

Maiorano Minutes

4th Quarter 2021

A New Year Brings New Challenges

Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks in all things! Why are these Scriptural commands so simple in concept yet so difficult to achieve? It requires us to redirect our focus from current circumstances to the anticipation of the eternal hope that awaits every true believer of Jesus Christ. Rejoicing and thanksgiving are predominate themes in the holiday season. Why is it not pursued through the other ten and a half months of the year? Our world continues to spiral downward and division, distrust, and loneliness continue to grow. Let us move forward into this new year with thanksgiving in our hearts and rejoicing on our lips. We serve a great and mighty God, and He is in control of His story which He is bringing to a close. Keep your eyes fixed on Him with expectant anticipation.

As events in our world begin looking more and more like events in prophetic Scripture, the birth pangs becoming more frequent and intense, we should be examining our own lives. Are we ready for the soon return of the King of kings and Lord of Lords? Are we living in light of His coming? Do we feel the urgency of sharing God's Word with the people God has placed in our lives? We are going to begin a study on I & II Thessalonians beginning January 3, 2022, which addresses all these questions. Students will be challenged by Paul to walk in a manner worthy, live in an expectant hope, and encourage one another as the time of the end draws nigh. If you would like to join us for this study in person or on Zoom, contact us.

Our days have been busy as we seek to follow God's leading in our lives. We have been praying that God would show us how He wants us to best serve Him. We have been overwhelmed by the needs before us. Our classes on Sunday and Monday have led to many opportunities to counsel those who are struggling physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Phone calls, emails,

texts, and face-to-face visits and the research that goes with the varying concerns has kept us on our toes.

I, Linda, have continued to tutor students in their primary, secondary, or college education. I have also been volunteering at a nearby school teaching a science lab class twice a week. That led to testing several of their students who have some specialized needs that God, in His graciousness, has given me the necessary education needed to help.

Our eldest son, Jimmy, will be running for Sheriff of McKinley County, NM, in 2022. His desire is to help the community in which he lives by addressing the heart of the problems instead of dealing with the consequences that come from those problems. The endless cycle of stress that is put on society as a result of homelessness, alcoholism, abuse, suicide, and broken families can only be relieved when the root of the problem is addressed. The ultimate answer is Christ, but there are other areas that need to be addressed to end these vicious cycles. Jimmy has some good ideas that he has already begun to implement as Undersheriff. Jim has felt led to aid Jimmy in any way he can through his campaign, but also contacting resources within the county to begin offering help and hope to those whose lives have been touched by these tragedies.

We are also excited to hear about some ministry opportunities that Kevin has before him. It is our desire to continue to stand behind him as he pastors his flock and desires to reach out to churches and individuals across the reservation and the surrounding areas. He would like to record the testimony of a man who was being groomed to be a medicine man. This man wants the Navajo people to understand the evils of the Native religion that they hold so dear. The powers behind the "traditions" are dark and terrifying as they offer themselves up to Satan's domain of darkness. When we have those recordings, we will make them available to you.

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God's Answers to Prayer

- The continued blessing of studying God's Word as we completed the book of Ezekiel and head into our study of I & II Thessalonians, as well as our studies on Sunday morning as we work through the Bible chronologically precept by precept
- We have had the opportunity to visit with family over the last few months. In October, we spent a couple of days in Phoenix with Jim's sister and her husband, then in November I spent 10 days with my sister in FL.
- God's blessings of many beautiful days throughout the fall. We had ample time to get the gardens and the barnyard ready for the winter
- The opportunity to work with students to teach a science class they wouldn't ordinarily have had and to help the students who have been struggling with reading and comprehension.
- The time we have had to talk with and spend time with both Jimmy and Jeremy over the past few months. What a blessing it has been to watch them find their way in this world.
- The great encouragement we receive as we work with Kevin and see the joy and excitement he has to share God's Word with whoever will listen and to see the burden he has to continue to reach out to minister to the Navajo people

Please Pray For the Following . . .

- The Sunday Fellowship and Monday night classes
- Jimmy as he continues to prepare for his run for Sheriff - pray that he continues to be a testimony for the Lord in all that he says and does and for wisdom to deal with the multifaceted problems in our area
- Jeremy as he cares for his children and takes on the responsibility of a growing family. He and Sarah are planning to get married in July of 2022. Sarah has a daughter, Brynlee, who is a year older than Hailey.
- Kevin - time and energy to continue to minister to those in his church, other churches that have reached out to him, and people in the community
- I, Linda, have injured my foot. X-rays show that the foot is not fractured, but the loud crack that we heard and the swelling that is present shows that there has been some kind of damage - the extent of that damage is yet to be understood. Right now I am hobbling around on crutches and hope to graduate to a boot in a couple of days.
- Where we fit in to help reach our community, get to the heart of the problems, and ultimately share that the answer can be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Left - students learn how heated air inside the 50' balloon displaces air molecules, making the balloon lighter than surrounding air and thus giving it the ability to float.

Right - Jeremy, Sarah, and family (and yes, we do realize that he is confused about his roots wearing Steeler's clothing instead of Eagles!)
Kason (3), Collin (3), Hailey (5), Brynlee (7)



Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. - Psalm 33:20-21