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July is Here Already

We look back at the time and wonder where it has gone. Days slip away into weeks, weeks to months, and before we know it, the years are rolling by. We question what we have accomplished, or whether we have done enough. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has created us for good things planned out for us beforehand. Were we successful at accomplishing His plans? If not then how can we do better in the future? These are questions that Jim and I struggle with all the time. They keep us focused on what is important in God's economy. We are both "to do" list people trying to become more focused on God's list rather than ours. It is a struggle because God's list usually includes people and relationships, and that takes time away from our busy day. But we are getting better, and God seems to be opening up more and more opportunities for us to become involved in people's lives.

Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks



I am the old dog who is trying to learn the new tricks. Several years ago, we began switching to Apple computers because of the

problems we were having with the PCs. We have been very happy with the computers, but then we were talked into using Apple's products like Keynote (instead of Powerpoint), Pages (instead of Word), Numbers (instead of Excel), and iWeb to create websites. They are much cheaper and so very easy to use we were told (and they are). But with everything new there is always a learning curve. We bought a one-to-one package which allows me to go into the Apple store and work with an Apple expert for an hour every week. It means driving into Albuquerque almost every week, but it has been a great experience. This newsletter is one of

the by-products of those classes. We have also posted a new website at web.me.com/teacheroftruth. We are only now beginning to see how this can be used in the classroom setting, not only for just the educational ministry but for evening classes as well. There are possibilities of posting class notes on the website as well as actually recording classes or doing classes live on line. If you have access to a computer and high-speed internet check out the website and enjoy the various photo albums and DVD's.

Summer Precept Classes

There was interest among the students to continue studying the Bible throughout the summer. We are working through the course on Spiritual Gifts. It has been a fantastic study, unfortunately there are not a lot of people attending the class. We are going into the fifth week, and we have all been truly blessed by what we are learning. I am thankful that the Lord has brought together this small group dedicated

Updates



A Friend for Cocoa

Last time we told you about Cocoa, our Scottie/Yorkie puppy. After several episodes of her climbing out of her pen because she wanted to be with us (even when we went to town), we decided she needed a playmate. Shannon, our friend from whom we bought Cocoa, said she had a puppy that we could try. Thus enters Hershey. Hershey is a white with black spots, Chihuahua/miniature poodle mix and six pounds of feistiness!. She has been a joy to have around and a wonderful playmate to Cocoa. The two of them play for hours on end and don't care whether we are there or not.

Kidding in May



Both of our goats, Raven and Holly, were due to have their kids in May. Raven was first. She was as big as a house, and we thought for sure she would have at least two kids. She had just one. Gabby (to the right) came on May 8th, at 10:00 in the morning. She was a good sized kid at eight pounds. Six days later it was Holly's turn. Things didn't go so smoothly for her. An average goat kid weighs about six pounds, but can range from four to eight. After hours of getting nowhere, I stepped in to help. After much manipulation and pulling, I was finally able to help her deliver a whopping 12-pound male. He was dead, which did not surprise us. I am sure he died in the birth process, suffocating because he was so big. We were just glad that we were able to save Holly. As we were cleaning up the mess, out popped baby number two. She was a cute little six-pound gem that we named Ginger (left). Both kids (and moms) are doing well. We would normally sell the kids, but these two gained a special place in our hearts, so they are going to remain part of the family.

PA/DC Trip

Our trip east was great. The weather cooperated; we had two days of rain out of ten. Not bad for the east coast. The kids had a good time. The tour of the Capitol building, DC at night, and visiting various families in their homes were highlights of their trip. Those were all God things and had nothing to do with our planning the trip. We had given up on a capitol tour because no representatives would answer our inquiries. God opened the door to stay in the home of the Dimas family, who live five minutes from the center of DC. An acquaintance (a congressman's daughter) of the Dimas's arranged for our own private tour of the capitol. It was great! It was also the Dimas's who told us we had to see the sights by night. We stayed late the last night, and it was well worth it! There are some great pictures and video of our trip on the website; you may want to check them out. Sending us off to different homes for dinner was the Feldkamp's idea. It was a real growing experience for the students, who had to learn to talk and communicate with people they didn't know. We watched in amazement as these kids changed before our eyes!



(Picture is of the students standing on the geographic center of Washington DC and the Capitol building)

I also had a chance to visit with my whole family. My sister flew up from FL for a week, and both of my brothers came to my parent's house for dinner. My mom treated the family and the students to a Pennsylvania Dutch meal. The students got to experience sauerkraut for the first time. It was great to visit with them all.

Medical Update

I was remiss in our last letter. I promised to inform you about Jim's health status, and I did not. While in PA, we went to visit the woman who helps us with health issues. We spent 3 1/2 hours with her while the Feldkamps took the students for a tour of Synder's Pretzel factory in Hanover, PA. Jim's news was good. It seems as if the blockages in his legs are gone, and the blockage in the carotid artery is going away. So as of now he has an almost clean bill of health. I was still fighting with flare-ups in my hands, and I am still on remedies for those, but they have been clear since April. We are not in too bad of shape for a 50-year old and an almost 50-year old. Yes, Jim hit the big 5-0 this year!

Preparing for the upcoming year



I had one of the precept students ask me one night whether I get a chance to rest over the summer. I explained to her that I actually get more rest throughout the educational year than I do in the summer. Summer is not only full of long days of gardening, but cleaning, putting away from last year, preparing for this year, preparing curriculum, making schedules, talking with new perspective students, helping the old students, working with individuals (teaching them anything from reading to gardening), and trying to stay ahead of all the little daily activities that need to be done. Jim's schedule looks much the same as mine, except he has all the maintenance, outdoor cleanup and weed patrol, orchard care, and renovating the computer lab, reading room, and bathroom during the

summer. Summer is far from restful. Someone else asked if we were planning on going on vacation. The answer to that is no, there is not time nor the help we would need to get away for a couple of days or a week. Instead we plan on using our time going to Albuquerque to do some special things. We are planning to visit several museums, take the cable car up Sandia Peak, visit Santa Fe, walk the lava fields in Grants, and possibly visit Meteor Crater. All these are places that we will be checking out for the upcoming educational year as we study earth science, but it will also be fun for Jim and I to explore. I guess you could say we are planning many mini-vacations.

God's Answers to Prayer

1. We are very thankful for the wonderful trip we had to PA/DC with the students. We put on over 5,000 miles flying and close to 2,000 driving.
2. The end to another good educational year. It looks like ten out of 11 will be returning next year.
3. God has brought more people into our lives that we can minister to. I am working with a 35-year old woman who reads at a 5th grade level. She knows that this hinders many areas of her life, and she wants to fix it. She is making great improvements. There are people that we are talking to and teaching about gardening and animal husbandry. Each and every opportunity allows us to share the love of the Lord with them.
4. A good health report for both Jim and myself.

Please Pray for the Following Requests

1. Safety as we continue to travel many miles this summer and fall going to Albuquerque as well as exploring possible field trips for the students.
2. All the maintenance, cleaning, and preparing that needs to take place before August 10th, our new year. There is so much work and the summer is almost gone.
3. The Monday night classes. We will take a two-week break at the end of August and jump right into new classes the beginning of September.
4. Health as we minister in whatever way God calls us to.

NEW WEBSITE * web.me.com/teacheroftruth * NEW WEBSITE

We are excited about this new site and the opportunity to share so much more with you. Bear in mind there may be some glitches as we see how this will interface with all the computers out there. Also some files are large and may take awhile to download completely, depending on your speed. Please let us know if you have any difficulty running any of the movies, photo albums, or any other links on the site, and we will try to fix it!



Playing piano at a Navajo church



Bubblology - the study of spheres and chemistry



Students visit with Raven and Gabby



PA group at the Hershey Story Museum

The PTC Educational Ministry students



Building catapults as part of a scavenger hunt activity

Mr. Feldkamp supervises

