

Maiorano Minutes

End of the Year

Tapestry of Life

The time between the Old and New Testament is known as the 400 Silent Years. Malachi was the last book written in the Old Testament. Malachi 3:1 makes a promise, *“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.* From the time those words were penned around 400 BC, the Jewish people anticipated that messenger of the covenant who would come to His temple. They waited and waited and waited for God’s next word. As the years passed, people began to wonder and doubt. Maybe God forgot about them. Maybe He’s asleep on the throne.

God may not have been speaking His word to the people during that interim period, but He was busy preparing the stage for the arrival of His Son. The Persian kingdom began to decline, and the Greek empire arose as Daniel had prophesied two hundred years earlier bringing the world together under the Hellenizing-power of Alexander the Great. As the Greek star fell on the world’s stage, Rome took over power and built its roads to connect the empire. The stage was set for the coming of the Messiah. God clothed in flesh, come to earth as a baby. His angels announced His arrival to the shepherds in the field. God broke His silence, and sent His Word into the world.

At this time of the year, people are focused on the coming of the babe in the manger. But little is thought about the work that God was doing behind the scenes to prepare the world for His blessed gift. We have used the example in our classes about God working on the tapestry of history (His story). Looking down from heaven, the craftsmanship is magnificent. All we can see on our side of the tapestry is a tangled mess that makes no sense. But one day, those who have bowed their knee before Christ will see what God has been doing for the last 6000+ years.

So why do I start our newsletter with that introduction? We can see some parallels in our life right now. Quite a few people have asked us, “What are you going to do now?” Our answer has been, we don’t know yet. YET is the key word. We don’t know, but God does. Even though God is not speaking and showing us His plan right now, we feel that there is much going on behind the scenes that we have YET to understand.

What do we know?

1. We know that at this point in time, God is not calling us to leave this area.
2. We know that He has blessed us with a beautiful place that over the years people have called a peaceful haven - a place that brings rest to their soul.
3. We know that God has been bringing people into our lives that have had “messages” for us, either by speaking with them or through reading books or watching videos that have been suggested by them. All the messages seem to be pointing in the same direction, but the end is not quite in focus yet.
4. We know that God is bringing people into our lives, and one by one we are to minister to them in whatever capacity He allows.
5. We know that we can have joy in the journey, knowing that God is working in us, preparing us to be used by Him to reach out to the people around us in a new way.
6. We know that God has richly blessed us in many areas, and we are called to share those blessings with others.

Well, that is what we know, but there is still much we don’t know. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we seek to be used by God to bring the truths of His Word to those He brings into our lives.

We pray that you all have a great holiday season and remember that you have been blessed by God. Be thankful for all that He has given you and share that joy with those around you.

God's Answers to Prayer

1. We feel confident that we are moving in the right direction in ministry. God is giving more clarity as He works in our hearts and gives us visions of how we can use His blessings to reach out to people in the area.
2. We are grateful for the opportunities we have had to share God's Word with people through our Philippians class on Monday, our fellowship time on Sunday, and an Inductive Study course on Tuesday and Saturday.
3. We appreciate the time we have had to rest and spend time in God's Word. We didn't realize how exhausted we were and our harried lifestyle distracted us from spending sufficient time at the feet of our Master.
4. We have appreciated those who have come along side of us to unknowingly minister to us. We had those who have shared their journey with us and said this book has been very helpful or these messages have ministered to me. These talks, books, and videos have opened our minds to various ministry opportunities that we would have never contemplated before.
5. We have made progress on projects that have been put on the back burner for years. Painting outbuildings, making plans for renovations, cleaning, organizing, and moving items on to new homes have been time consuming but rewarding.
6. The garden has provided us with food for the winter and our freezers are full. We finished taking care of the gardens for the winter right before our first snowfall came.

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Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. Please keep Kevin in your prayers. He misses JJ, and the adjustment has been difficult. We are planning on meeting once or twice a month (more if necessary) to help him switch to an Apple computer and programs. This will expand his ability to teach with various programs and enable recording abilities so his teaching can be shared via various media applications.
2. We ask for clear direction from God. To be perfectly honest, some of the ideas that God seems to be confronting us with are definitely taking us out of our comfort zone. As we step into other arenas, we want crystal clear indication from God that we are following His leading.
3. God has brought several people into our lives over the past months that have been seeking advice in the health field. We have been helping them with great success. We have had people ask if we would consider teaching workshops and visiting with families to help meet the needs they are having.
4. Please continue to pray for Jeremy and his family. We continue to pray for restoration, healing, and change in their lives.
5. I continue to work on the website. It is coming around, but there are massive amounts of work ahead to expand into other areas as well as to consolidate all the information into this one site.
6. There are still piles of work to be done in and around the property. With single digit night time temperatures, snow on the ground, and days in the 30-40's outdoor work is done, so now we have a couple of months of indoor projects to complete.
7. I continue to work with Tommy, Jimmy and Angel's nephew. His job at the concrete company has reduced hours for the winter, so we are going to push to try to complete his high school credits by late spring. We are hoping that he will complete his work by May for a May/June induction into the Marines.

