



**HEART of Texas**  
**is proud to announce:**  
**Author, Singer, Song-Writer, and Home**  
**School Mom of 6 Children**  
**ROSIE BOOM**  
**to be a featured speaker at the**  
**HEART of Texas Expo & Used Book Sale!**

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**  
**Speaking Times: 10:15am & 2:00pm**  
**Colleyville Church of Christ**  
**1008 Church Street**  
**Colleyville, TX 76034**

Rosie Boom and husband Chris are singer/songwriters from Whagarei, New Zealand, where they have made their home in a 94-year old barn with their six beautiful children, whom they have homeschooled for 18 years. Rosie is the author of *The Gift of Values* and the award-winning series *The Barn Chronicles* which depicts the Boom family's exciting adventures in their unusual barn-home.

Rosie is a featured speaker at the **2013 Arlington Home School Bookfair, May 10 & 11**, and we are proud to have her as a featured speaker for our **HEART of Texas Expo on May 18**.

Rosie will be performing in concert with her sister Penelope on May 14, 16, and 17 in Richardson and North Richland Hills. For a complete listing of her speaking engagements and three concerts, [please see the list below](#). We hope you will be able to come hear her at least once or twice, or come to all of them if you wish!! You will be entertained, inspired, and encouraged!

*The Boom Family (right):  
Rosie & Chris Boom enjoy a  
relaxing afternoon with their six  
children: Josiah (23), Katie (22),  
Eliza (19), Emily (16), Samuel  
(14) and Jacob (13)*



## **Rosie Boom's Concerts & Speaking Engagements in North Texas:**

HEART of Texas and Hearth & Home Ministries invite you to enjoy the Music and Ministry of Rosie Boom and her identical twin sister Penelope who have come all the way from New Zealand, as they perform in concert May 14, 16, & 17 in Richardson & North Richland Hills. Rosie will also be a featured speaker at the [Arlington Home School Bookfair](#) & the [HEART of Texas Expo](#).

### **MAY 9 & 10 -- Arlington Home School Bookfair**

**For Registration Information:** [www.homeschoolbookfair.org](http://www.homeschoolbookfair.org)

### **MAY 14 -- 7pm-9pm**

Town North Presbyterian Church  
1776 N. Plano Rd., Richardson, TX 75081

Admission is free.

Come and enjoy an evening of music, laughter and testimony. Rose & Penelope will share about life in New Zealand, the joys and challenges of marriage, home schooling and raising children, and their walk of faith. Their songs will encourage you in your love for God, and challenge you to reach out to a hurting world. Featuring a mixture of solos and duets and personal testimony, the concert will motivate and inspire you in life's journey.

**For More Information:** [staff@homeschoolbookfair.org](mailto:staff@homeschoolbookfair.org)

### **MAY 16 -- 7pm-9pm**

Town North Presbyterian Church  
1776 N. Plano Rd., Richardson, TX 75081

Admission is free.

Bring the whole family and come and enjoy an evening of music and sharing. All ages will enjoy Rose and Penelope's musical and visual presentations as they share about their childhood in the jungles of New Guinea, and the fun and adventures of homesteading and home schooling in rural New Zealand.

**For More Information:** [staff@homeschoolbookfair.org](mailto:staff@homeschoolbookfair.org)

### **MAY 17 -- 7pm-9pm**

E.A. Young Academy  
8521 Davis Blvd, North Richland Hills, TX 76182

Admission is free.

Bring the whole family and come and enjoy an evening of music and sharing. All ages will enjoy Rose and Penelope's musical and visual presentations as they share about their childhood in the jungles of New Guinea, and the fun and adventures of homesteading and home schooling in rural New Zealand.

**For More Information:** [www.heartoftex.org/events/expo/Rosie/](http://www.heartoftex.org/events/expo/Rosie/) or [events@heartoftex.org](mailto:events@heartoftex.org)

### **MAY 18 -- HEART of Texas Expo & Used Book Sale**

Colleyville Church of Christ  
1008 Church St, Colleyville, TX 76034

**For Pre-Registration and Other Information:** [www.heartoftex.org/events/expo/](http://www.heartoftex.org/events/expo/)



## A few words from Rosie...

### Building Together as a Family

For the past four years my husband and I and our six children have made our home in a 94-year-old barn while building our new family home together. Chris is an agricultural consultant, but over the years he has enjoyed making beautiful wood furniture for me. In 2000, when our sixth baby was born, he helped my brother-in-law build an addition to our Californian bungalow. But he had always had the dream of building his own home, so when we saw 11 acres for sale just down the road from my elderly parents, we threw caution to the wind and seized the opportunity.

The land has many beautiful native trees on it and a river that winds around its boundary, providing endless enjoyment in summer. And it has the barn. When I first laid eyes on the run-down old building, all I could think was, *we could live here while we build!* When I was a child, my family lived in Papua New Guinea for three years. Those were the best years of my childhood. I'm sure they prepared me for thriving on a challenge and enjoying 'roughing it'.

The first night we spent in the barn was a memorable one. We all lay on mattresses spread out across the loft floor, complete with mosquito nets. It was to be a wakeful night for some of us – strange noises, worries about rats, loud water pumps, and then – the eerie sound of lions roaring. I couldn't believe it at first. We

don't have lions in New Zealand! But Chris assured me it was indeed lions. Just north of the barn and over a few hills is the Zion Wildlife Gardens –home to a large number of lions and tigers. And when the wind blows the right way, we hear them roaring. A spine tingling sound in the middle of the night! The wildness of the sound somehow encapsulated the excitement of the new adventure we were embarking on and seemed to be a fitting title when I later came to write my book *Where Lions Roar at Night* – the story of our first year in the barn.

In the first six months, we survived *two* 'one hundred year' storms. The barn creaked and shook and groaned, but survived the onslaught. We endured nerve wracking, tense days and nights of gale force winds and rain so loud on the tin roof that we couldn't hear ourselves shout, while rescuing animals from the floods and anxiously watching to see if the barn roof would lift off. We were without power for a number of days but our wonderful wood burning Homewood Stove heated our water and cooked our food, and warmed the draughty barn enough for us to survive not just those storms but the following cold winters.

In 2008, Kate, our oldest daughter, decided to have a gap year before starting her music degree. She told us she wanted to take over the running of the barn, the cooking *and* the homeschooling of her siblings for a whole year so that I could help Chris more with the building. What a gift! Together Chris and I laid 6,000 concrete blocks – absolute novices, but we did it! When night fell I would stagger back to the barn to delicious smells coming from the Homewood and the barn cosy and tidy. Over the next two years the children all helped us with the building – sanding, painting, nailing, and endless tidying. Josiah did the noggling for the framing and learnt how to use all his father's tools – what a wonderful training for him. We mixed all our own concrete and as a family we poured it into the block cores – a ghastly job that had to be repeated four times at different levels. In fact, the block laying was the most difficult part of the building process for us. When we were half way through, I fell off a log on Samuel's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and broke my leg. That left Chris without his 'blockie assistant' for three long months. But he encouraged himself with William Carey's words. When the missionary was asked by a reporter, "To what do you owe your great success?" Carey replied, "I can plod. I can persevere in any given pursuit. To this I owe everything."

And so dear Chris plodded on. And as soon as I was able, I was back working alongside him again. Now two and a half years later the Boom homestead is finished! (You can see photos of it on our website [www.rosieboom.com](http://www.rosieboom.com)) What a joy to have built it together. We've worked hard these past few years, but we made sure we celebrated each small step along the way. We've laughed a lot. Chris and I often laid down our tools and danced together to the music on the radio. We must have looked a sight waltzing on the concrete pad in our dirty overalls and gumboots.

Chris's dream has come true – a dream which has involved the whole family, bringing us closer together in the process, and filling our photo albums, our diaries, our hearts (and a few books!) with so many wonderful memories. The time finally came when we moved out of our dear old barn and into the new home. I must admit to crying as I watched the barn slowly emptying, but I know you have to let go of one thing to take hold of another. And as we moved the piano on the trailer from barn to home, Kate sat up there and played one of Chopin's beautiful sonatas, and enveloped the whole move in music. It made me think of Psalm 23 – "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of our lives." God is good.