

MAIORANO MINUTES

1ST & 2ND QUARTER 2012

WE ARE STILL HERE

We haven't fallen off the face of the earth. We were not scooped up in the many tornadoes that you have heard about. We were not abducted by space aliens. We were attacked by the time monster. So much has happened over the last several months, it is hard to even know where to start.

JANICE FELDKAMP'S VISIT

Let's start with Janice's visit and the preparatory demolition and construction work that is being done on the Kamp Science Center (KSC). Since January we have been in the moving process. In order to build the science center, we had to move things stored in a big closet out of that area. They needed to be moved into a "closet" area in the classroom which was filled with plates, cups, plasticware, teas, etc. So we tore out the old countertops in the back of the classroom and replaced them with 10 feet of cabinets and countertop. All the paper products are now in the new cabinets. Next the closet area needed to be expanded. Walls were torn out (by the students), the "closet" area expanded, then finished off, with new items moved in. Now the real work could begin.

Janice arrived on April 21. She was here for the last four weeks of the educational year. How wonderful it was to have someone else in the classroom because the last three weeks were going to be mayhem. In the midst of wrapping up the year, finals, trying to grade their last projects, we were also going to be tearing apart the back room for the KSC to prepare for concrete to be poured. The students ripped out walls, took out electrical outlets, hauled out useable materials and removed nails, and loaded up trash to be taken to the dump. They learned about preparing a good base for the concrete, how to build forms and level them, and on our last day watched 12 cubic yards of concrete being dumped and worked. Janice had a pad poured at her house where she wants to build a covered deck. We had six men come (three concrete finishers

and three volunteers, who pushed wheelbarrows full of concrete into the KSC. By the time the students left that day, each one had a chance to work with the concrete in some way and saw the completion of the concrete portion of the project. By mid June, there should be a video which one of the students produced that shows all the work they did on these various projects. Several students have expressed interest in coming over the summer to help with the construction.

We finished our educational year on May 17. On May 18, we drove Janice down to Phoenix to a peach festival where we met up with her son Tom and daughter-in-law Emily. Jim and I stopped several places in Phoenix and Flagstaff and finally arrived home about 1:30 the next morning. Janice had the chance to spend a couple of days with Tom and Emily before she flew back to PA.

FORENSICS FUN

One of the highlights of the last three weeks, was the "discovery" of a plastic trash bag under the floor boards that the students were tearing out in the KSC. Inside the trash bag there was a map, a plastic tarp with bloody fingerprints, and a partial skeleton with funny holes in the skull. This sent the students out scouring the property where the map had x's. There they found other bags with various items (clues.) When they returned to the classroom, it had been transformed into a forensics lab with Dr. Kamp as our forensics specialist and an evidence locker where evidence was placed so that the three teams of students could examine it and decide what had happened. They used their knowledge gained throughout the year of fingerprinting, running blood tests to determine types, karyotyping (using chromosomes to determine sex), and measuring bone length to help determine the height of a person. For three and a half hours, the students poured over the evidence to piece together the story of the events that took place. No one got it all right, but they had a lot of fun trying to figure it out. There will be a science video on our website as well where you will be able to watch what the students did.

GOATS AND GARDENS

Kidding season for the goats is always something we look forward to, but after last year we had our concerns. Last year our older goats died so we had all first time mommas. We had no idea how birthing would go and the caring for the kids afterwards. In February Gidget had a beautiful little doe, and Holly II had two beautiful does, one named Oreo and the other Thumper. We have kept Thumper to replace Raven, the other two kids were sold. Then, in April, our last doe, Roxy, began having problems and delivered two stillborns a couple of weeks early. We think she was rammed by one of the other goats which caused the problem. Fortunately, Roxy is doing fine. Unfortunately our student midwife was only here for Roxy, and we needed to clear things with her mom. We knew we could lose the kids and/or Roxy, and we wanted to make sure they were all aware of that. Fortunately things went fairly well.

We have concluded our garden marathon for the year. As soon as we end our educational year, there is a ton of things that need to get done for the garden. This year we have help in that area, and we will tell you about that later in this letter. So far we have an abundance of pepper plants growing, we had about 30 or more tomato plants growing when something got into my greenhouse and started gnawing them off. We caught one rat, hopefully he was acting alone.

In the outside gardens we planted 5-6,000 carrots, 300-350 onion sets, beans, lettuce, spinach, and other greens. We have some cucumbers and zucchini to go out yet. My perennial herb gardens are doing great except for the frost that came through on the 26th and 27th of May. Our blackberries, raspberries, and asparagus didn't think much of the frost either. Fortunately our strawberries didn't seem to mind and are going strong.

Many of you have seen pictures of the hoop house that we have worked with for a number of years. This was a project done by the state of New Mexico, and we were asked if we were willing to participate. We got to eat the things grown in the winter, and we could do anything we wanted with it from March through October. In return, we needed to supply New Mexico State University with data on how much grew for three years. Our three years are now up, so it is ours to use any way we want. This year we are seeing if I can grow my winter squash in there. Jim has worked on a misting system to keep temps down in the

90's in both the hoop house and the greenhouse. We will see how that works this year. I foresee a lot of experimenting in our future.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE KSC

Summers are never a kick back and relax time in our lives. This summer will be no different. Gardens, cleaning, preparing curriculum, interviewing and testing new students, working with returning students, and the never ending to-do lists will occupy much of our time. In our spare time, we will be working on the Kamp Science Center (KSC). Jim smoothed the seam between the old and new concrete. Then the work began by building interior walls and insulating along the existing block walls. He will need to run the electricity in the walls, the floor outlets, and the ceiling for the lights.

Once the walls are up, then the drywall and painting commences. Then comes the cabinetry for the science area and the countertops and cabinets that will serve as the computer lab/office area. A drop ceiling needs to be put in, and the last step will be the floor tiles. After that comes the washing and waxing. Lord willing, all this will be done before August 13, the start of the new educational year.

There will be pictures and video on our new website teacheroftruth.net. I hope to be able to update this site with pictures at the end of every month. We are excited to see and hear of some of our students wanting to come and help in construction and painting.

STUDENT UPDATES

At the beginning of this year, we started with 13 students. We ended the year with 11. Rosa was asked to leave at the beginning of the year. Things have not gone well with her or her sister Monica, who graduated last year. If you think about it, you can pray that God will get a hold of these two girls. Luke was not thriving in the classroom, and he has been homeschooling since the beginning of 2012. According to both he and his parents, he is doing well in this new endeavor for which are truly thankful.

The eleven students coming back range from third to twelfth grade. The class will look something like this: Josiah - 3rd; Storme and Colby - 5th; Sam, Naomi, and Joshua - 7th; Christan - 9th; Devin - 10th; Mariah, Emily, and Rebekah - 12th (which means three graduates next year). So far we have three new students coming in. We will introduce all the new students in our next letter.

HELP ON THE HORIZON

Over the years we have been asked why we don't take more students. The answer was simple - I can't handle more. When you have 12 students, all working at different levels, all with different needs, developing individual plans for each one - it is enough to make your head spin. Then there are the 8+ hours every weekend of grading papers. Jim has helped a lot more in the classroom this year, but that hinders him from getting the maintenance done, plus the many things on his "to do" list. If God wanted us to take on more students, then He needed to bring someone to help. We didn't know at that time that there were several people praying in that direction for us.

Jim was introduced to a man who was helping at an organization down the road. They struck up a conversation, and Jim liked Mark right from the start. He came to me and said that I needed to talk to Terri, his wife. I wasn't exactly sure why I was going to talk to Terri, but I did. We hit it off immediately. From there God began to open the doors. We met with them a couple of times. They love the animals and had goats years ago. They love to garden and enjoy the fruits of that labor. We were off to a good start.

They had friends come visit from California. These folks have five children. They wanted to come see what we did in the ministry and in the classroom. We happened to be doing a kidney dissection that week so we invited them to join us. Each of the student groups took one of the children into their group and worked with them on the dissection. Our students enjoyed it immensely, and I think our visitors did as well. Terri and Mark were impressed by what they saw in the classroom.

Now for the big question. Did they feel as though God was calling them to help in this ministry? For the next year (and Lord willing for years to come) they will be working with us. Mark enjoys working outside and can work with Jim. Right now we are still sorting out responsibilities, but I feel confident that I won't be gardening with weeds up to my waist anymore. Mark is a master at weed whacking. As for Terri, she wants to work with the students. She is learning to test the new ones. She will be teaching sign language. She is experienced because they have a deaf son. She has a love for Hebrew and Jewish customs and culture so she will be teaching the Jewish holidays this year. She will also be teaching writing

and logic once a week. She is willing to grade papers and work one on one with students who need a little extra attention. With Terri's help we are looking at taking 15-16 students this year.

There will be another new teacher on the horizon as well. Janice Feldkamp is going to jump in this upcoming year and teach fine arts. This year we will be studying the visual arts. Looking over her ideas, I am excited to see what she will be able to do with the kids.

I am thrilled that the students will be exposed to different teachers, that I will be relieved of some of my responsibilities, and that Jim will be free to do all the things that he needs to do and have help in the process.

Mark and Terri were part of MMAP (Mobile Missionary Assistance Program). These people are usually ones that are retired or have chosen early retirement. They travel in motorhomes in groups and go to various missions and volunteer their time to serve the Lord with "gifts of helps." Due to the high cost of fuel, Mark and Terri felt as though they could not continue to travel, but needed to stay put. They are now living in our driveway in their travel trailer. This will be fine for them until winter. We need to have a new plan come winter time. We have a plan A, B, and C that we are working on. We need to pray about each of these and see what God has planned. We ask that you pray with us for God's wisdom and direction.

Plan A - buy a trailer and move it in - whether we buy a new one or an old one and fix it up - the cost will be about \$35-40,000

Plan B - build a little house (16x32) - it would be better built, nicer, but take more time and manpower and cost \$25-30,000

Plan C - use the existing building and make what has been the geography room into part of their living quarters and build a 16x16 extension out the front of the training center - \$10-\$15,000

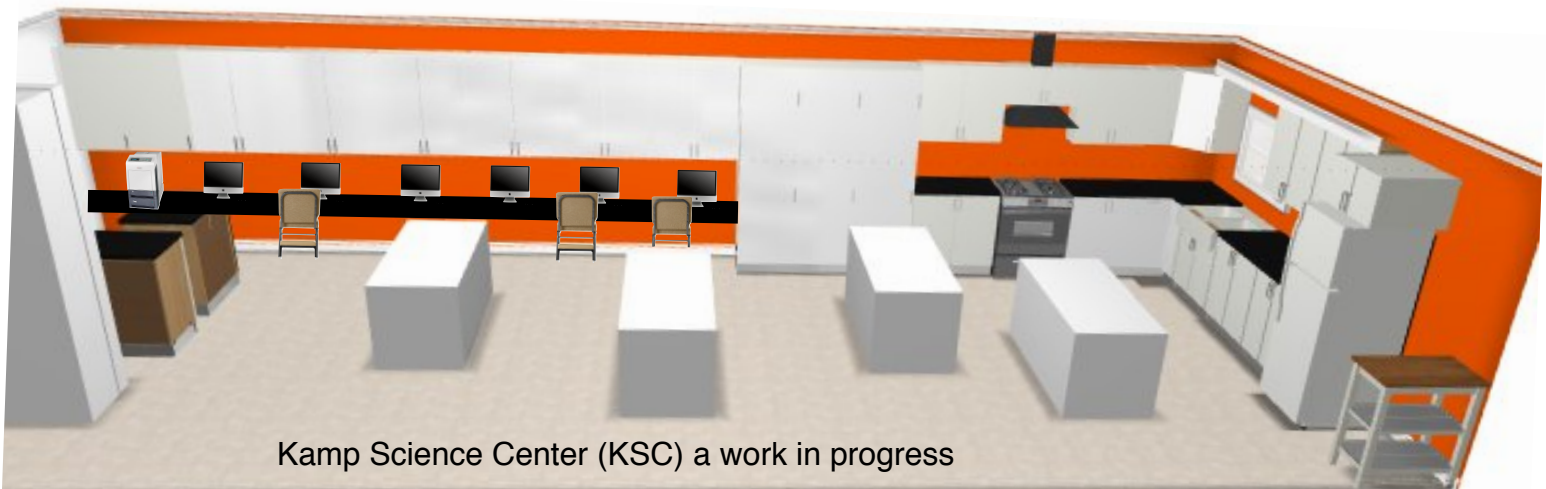
There may be other options that we haven't thought of yet, or that God hasn't revealed. We are open to hear what God is saying and follow where He is leading us. We know that this all needs to come in God's way, in His timing, and with His provision. Please pray with us as well as Mark and Terri, that God will lead us in this new adventure to serve Him together to continue to reach out to the Navajo people, both young and old, and ground them in God's Word.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. Long awaited help! We praise God for Mark and Terri Snyder, who have come along side to help us as part of the PTC Educational Ministry.
2. We so enjoyed our time with Janice. The month flew by, but looking back there was much accomplished. I don't know what I would have done without her.
3. We are thankful for what has been done on the KSC to this point and look forward to the completed project. We are amazed at the students' response and excitement.
4. We are thankful for better health and more stamina. I had a bout with pneumonia that caused us to close down for a week, but we are both doing better.
5. Jim and I are learning to put time limits to our work, go for a walk, enjoy the animals, go bowling, or just sit and do nothing. With some extra help, we are planning on taking more time for ourselves and having time to invest in the lives of others.
6. God's hand on this ministry. God has orchestrated so many things over the months and years. There is not enough paper to explain, but we see His hand in the plans with the science center and new living quarters and know it is not anything we did. We praise Him for making the way for these new opportunities.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .

1. Wisdom and direction when it comes to housing for Mark and Terri.
2. For the construction of the KSC to go well and be done on time.
3. Preparation for the upcoming educational year.
4. For the new students He has chosen to come to the PTC and the ones we have not met yet.
5. Wisdom from His Word as there are always questions from those who come in person, call, or email.
6. The Bible study on Monday evenings as the students watch the dvd series called "Stranger on the Road to Emmaus." It is a tremendous study to ground people in their faith and equip them to share their faith with others and answer some tough questions.



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Our website has moved - please take note of that. The website will look the same; however, the web-hoster is different. Let us know if something doesn't work so we can work out the bugs!



Devin takes apart door frames in the new KSC



Jim and Devin work on setting the cabinets in place



The new lunch area



Riah, Beka, and Emily rip out the closet in the KSC



Ripping out floorboards to prepare for concrete



Josiah rips out a wall to expand the back room



Jim, Angel, Christan, and Janice work on making a good base on which to pour the concrete.



Sam and Beka take out the electric sockets.



Mark, Devin, and Jim work the concrete for Janice's deck.



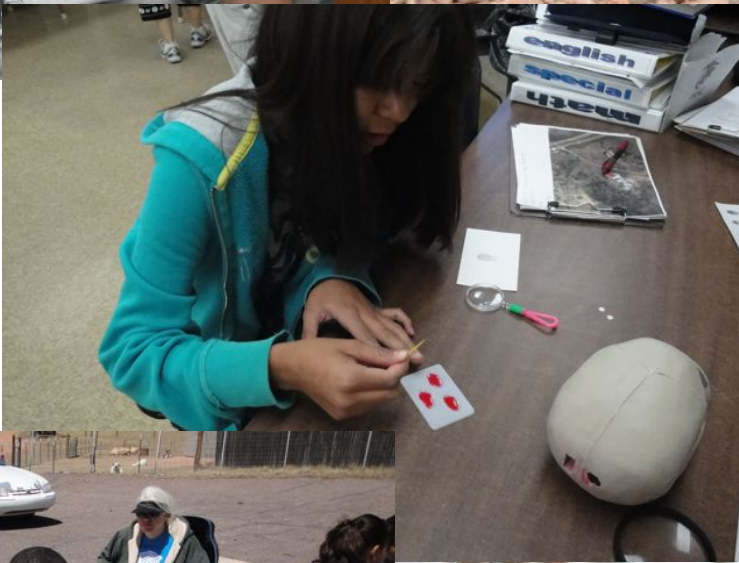
Jim and Mark put up the walls around the exterior block walls. These will be insulated



Mark and Terri Snyder



Zem doing his job - guarding his goats



Kidney dissection

Naomi is running blood tests to determine the blood type of the evidence found

Over 20 2nd and 3rd grade students from a nearby school come to visit the PTC gardens and learn about plants.



Jimmy teaches about DWI

Beka lights the candles for our Passover Seder

