



# MAIORANO MINUTES

1ST QUARTER 2013



## PA/DC BOUND

In just a couple of weeks Jim and I along with five of our students will be headed for the East coast. This will be a whirlwind history trip exposing the students to the culture and the history of the area. We have made this same trip three times in the past with previous students. This year in our studies of history, we have covered the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War, as well as later wars. What better place to experience what they have learned than by visiting sites like Washington's Crossing, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Fort McHenry, and Washington DC.

Out of eighteen students, only five are coming on this trip. In order to be eligible there were certain requirements that needed to be met. The student needed to be in 6th grade or above, be in good physical shape, do extra work to research places they would visit, maintain good grades, show a positive attitude no matter what the situation, and be able to pull together the money for the trip. For some of our students just the thought of being away from home for two weeks was enough for them to decide that they didn't want to go. Some students in the past have never been farther away from home than a five-hour trip in the car. Of the five students that are going East in April, only one has been on a plane.

We leave New Mexico on April 13th and arrive in Philadelphia at 9:30 PM. We have a van reserved from a Christian organization which makes vehicles available to missionaries and for mission's trips. My uncle will pick up the van, my brother will pick us up at the airport that night, and a family friend will return us to the airport and the van to the company at the end of the trip. We will be staying with Janice Feldkamp while in PA. In a moment, I will give you an itinerary so you can be praying for the trip, and possibly come and see us and meet the students.

Last time we came East, Dick and Janice Feldkamp thought it would be great to push the kids out of their comfort zone. They arranged meals at different homes on various nights. They split our group up and sent Jim and some of the

students to one house, and the rest of the students and me to another. We did this several nights. This first night was tough on the students. They didn't know what to expect or how to act. Normally the Navajo people are very reserved and quiet. Making conversation at the dinner table is a new experience for them. By the end of the trip we found our students comfortable and even challenged to go up to total strangers and start conversations. When we brought them home, the parents wanted to know what we did to them because kids who normally didn't say anything, now would not stop talking. Their self-confidence grew, and they learned how to communicate with the world around them. We are not only going to be having these dinners again, but the students will be speaking at two churches, three open houses, and to two public schools in Baltimore to over 200 4th and 5th graders. How exciting!

I will give you a schedule of events to see where we will be each day, where we will be speaking, and where and when the open houses will be. If possible, we would love to visit with you at one of these places.

**Saturday 4/13** - Flight to PA through Atlanta, GA leaving PTC at 8 AM, leaving ABQ at 1 PM arriving PHL at 9:30 PM - a very long day!

**Sunday 4/14** - Sunday School Class at First Baptist Church of Perkasio, Forest Grove Presbyterian Church, Washington's Crossing, Trenton, Belmar beach, dinner with a student's family in New Jersey

**Monday 4/15** - Speaking to two Baltimore schools, Baltimore Inner Harbor, Ft McHenry, Baltimore Aquarium, travel to Washington DC

**Tuesday 4/16** - White House, Ford's Theater, Old Post Office, Natural History Museum, American History Museum, Holocaust Museum, making Navajo Tacos for our host family in DC

**Wednesday 4/17** - Capitol Tour, Union Station, Air & Space Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Pentagon, Monument walk at night

**Thursday 4/18** - DC Memorials, Traveling to PA, Herr's Snack Factory

**Friday 4/19** - Philadelphia walking tour, dinner at a host family

**Saturday 4/20** - boat ride on Lake Nockamixon, **open house from 2-4 PM** at Souderton Mennonite Church, **open house from 6-8 PM** at Janice Feldkamps in Telford

**Sunday 4/21** - Speaking at Leidy's Church in Souderton (Jim will be speaking a couple minutes in both services, and we and the kids will be speaking in the adult Sunday School), **open house from 2-4 PM** at Linda's Mom's in Souderton, dinner at a host family

**Monday 4/22** - Day with Mrs Kamp seeing some area highlights and helping her pack and prepare for moving, dinner at a host family

**Tuesday 4/23** - Lancaster - Sight and Sound - Noah plus a behind the scenes tour

**Wednesday 4/24** - a guided tour by Pastor John Neiderhouse from Leidy's Church through the Gettysburg battlefield

**Thursday 4/25** - Valley Forge, dinner at a host family

**Friday 4/26** - Lancaster, Green Dragon touring area to see Amish, Canning Factory, Candle Making, Pretzel Making, Kitchen Kettle Village, dinner at a host family

**Saturday 4/27** - flying back to New Mexico with Janice Feldkamp (she is staying until after graduation on May 17) - leaving PHL at 2:00 PM and returning to NM at 9:00 PM with a three-hour drive home arriving at the PTC at midnight.

If you would be interested in becoming a host family for an evening meal, contact Janice Feldkamp via email. If you would like to attend one of the open houses, you can get more information about place and directions by contacting the following people:

Souderton Mennonite Church - contact us

Janice Feldkamp's - 215-721-0591 or email [dickf22@verizon.net](mailto:dickf22@verizon.net)  
Lillian Landis (Linda's Mom) - 215-703-0350

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

1. We are thankful that Beka has stayed with us through the year. The students enjoy working with her and are benefitting by their time with her.
2. Steve, a retired teacher from North Carolina, has volunteered to spend a couple of hours in the classroom each week.
3. We have had a former student, Ramone, now a marine between assignments, in the classroom for a couple of days helping. The students would like a little less of his help since he had them outside doing some physical training with them. Ramone is an aviation mechanic. He has updated us on our other students in the marines. Kendall who graduated in 2010 is based in Japan and is working on helicopters. Mike who was with us for eight years is now in boot camp.
4. We are thankful for how well this year has gone. We were unsure of what having 18 students would do to the classroom dynamics. We see some adjustments that need to be made for next year, but overall have been pleased with the larger group.

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

1. There are still many details to wrap up as we prepared for our trip to PA/DC in April. The students not going on this trip will have a late two-week spring break.
2. God's wisdom as we prepare for next year. Two students will be graduating in May, and as of now, the other 16 students are planning to return. We are planning to extend our days next year by a half hour. With some rearranging and the extra time, we are thinking that we could handle a total of 18-20 students.
3. I have had a couple of injuries that are causing some health concerns with our trip East. I broke my toe (I think in more than one place) about eight weeks ago and I am still having issues with swelling and bruising. I am also having some trouble with my knee. Both of these are concerning knowing the walking ahead of me in PA/DC!

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