



# MAIORANO MINUTES

## 2ND QUARTER 2014

### **SUMMER IS UPON US**

Does it ever feel like life is on a fast track and getting faster all the time? It seems to be a dilemma for everyone. We hear comments like, "Where did the time go?" "How did this come up so fast?" "It seemed like only yesterday." Time. We never seem to have enough of it, and if we were given more time, more hours in a day, we would just fill them up, too.

What can we do about the dilemma of time? We can't slow it down. We can't make it stop. We need to learn how to redeem our time in a way that is pleasing to God. We need to reevaluate our lives and ask ourselves what the most important things in life truly are. Are the most important things, things? Our home? Our car? Our bank account? Are the most important things, activities? Sports? Entertainment - TV, movies, music? Clubs? Recreation? Or are the most important things in our life a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and loving the people around us for Him just as He did? If you are unsure of your answer, ask yourself this question. Where does the majority of your time, effort, energy, thought, and money go? The Bible says where your treasure is, there your heart is also (Matthew 6:21). Our time is precious. Let's make sure we are using our time on what is important.

Time has slipped away from us, and we have been trying to use our time wisely and remaining focused on what is important. For this reason, you are receiving your 1st quarter letter late. But for those who are optimists, you could look at it from this perspective, you are receiving your 2nd quarter newsletter a little early.

We have wrapped up another educational year. Our last day was May 15. We finished the year

with 21 students. Erica and Kaleb left at the end of April. Their mom took a job in St. George, UT, and she started on May 5th. We knew she had been looking, so this came as no surprise to us. We had a nice program on the last night where the students had the opportunity to share through their artistic talents and words. So with summer now upon us, we can sit back and relax and do nothing for the next couple of months. NOT!

We have had people ask if we have plans for the summer. I think their idea is that we will go on vacation, rest, sip ice-tea on the veranda (first we would need to build one of those). Our summers don't normally look like that. They look something like this instead.

The day after class was over we headed to Albuquerque. We did some shopping and then reluctantly dropped Mrs. Kamp off at her hotel, so she could leave the next morning to fly back to PA. We also made a quick stop at a lab to have Jim's blood drawn for some basic blood tests. More about health issues later.

The next day we started the garden blitz as we call it. This lasts for about two to three weeks. All the leafy greens that don't like the heat have to be cleaned out of greenhouse and replaced with tomatoes, peppers, and squash. That job is complete. Then we need to plant the outdoor beds which are getting close to done.

We had a Navajo pastor over for dinner to find out what we can do to help his ministry. His name is Kevin Yazzie from Naschitti, NM. He started attending Precept classes over a year ago. He wanted to bring this teaching to his church. He has stopped coming to classes at the PTC because he and his church now Skype the classes. For those not familiar with Skype, this is

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a computer program that enables you to talk face to face with someone. Kevin and his church have joined us every night for our Precept classes over the winter and spring via Skype from Naschitti. Because our internet is so sporadic out here, we have also been recording our classes and making DVD's. A set of these DVD's goes to Kevin, so he can teach these classes to their youth. Also, since the church has many Navajo speaking people, Kevin can play the DVD, stop it, and interpret for the elders of the church. Currently we set up a computer and use its camera to record. We would like to have better picture quality which means obtaining a better camera and mounting it closer to the ceiling for a different angle. I still want it to record directly into the computer because it then only takes a couple of minutes to edit and convert it to a movie file which I can then burn onto a DVD. For any computer people out there, I would love to hear any advice you would like to share on this matter!

June will be a month of trips for us. I went to Florida for a couple of days at the end of May, beginning of June. I met my Mom down there, and we rented a house for a couple of days and spent time with my sister, Bonnie. I returned home on the 2nd of June. The 9th of June, Jim and I headed to Phoenix for a couple of days. Some of you may be scratching your head right now wondering whether I realize that June is not a nice time to go to Florida or to Phoenix. I do understand that; however, that is the time we could go. Jim has an appointment with the dentist on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He will be getting a tooth pulled and has some treatments both before and after the surgery. Before his appointment on Wednesday, we (or I) will drive down to Tucson (120 miles) to have my eyes checked. After a final visit with the dentist back in Phoenix, we then head home. The following week we leave for Ouray, CO, on the 18th and return home on the 22nd of June. This is purely a pleasure trip. We will be enjoying the beauty of the area as we 4-wheel, and we will be sharing that experience with Mr. Steve (who helped with math students this year) and his wife Laura. This will be a real treat for us.

In between the trips, the end of June, and the month of July we have a couple of things to keep us busy. We already have students coming in for some tutoring and to help with all the work that needs to be done around the training center and the grounds. We may also be interviewing potential new students. We lost four this year, and we have one student who will not be returning which leaves us with twenty students. We are content with that number for next year,

although we are set up and ready for 24. We will see who God brings to us and decide whether they will comfortably fit into our environment.

When not tutoring, interviewing, and working with students on the many projects that need to be done, I will spend my time in the garden weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, then cooking. There is also a little matter of pulling lesson plans together for the next educational year as well as the Bible studies that continue on Monday night. Projects for the classroom include cleaning and organizing, pulling out shelves, taking cork board off the wall, and painting walls and shelves (and there are a lot of shelves). Jim told me that was my project if I wanted to get that done this summer. He would be busy sitting on the veranda.

Well, since Jim has no veranda to sit on, I guess he will have to find other things to occupy his time. He plans to finish the KSC (Kamp Science Center). That means putting in the sink, running water to it, and building a little insulated house outside for the hot water heater. Once that little project is done, then he can move on to a real man's project. He will be tearing out the wall between our two current bathrooms and trying to find a leak. We occasionally get a sewer smell in the building and it is coming from that wall. While he has that torn apart, he will move the toilets over about a foot which means tearing out floors, re-plumbing it for the current and additional bathroom, and building an inside insulating wall to help the bathrooms stay warmer. When completed, those two bathrooms will become the girls' rooms. The next step is to enclose the porch area and incorporate it into the entrance of the training center and remove the current walls. By doing this, we will still have a big entrance way, but we will be able to add a two-stall boys' bathroom as well (more floor and plumbing work). We have definitely pushed our bathroom limits with 20+ students (30+ on Monday nights). Once bathrooms are done, then they need to be painted (or something). Hopefully by August we can put the training center back together in time to wash and wax the floors and be ready to start the new year. Without some skilled help this may be too much for Jim to accomplish by August. He will do as much as he can unless God brings some skilled workers to assist in the project.

How does that sound for a relaxing summer? If there is anyone looking for something to do this summer, and you have a skill in any of these areas and would like to volunteer, just let us know. There is plenty of work to do!

## **NEW BIBLE STUDIES**

It usually takes about two weeks after a study is over for people to start asking when the next one will begin. We will be working through a book this summer called, "Lord, I'm Torn Between Two Masters." It is an amazing study on the Sermon on the Mount and what it means to live out a life of faith. We will begin this study on June 16th, and it will run through the entire summer. The people wanted a book to really sink their teeth into, so in the fall we will jump into a four-part series on the book of Romans. It is an incredible study and should be a challenge to the students.

## **HEALTH ISSUES**

Jim and I have both been working with Dr. Justin from Santa Fe. I had a thyroid panel ordered by our chiropractor, and it showed a very healthy thyroid but an autoimmune disorder called Hashimoto's Disease. My body is attacking the thyroid and all that the thyroid puts out. Dr. Justin started us down the road to eating differently. It isn't a diet, it is a way of life. He also had us start reading many different books and websites to help us understand what is going on in our bodies. He was still concerned, so he ordered additional blood tests for Jim and me. My tests were done on April 16th, Jim's on May 16th. After spending two hours on the phone going over Jim's results, I shook his hand. He just looked at me a little funny. I told him that I just wanted to shake the hand of someone who is more of a physical wreck than I am. I won't bore you with all the details, so I'll give a quick overview. The Hashimoto's disease and malnutrition due to diet and improper digestion are my biggest problems that have then led to many other problems. Jim also has thyroid issues, but it is his thyroid that is not functioning properly, along with his kidneys, liver, and digestive tract. So with new ways of eating, supplements, and making healthier choices, I think we are both on the road to recovery. There are still issues which will take time because our bodies need to heal. I have lost 35 lbs and Jim 10 lbs. Our bodies are changing and becoming more muscular, so the fat is leaving and muscle is taking its place. We are learning how to prepare meals all over again which is taking some adjustment time. I haven't cooked with meats and prepared meals like this for a long time. One element Dr. Justin wanted us to put into our diet was fermented foods. He mentioned sauerkraut. I just turned up my nose. I know we come from PA Dutch area, but for me, sauerkraut doesn't belong anywhere but on a Reuben! Now that processed meat, bread, and Thousand Island dressing are out, I don't think that will be happening. His next question was have I tried to make my own? What kind of question is that? Don't be ridiculous! The last couple weeks we have been trying to ferment things. We came up with a fruit kvass that is okay, but I tried spinach kraut and chard kraut. They were awful. I used sorrel to make kraut and that

is almost tolerable. So if any of you have some good fermented recipes, please let us know. All this meal planning and cooking and trying to eat all that we are supposed to eat in a day has been a challenge. Hopefully we will figure it all out so that we will be running smoothly by the time the new year starts.

## **GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

1. We started the year with 25 students. Then we were down to 23. By the end of the year we were down to 21. Working with a class this size had its challenges, but we were able to adjust and keep moving forward.
2. We were very thankful for those who helped in the ministry this year. My mom was able to give us a hand with the tabernacle, help individual students, and help us in the garden during the fall. Mrs. Kamp was with us both fall and spring. She taught fine arts, helped in the classroom, helped grade projects, and took many pictures for us. Mr. Steve worked with the students all year in the area of math. We are thankful for the heart that all of these people have in wanting to help the students and share God's love for them in this way.
3. We pray that we are on the road to recovery with our health.
4. We have had a great response with our Monday night and Thursday night classes. There were many new faces and nights that the classroom was bursting at the seams. Kevin also had a good group joining us each night (Monday and Thursday) from Naschitti via Skype.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .**

1. We are praying for a good turn out for our summer class, Lord, I'm Torn Between Two Masters.
2. We are still open to a few more students. We will be talking to parents and their children, looking for the potential students who want to learn, have good attitudes, and will best fit with the environment of the classroom.
3. Time and help! More time and help! With the many projects that we have ahead of us, our plates are full and overflowing. We pray for God's strength, time, and help. We know that if the things we are doing are of Him, He will make it happen. We hope to use the help from some of our students, some local area young men, and a couple others who have said they want to help.
4. Continued healing of our bodies, so they will be strong for His service.
5. Kevin Yazzie as he brings God's Word to his people across the reservation.
6. Chris Larsen, Josh's dad, is still waiting for a heart transplant. He has been in a hospital in Tucson since last June. For several months, due to funds, the transplant unit was closed. It has reopened; he is on the top of the list of a now two-state search.



Back - Mr. Jim, Nikki, Kendra, Storme, Josh, Devin, Joshua, Kelsey, Trey, Christan, Sam, Miss Linda, Mrs. Kamp  
 Front - Erin, Holly, Mattias, Jay, Jason, Noelle, Colin, Ethan, Matthew, Colby, Naomi



The Corinthian team (left) crowned the winners of this year's Olympics (we were studying ancient Greece).



Water Wars on the last day of class.  
 Very wet children went home that day!



Naomi and Mrs. Kamp



Coming out of Junction Cave after spelunking at El Malpais, near Grants, NM.