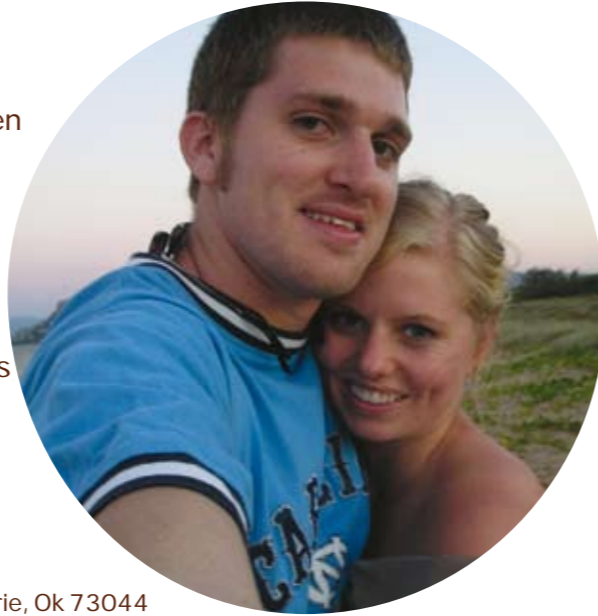


Our Wish List:

Although we primarily need more supporters, people often like to bless us in different ways. Here's a few things that would really bless us for our honeymoon or starting our home in Australia:

- *Honeymoon money! OR
- *General gift cards for our honeymoon: fuel cards for our road trip, nation-wide restaurant vouchers (such as Chili's, Applebees, Subway, Cracker Barrel, Panera, Starbucks), Target, Wal-Mart, Bath & Body, iTunes (good road tunes)
- *Pay off our washer and fridge-\$300 AUD
- *A couch-\$1500 AUD (you may of noticed the one in our pictures-we "rescued" it from the trash pile)



Our address while we're in the states: 1875 S Westminister Blvd - Guthrie, OK 73044

josiah ritner
crissa barnhill
 PO Box 6221
 Townsville, QLD 4810
 AUSTRALIA

crissab@reeftooutback.com
 josiahr@reeftooutback.com

www.josiahandcrissa.com
 www.crissabarnhill.com

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

*YWAM
 PO Box 3000
 Garden Valley, TX 75771
 USA

*Check payable to YWAM. Please do not put our names on the check per IRS regulations. Just enclose a note with Josiah & Crissa Ritner on it.

OR

*Grace Church
 1411 Enterprise Drive
 High Point, NC 27265
 USA

*Check payable to Grace Church. Enclose a note with Josiah & Crissa Ritner on it.

OR (non tax-deductible)

Donate online at www.crissabarnhill.com

We are so appreciative of you being a part of our lives through your support of finances and prayer. Please write or email us and let us know how you're doing!

We update our website regularly and are getting better at posting more photos (thanks to Josiah). Check it out to see what's going on in our lives and how to pray for us on a regular basis.

You can also subscribe to receive an email every time we update!

New Beginnings

May 2007



I Said Yes...

What's new? Hmm....there are so many things going on I forget what's new and what's not, what I've communicated and what I haven't. So let's track back to December, and now that Josiah is a very important part of my life, I'll try to cover new things for him as well to keep you updated! Brace yourself for a good read!

When we returned to Australia in December, I started working as HR/Personnel manager and absolutely loved it! I also was still involved in leading the Dance team of Youthstreet, so my hands were always full! December 26, 2006 Josiah proposed and I, of course, agreed! That led into finalizing a wedding on June 23, 2007 in Oklahoma.

In January we started looking for a new flat/apartment for when we come back as a married couple in July. Although it was early on, I had a friend needing to relocate and the market's been slim-pickins and expensive. Luckily, we found a great two bedroom flat with lime green counter tops and the smell of mothballs! This one is a great location, clean, and affordable. So my friend and I moved in January 25!



That same week Josiah was asked to take over IT (internet technol-

ogy) for the base because there was about to become a vacancy. There have been two guys that have handled IT; one for a couple of years and one for 6-7 years.



With impeccable timing they were both heading off for three months in separate directions, leaving an empty office. Our base director asked Josiah to take over the department for the time being, meaning he's had to learn a completely new language and hold the base communications together at the same time. Josiah's done an amazing job and has given himself a crash course in computer technology, internet, mail servers, etc. (I can't even tell you more of what he does because I don't understand it; when I go in his office there are computers everywhere and yards and yards of blue and grey cords, and the visual picture

is never complete without a half-drunk cup of coffee sitting somewhere in the office!) He's been a very busy man!

With that marking January, February proved to be busy and quicker than ever! I've learned that Josiah likes to cook, and likes to cook for me which I definitely have no qualms about! He made a wonderful Valentine's dinner and we celebrated our second of many Valentine's yet to come. We also applied for our Religious Workers Visa, which will allow us to continue working as a full-time volunteer for two more years at Reef to Outback. A visa is a grant of permission for foreigners to stay as temporary or permanent citizens in a country. As of now, we still have not received approval of our visa; we need many prayers for this to be granted!



continued on next page...

Crissa Barnhill
 1875 S Westminister Blvd
 Guthrie, OK 73044
 USA

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." Philippians 4:14-15

In March Josiah and I started our many Skype meetings with my mom for planning our wedding ceremony and reception (It really is a lot of work but so exciting!). My mom learned how to utilize Skype, a free online video-phone call through computers. Through this we've been able to do quite a bit, such as spending two hours looking through invitations online with her; she held up the book and Josiah and I looked through them page by page from Australia. It's crazy what we can do these days!



Josiah and I are also involved in Backstage, a youth program that runs from 5:30-10:00 after Youthstreet on Saturday nights. (I'll put a rough schedule inside of our Saturdays) Backstage includes 180 Hour, which provides an hour of rock worship and then someone shares on relevant topics the youth have requested. I had the opportunity to speak on Dating and Relationships. After pretending a highlighter was a microphone for several hours, I walked up to the front with knots in my stomach and spoke about real life issues not only in my life but theirs. For me, that was a pivotal point, realizing that God has and is using me and my day-by-day victories to have authority in issues that are relevant to so many people, so many youth. I've realized I can't give up, I can't give up praying and trying and fighting to continue loving Him here in Australia although it's hard, because it's not just for my own good, or Josiah's, it's to help many others around me although I do not realize it. Our life is a statement of our faith, and I have to be diligent. March flew by into April, where Josiah and I received our first electricity bill with both of our names on it! We got a bill, we're going to be married. It hit me. Wow, we're growing up fast. April 1st my roommate (who was soon leaving to New Zealand and then to the States; I wouldn't see her for quite a few years) took me out to breakfast. Yet to my surprise, when we arrived, five of my other friends were waiting with pink packages on the table! They had organized a small bridal shower! It was fun and

memorable to spend one last time with this great group; one was heading off to New Zealand, one was heading outback on outreach, and two were going home for another new season. My four best friends were about to all leave Townsville in a week. When it rains, it pours. That last breakfast with the girls meant a lot to me.

Now it's the very first of May and I'm about to fly home to spend some time with my family as their "single daughter" for the last time. I'm incredibly excited to get to come home and attend my mom's long anticipated graduation as well as prepare for my once-in-a-lifetime event! My apologies once more for not catching you up on my life, our lives, so much sooner. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

Please continue to pray for us as we enter into a new life together. We'll be keeping our website updated and try to post as many pictures as we can of the wedding and our honeymoon! (For our honeymoon we're doing a road trip-but I don't know where. Who knows-we may end up in your State!)



Check out the proposal at www.josiahandcrissa.com

New Beginnings...

As most of you know, marriage is a life of new beginnings with your new spouse. Here are a few of our new things, together:

- A new flat-check out those lime green counter tops!
- A new car
- A new last name...soon...
- A new ring (bling bling)



As we begin our life together as missionaries, we've learnt that our living expenses can be more expensive when there's two of us! We currently have \$1300 USD support a month and are aiming for \$2000 USD. From \$100 to \$20 per month, your support helps every little bit.

Here's a look at our basics:

- Rent-\$180 AUD per week
- Food-\$200 AUD per month
- Health Insurance-\$200 AUD per month
- Car Maintenance/Petrol-\$100 AUD per month
- Toiltries-\$50 AUD per month
- Rec/Entertainment-\$30 AUD per month

Please consider supporting us monthly or occasionally; tax-deductible directions are on the back.



Why we do what we do...

Josiah and I have committed to serve here in Australia at least until 2009. Why? Because God said. Sometimes simplicity isn't enough. My human mind tries to complicate it for some odd reason...

We believe God wants to restore hope to the hopeless and release those in captivity. Captives of the world: drugs, violence, sex, insecurities, fears, rejection, hate, pride... there are too many to list.

We work with youth, to champion, believe and love them as God intends. Not to sound cliché, but the youth are our future. We live to testify this message because we've experienced it. We've experienced the brokenness and have also encountered the ultimate hope: Jesus Christ. From Him, we've also experience restoration and healing in the broken places of our lives. We've dedicated ourselves to Jesus Christ, to live for Him alone and not our self. We've proven to ourselves that we're not capable of doing it alone; we end up feeling empty and unsatisfied.

God has been faithful in restoring our broken parts in our lives, and in return, we willingly pursue Him for more. We want to live a life that shows who Jesus is through our actions and faith, not just our words. We want to love people as God intended and bless others by listening to their life, not giving them a routine answer.

I guess what I'm wanting to express is that we're just ordinary people who love God extravagantly. And we both continue to believe that we are to serve with Reef to Outback in Australia for a couple more years. Even when times get tough, we love and believe Him. :)

Our Typical Saturdays:

- 12:00pm Go to base and do last minute prep
- 12:30pm Team leaders meeting
- 1:00pm Youthstreet (YS) staff meeting
- 1:30pm Hang out with crew
- 2:10pm Youthstreet starts
- 2:30pm Team time (Crissa dances, Josiah skates)
- 5:00pm YS family dinner
- 5:30pm YS ends, Backstage begins
- 5:30-6:30pm Josiah sets up audio/visual for Backstage
- 6:30-7:30pm 180 Hour (modern worship, speaker)
- 8:00pm Pack-up
- 10:00pm Backstage ends
- 11:00pm BEDTIME!

2007

January

- *Set the date
- *Josiah moved to IT
- *Jan 25-Found a flat to live in

February

- *Applied for our Religious Workers Visa

March

- *Crissa spoke at Backstage

April

- *Received our first electricity bill!
- *Got a car!! Whoo-hoo!!

May

- May 9-Crissa flies home
- May 14-Crissa's Birthday

June

- June 1-Josiah flies home
- June 23-Wedding Day!
- June 24-July 18 Honeymoon Road Trip!
- July 20-Return to Aus as thw Ritners!

