



Maiorano Minutes

1st Quarter 2008



A New Year

Our New Year came crashing in on us in January. After having a two-week Christmas break, the students were treated to two more days off of class due to the depositing of over one to two feet of snow and ice. Three weeks later, they again missed Monday and Tuesday because of addition foot and a half of snow. The following week we had another two days off after another foot and a half. This is the eighth year of the educational ministry, and we missed more days this year than we have in the other seven combined. However, we are truly grateful for the moisture, which has left our water tanks full and overflowing. We have needed some moisture in this parched land!

The other news that came with the new year was that Sam and Storme would be joining us as part of the educational ministry. Realizing that the court case was not going in her favor, Jill turned the children over to Jimmy and asked him to get paper work for her to sign. At this point in time the paper work has been drawn up, signed, and sent to a lawyer. Now we wait for it to be signed by the judge and finalized. We praise the Lord that there may finally be some stability in their lives after four very long years!

New Classes

We began two new evening classes in January. We are studying I Corinthians on Monday evenings and Marriage Without Regrets on Tuesday evenings. We began with close to 20 students in our I Corinthians class. Unfortunately, the number has dwindled down. It was a very rough start with the all the snow. We needed to cancel several evenings, and then the mud, which resulted, continued to keep some away. That class is down to about 10. It is a great study, and the people that have continued have been truly blessed.

On Tuesday evenings we get together for Marriage Without Regrets. What an eye-opening, life-changing course this is. We have one woman who has been coming faithfully with her aunt. We found out that her husband has just been released from jail because of spousal abuse. They would like to continue the study on marriage, but they would also like to work with us on the study of Covenant. We told them we are willing to do that, and have left it up to them to decide when. We pray that this will work out and that we can help this couple become grounded in the word of God.

Educational Ministry

It is hard to believe that we are almost finished another year of the educational ministry. We just have a few weeks to go. We are preparing for the graduation of one of our students, Branden. Branden has been with us for six years. He came in

6th grade. He has done so well that he will be graduating a year early. It sounds as though he is planning on going to college for a year or two because his parents and sister are encouraging him in that direction. However, it seems that he has his heart set on becoming a heavy equipment operator.

In the last letter we told you about the new students. Tracey and Dylan are both planning to return next year. They have both been doing well. We have seen tremendous improvements in Tracey's class work as well as her attitude. Daniel is no longer with us because he needed more individual attention than I could give him in the classroom.

As we said earlier, Sam and Storme joined us in January. It has been an easy adjustment for Storme. She does well and has been very cooperative. Sam has had 1 1/2 years in the public school system and has been taught to play instead of work. It has been a hard adjustment for him. Things are beginning to settle down a little with him.

Working with students after class last year and this year has brought them up to grade level or above in their reading abilities. Summer did very well in her final testing, the only thing she needs to work on is her fluency of reading which will come with time and practice. After working with KC for nine weeks, he also has come up to grade level in reading which is a real praise. The last time he chose a book to read, he chose a 400-page book and had it done in two months. What an accomplishment for a young man who was reading at 2nd and 3rd grade level a couple of years ago! He has worked hard and come far. He is in 9th grade this year and doing very well.

We had some extra help this past month. A teacher from Illinois volunteered her time for three weeks and came to work with the students. She has dealt with learning disabilities and difficulties for many years and, after retiring, has given of her time to go and help in other parts of the country. Many of the students who had difficulty in the area of reading also have a difficult time in writing or expressing themselves in their writing. Mrs. Burr worked with five of our students (Mike, Kendall, Summer, KC, and Keith) individually for 1-2 hours a day over the course of nine days. She was pleased with their cooperativeness and hard work and said they did very well. I hope to see an improvement in the weeks to come when they have writing assignments for class.

The Feldkamps are planning to come for a visit this year from the end of April through mid May. It will be nice to have them here. We miss

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them as do the students. Dick will not be teaching science, but he will be helping with math and in other areas of the classroom. Janice helps everywhere, and I may be able to talk her into helping with some end of the year grading. They are also planning to stay for Branden's graduation and will be leaving us the next day.

Planning new classes

Over the next weeks and months we will be entertaining new students for the upcoming year. This is always a difficult time dealing with parents as well as potential new students. We like to say that we are trying to scare people off. We demand a lot from the students, and they need to know that before they come here. We also need to have the support of the parents at home, and sometimes, that means educating them or counseling them in what parenting is. It is a time of confrontation in some cases and that is not always easy.

We are also beginning to look at our schedule and begin planning what new evening classes we will offer. We have one man that is coming right now that is a pastor at his church but has had no training. He is learning how to study and interpret Scripture through the Precept classes and then hopes to be able to use this material for his church. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to help someone like this. Please pray for Leonard as he seeks to serve the Lord in this way!

Follow-up Stories

Jim and I didn't get to travel to Tucson on our own over the Christmas break. We went with Sam and Storme. We enjoyed some great days and a time of relaxing with them. We visited many places while we were there to make plans for the trip with the students. We walked the Christmas lights, visited museums and zoos, and we went to Old Tucson Studios. We read books, played games, and just had a wonderful relaxing time.

From January 21-24 we had the opportunity to travel to Tucson for four days with the older students. It was a fabulous trip. We left the training center an hour late, due to some frozen water pipes. We drove the seven hours down there and found the house that we would call home for the next couple of days. The house was fabulous. We gave the two girls the downstairs bedroom that had a king size bed and a bathroom that was bigger than our entire house. Jim and I took a bedroom upstairs and the six boys split themselves up between the other two upstairs bedrooms and the loft.

On Tuesday we headed for the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum and spent several hours there. After that we traveled to the ASARCO copper mine for a tour through the mine, its museum, and saw a couple of short videos that explained the importance of copper in our world today.

On Wednesday we headed for Colossal Caves and did what was called the "Ladders" tour. It is a tour that went places that not many people get to go. After donning our hardhats with lanterns we headed into the cave. We climbed ladders, went across catwalks, went into a dark passageway, turned out our lights and tried to find our way out, and went

through passageways where we needed to get down on hands and knees to crawl through. It was a great experience. We then drove up to Bear Canyon for a five-mile hike to Seven Falls. It was a beautiful walk on a beautiful day. The kids had fun playing around the falls for a couple of minutes and then we needed to head back to catch the tram to the parking lot.

On Thursday a very quiet and tired bunch headed back to the training center. God gave us a great week of weather, traveling safety of over 1000 miles, and a good time with the students. If you are interested in seeing pictures from this trip, you can view them on our website or contact us and we can send you some.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER . . .

1. For the nice time that Jim and I were able to have with Sam and Storme over Christmas.
2. For the great trip that we were able to take with the students. For all the safe miles and the adventures we were able to experience for those couple of days.
3. We are thankful that Sam and Storme are with us and that they are seeming to settle into a good routine. We are beginning to see them laughing, playing, and acting like they did before their world was turned upside down!
4. The water continues to flow through the newly buried waterlines. What a blessing it is to have running water!
5. We are beginning to be able to eat out of the greenhouse. We have been able to spend some time in the gardens and are amazed as we watch the awesomeness of God's creation.
6. We are very grateful to Chrisanne Burr for volunteering her time to help the students.
7. We look forward to spending time with the Feldkamps over the next couple of weeks. We hope to be as much of an encouragement to them as they are to us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS . . .

1. We continue to pray that things will be settled in the court with Sam and Storme. The paperwork still needs to go before a judge.
2. Wisdom in selecting students for next year.
3. Jeremy has been having some back and neck issues. We pray that the chiropractor can help and that this will make him think about life and how short it is.
4. That the students will remain faithful to both of the Precept courses for the last couple of weeks
5. Jimmy and Angel as they try to merge their families into a single unit. That they stand firm in the Lord and bring the children up in the love and admonition of the Lord

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