

MAIORANO MINUTES

3RD QUARTER 2012

LIFE CHANGES

Someone once said that when life changes, you can either bend or break, the choice is yours. We have certainly had our quota of change over the last couple of months. Some have been hard, some good, some heartbreaking, some exciting. Our prayer has been that God would give us a heart that can bend to His will, no matter how hard it may be at times. So where do I begin?

Let's start with our goats. We have had goats for six years. It all started when Sam and Storme lived with us. They were allergic to cow's milk, so entered the goats. I viewed them as a necessary evil. As time passed they became a joy in my life and a staple of our food source as we discovered the wonders of kefir and what it can do for your body. They took much of our time, but it was an enjoyable part of our day. We had been praying that God would show us what we needed to give up in order to gain more time. Through a series of events (including the doubling of the price of hay in a year's time), God made it clear that we needed to get rid of the goats. What a heartbreaking decision, but once it was made and the signs were up, the goats were gone in two days. It was definitely a God thing!

The next hard change that came into our lives was the decision that Mark and Terri were not going to work out in the ministry. We were excited to have help both outside and in the classroom. The possibilities of what could be done began to dawn on us. We were very disappointed when things didn't work out, and we had to ask them to leave. It was a hard thing to do, but it did open our minds to the thought of having someone else coming to help on a permanent basis. Who knows what God has in store in the days to come.

As we prepared for this new educational year, we made plans based on the idea that I would have help in the classroom. We took on 17 students, several who have some severe educational challenges, one who is considered a high functioning autistic young man. We will

introduce you to these students later in this letter, but they are wonderful young people, and had it not been for the thought of having help in the classroom, we would have turned five of them away. I can't imagine not having those students with us.

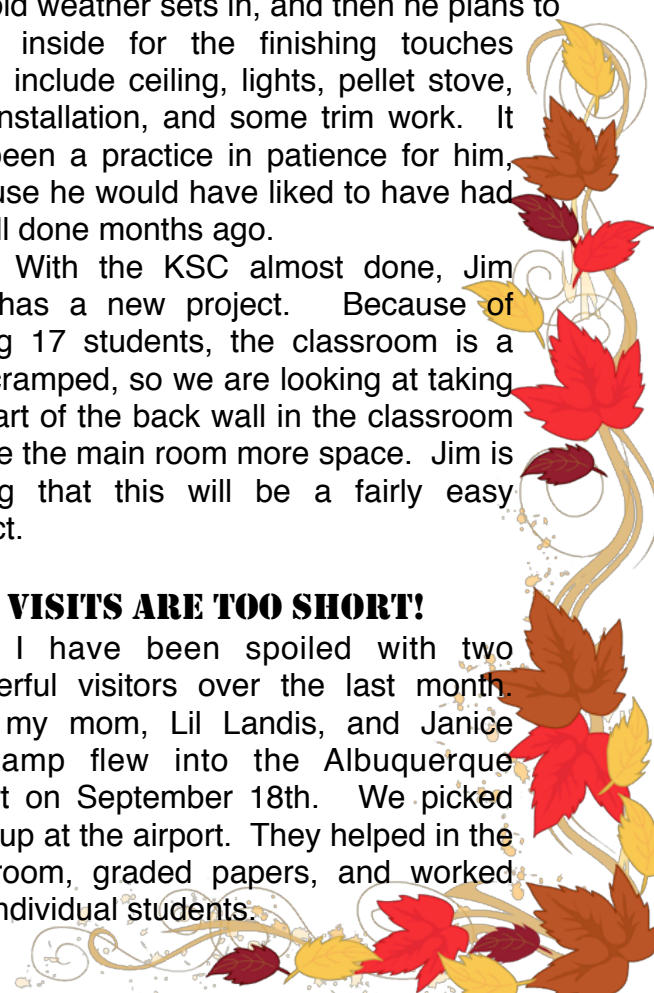
This brings us to the next change that will be taking place in our lives. Because of the amount of students we have this year, Jim will be taking a much more active part of the classroom activities. He will need to work more one on one with the students and be more of a presence in the classroom to make sure that everyone is in their proper places. This will be a big adjustment and challenge for him, but I must admit it has been wonderful having him in the classroom.

Work on the KSC continues, even though Jim thought he would have it done before the year commenced. Jim hopes to have the outside work of water lines and water heater done before the cold weather sets in, and then he plans to move inside for the finishing touches which include ceiling, lights, pellet stove, sink installation, and some trim work. It has been a practice in patience for him, because he would have liked to have had this all done months ago.

With the KSC almost done, Jim now has a new project. Because of having 17 students, the classroom is a little cramped, so we are looking at taking out part of the back wall in the classroom to give the main room more space. Jim is hoping that this will be a fairly easy project.

VISITS ARE TOO SHORT!

I have been spoiled with two wonderful visitors over the last month. Both my mom, Lil Landis, and Janice Feldkamp flew into the Albuquerque airport on September 18th. We picked them up at the airport. They helped in the classroom, graded papers, and worked with individual students.



It has been eight years since my mother last came out. From the time of my father's stroke until his passing in June 2011, she has stayed in PA to care for him. When she finally came out, I took full advantage of it. Not only did I have her in the classroom during the day, but in the garden and kitchen after that. She helped pick strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini. Once picked they then needed to be cleaned and readied for the freezer or for dinner that day or the next. So, yes, I did unashamedly take advantage of her while she was here! However, it was nice to spend time together, and it was also wonderful for her to get to see both of her grandsons. We were able to meet up with Jeremy and have lunch with him in Albuquerque.



Grammy with Great-Grandchildren

Jimmy, Angel, Sam, Storme, Mariah, and Christan came a couple of nights for dinner so she got to meet Angel and her girls. Storme and Sam were babies the last time she saw

them. Also she will now be able to put faces with the students that I tell her about every time we talk. We reluctantly took her to the airport and sent her home on October 6th.

Janice took on the role of teacher this year as she taught visual arts. Each afternoon she introduced the students to a new artist from the last 100 years, gave them the background of the artists' lives, introduced them to their works, and then had the students experiment with the artists' style. So the students experimented with cubism like Picasso, pointilism like Seurat, tessellation like Escher, and sculpting like Remington. The students had a wonderful time. Janice (along with my mom) also helped with organizing the KSC. She picked out countertops, a sink, doorknobs, and picture frame for a memorial/dedication plaque. Reluctantly, we dropped her off in Phoenix so she could return to PA on October 18th.

THE PTC FAMILY

In our last letter we said that we had 11 students that would be returning for this year. We

were wrong. Right before the year started, we found out that one of our seniors would not be returning. She comes from a missionary family, and the family needed to return to the east to raise support. So ten students returned and another six were added to their number. A seventh was added in October.

We have two seniors this year, Riah and Emily. They both took their ACT a second time in hopes of getting higher scores. Riah was one point away from scholarship level. I began working with both of them at the end of October to prepare for CLEP tests, which if taken and passed, will help them begin accumulating college credits.

My other older students consist of returning students Devin (10th) and Christan (9th). Kelsey is a new student this year. He is 15 and has been diagnosed with autism. I am still learning the best way to help him learn. He is a sweet young man who has been passed along with his "class," so he comes to us as a 10th grader whose actual skill level is much lower. He is making great strides in some areas. My prayer is that God will give me insight to his mind, so I can get through to him and help him learn.

We have three returning students who are in 7th grade: Sam, Joshua, and Naomi. We brought on four new 6th grade boys. Trey and Ethan came from Hilltop Christian School. Hilltop closed down their middle school this year so these students came to us. Another young man named Josh came from the Window Rock School where he was struggling. In October we took on another boy named Wyatt, also from the Window Rock school, also struggling terribly in academics. His family was extremely concerned.

Storme and Colby are returning from last year. They are both in 5th grade. Noelle is new this year. She is Kelsey's sister, and she is in 4th grade. Josiah is a returning student who is in 3rd grade. Our last new student is Holly. She is technically in 2nd grade, but doing 3rd grade work.

Well, that's our family. They are a great group of kids. Polite and kind with enough rambunctiousness to remind us they are children. Depending on the economy and what happens with air travel, we are planning on bringing a group of these students back to the PA/DC area for a couple of weeks in April. We hope that many of you will get to meet them and experience first hand the pleasure we get to enjoy every day.

PRECEPT CLASSES

Our Monday evening class just began a study in Jeremiah in September. This is the first time that I have studied this book inductively, so it has been very enlightening to me. We have a woman who joins us from Nevada via Skype (available to any of you, by the way). Her comment was that she has read verses here and there when they came up in sermons, but she had never read the book. She has been so blessed with God's call on Jeremiah's life as well as God's faithfulness in the midst of Judah's unfaithfulness. We have a good group of 15 -18 students. We pray that God will touch each one in a special way as we venture through this very long book.

We are praying about whether we should begin the marriage class again in January. We had a family inquire whether we would be willing to help the whole family - three generations - by placing their feet on the firm foundation of God's Word and teaching them what a family is meant to be and how it is to function. We will have to decide whether this family unit, depending on how many people it involves, can be merged into a group setting or whether they need to be their own class.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. The "Stranger on the Road to Emmaus" was a great study for all who participated in the Monday evening classes over the summer. We also went through this study with the students at the beginning of this year. I can say with confidence that each one of the students have heard a clear, concise, easy to understand gospel presentation. Now we pray that God uses that in their lives.
2. The 17 precious students that God has entrusted into our care, five of whom we would not have taken had it not been for the thought of having help.
3. We always desire to be doing God's will, being used by Him 100%. Our prayer has been that we be open to Him and His direction no matter where it leads. In our last letter we shared our excitement about having help and the doors that would open up to help more students. We

shared our concerns about the possible problems with the living arrangements for Mark and Terri. Normally we get responses from you, our friends and prayer warriors, by way of advise, encouragement, sometimes gifts, etc. This time it was oddly quiet. We took that quietness as God's way of communicating that there may be some question about Mark and Terri's involvement. When they returned from California, two days before we began our educational year, it became quickly apparent that they weren't going to be a good fit in this ministry. We took on more students then we have in the past because we had additional help and felt it important to reach out to them with God's love. When Terri and Mark left in the beginning of September, it left us with a room full of children and no help. We believe that this was God's way to open our eyes to the needs of these children and the importance of Jim becoming a more vital part of the teaching ministry. He is becoming more involved in the lives of the students and willing to learn what he can to help in all areas of the classroom.



4. A good start to a new educational year. Even though I felt unprepared, and we had a bit of a rocky start, we are now up and running.
5. A great group of Precept students who are consistent and anxious to study the book of Jeremiah.
6. A good visit with my mom and Janice, and the impact that they were able to have on the lives of the students.

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Remember that our website has moved. Please let us know if you have any difficulties.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .

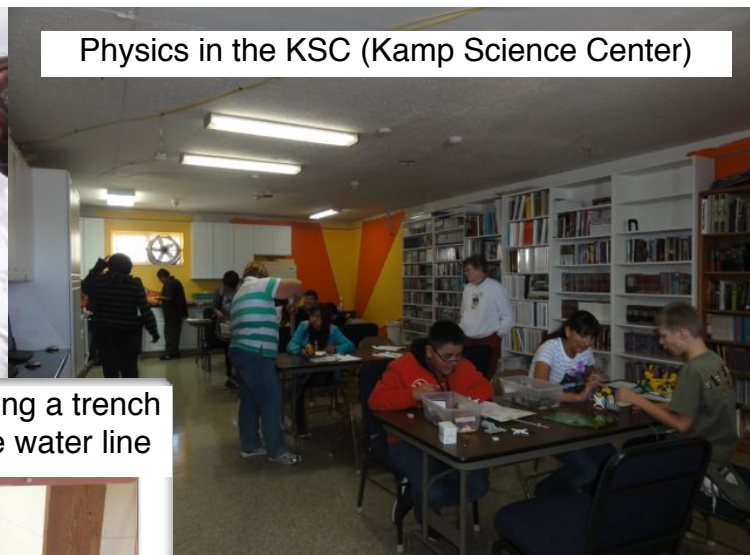
1. Wisdom in how to minister to the classroom of students God has entrusted to us. Over the last week it has become apparent that there are other lives that God may want us to touch. Normally we begin entertaining possible new students in February and March for the following year. We took a new student, our 17th, in October. In the last week we have had families approach us with wanting their children to come. Some right now, others looking at next year and wanting to get their name in early. These families represent a total of seven students and we are only graduating two this year. Ironically, when we started this ministry 13 years ago, we were praying that God would send us 20-25 students. He spared us from our ignorance. At that time, we had no idea what we were asking for. Now we do, and the thought of that many students terrifies me. What we need to determine over the remainder of this year is with Jim and I both in the classroom, working together, can we handle that many students and be sure that the students who have special needs will not suffer? Or will God provide help for us? We

have looked at ways to accommodate more students, which we can. It would be tight, but we could do it. So now we pray for God's wisdom and His direction as we work with the students He has given us this year, and mentally prepare and plan for what He would have us to do next year.

2. That Jim will have the time to complete the KSC and be able to move on to his next project - expanding the main classroom. There are many other projects that need to get done before winter sets in, and it is coming quickly!
3. Wisdom from His Word as there are always questions from those who come in person, call, or email seeking God's direction in their lives. Talking with and giving advice or counseling with people has become a weekly, sometimes daily occurrence in our lives.
4. Jim and I would continue to remember that God must take priority in all things, that people are the most important thing to Him, and that He isn't overly impressed with our "to do" lists, especially when we become obsessed with them. This is a really hard lesson for those of us who are goal oriented (which we are both very guilty of)!



Picking Apples as part of education



Physics in the KSC (Kamp Science Center)

Jim and Les work on cutting a trench between buildings for the water line



Mom helps Josiah with his reading



Janice helps Kelsey with his comprehension skills