tags seen so far: 43**
- **States where we saw snow: OR, WA, ID, MT, WY**
- **Miles traveled this week: 2,547**
- **Total # of Pictures Greg took this week: 905**
- **Met a family from Spartanburg – folks closest to home so far**