

Maiorano Minutes

1st Quarter 2025

The Battle Is the Lord's

The story of Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20 has been one of Jim's favorite, and it has been an encouragement to him over the last year. In verse 15 God tells Judah, "Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's." In verse 17 God continues and says, "You need not fight in this battle, station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf . . . Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you."

The battle is not ours but the Lord's. You need not fight (because God is fighting on your behalf), just stand and see the salvation of the Lord. For those who have come to God through the Lord Jesus Christ alone as a means of their salvation, we know that no matter how big the obstacles might be before us, the battle is not ours, it is His. The outcome has already been determined. We are fighting a battle that has already been won. We may not know what God is doing, but we know what He has done. As we look at the resurrection celebration, the shed blood of Jesus Christ allows us to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need - Hebrews 4:16.

Jim's health continues to be a challenge. A couple of weeks before our visit to Oasis in March, he began to have pain in his pelvic bones. He started taking pain medication to keep it under control. The doctors specifically looked at his scans in the areas of pain, and told us that everything looks stable. Since nothing new seems to be developing, the assumption is that continued treatment is making the cancer angry and causing it to become inflamed. With metastases in the bones, there is no place to swell, so it puts intense pressure (hence the pain) on the bones themselves. With the more advanced DCV (dendritic cell vaccine) which is twice as potent as his last DCV, plus the adjustment in the ADT (androgen deprivation therapy) the cancer is becoming even more angry causing some intense pain. He was consistently taking his pain meds and has been put on a new pain medication for when the pain becomes too severe. His last rescue medication worked well but caused a nasty rash, so it had to be discontinued. We pray that this part of treatment will soon pass.

Jim has been able to get some projects done, and he is slowly picking away at his to-do list. Another broken rib while working on the oven is a reminder that he has to still be careful of the positions he is in or what and how he lifts. We head back to Mexico in June, but we are in contact with them now about the intensity of his pain and the increased need for pain meds. It may just be part of the process, but it will be nice when it passes!

Because of Jim's struggles, I have had to pull back on some activities in order to help him in his fight. It

has been my honor and privilege to serve my husband over the last 44 years, but even more so through his struggles in the last year. Much of my time is spent in food preparation and clean up, helping him do things that he would have done on his own in the past, and working on projects to aid in his healing and dealing with his pain (researching and implementing treatments). Gardening is a big part of the healing process as we grow much of the food we eat, things that are necessary for healing and strength. Proper diet is 60% of the battle!

This schedule has caused me to put the work with the inmates at the detention center on hold for a time. We continue working on contacts for GED testing, producing training videos, and helping a couple of former inmates that have reached out for assistance. We also had to rearrange our Bible study schedule because of time constraints. Since we have to produce all of our material, it takes a massive amount of time to write a Bible study. We had planned to teach two new studies, but I haven't had adequate time to prepare, so we went to an excellent video study called "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus" by Good Seed Ministry and taught by John Cross. All things are in God's timing, and His ways are perfect. Someone must need to hear the message of "Stranger," so we station ourselves, stand and see what the Lord has planned and praise Him in the process.

God's Faithfulness in the Journey

During the trials of life, we come face to face with our Creator. When life becomes unbearable we have the opportunity to draw closer to Him and become intimately acquainted with His character.

- We have experienced **Jehovah Jireh** - The Lord our Provider when medical bills seemed beyond our reach, and we continued to watch Him provide
- We have praised **Jehovah Rapha** - The Lord that Heals when I was watching my husband slip away from me last year
- We have encountered **Jehovah Shamma** - The Lord is There when we felt we could bear no more, He has assured us we are not in this alone
- We have confronted an evil enemy in cancer and discovered **Jehovah Nissi** - The Lord my Banner who is leading this battle charge because the battle is His
- We have felt lost at times and **Jehovah Raah** - The Lord my Shepherd wraps His loving arms around us and says its OK, I will lead you to quiet pastures
- We have undergone turmoil as we have turned our lives upside down and **Jehovah Shalom** - The Lord is Peace says everything's in My control, just trust
- We have met **Immanuel** - God with Us as He wraps us securely in His loving arms
- We know **Yahweh** - I AM whatever you need, I AM the One who can meet that need, you are My child and I love you - come into My rest

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Outreach to the Community

We continue with our Sunday Fellowship working through the Bible inductively in chronological order. We are just completing the life of David (II Samuel, I Chronicles, and the Psalms) and transferring the kingdom into Solomon's hands. We have learned much through David's triumphs, troubles, and struggles in his walk with God. Monday night classes brought an end to our Covenant class, and we are now working on "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus." We will then be working on Nehemiah and then Zechariah through the summer. These are the two classes that I have been working on but need a bit more time to complete.

We had a wonderful time of fellowship with our Passover Seder on April 11th. We had about 20 in attendance. It was a powerful way to head into the resurrection season. If you have never experienced a Messianic Passover Seder, I encourage you to watch what we did on our website. You can find that in "Resources," "Seder," and then watch the video of the Seder.

Kevin, the pastor at the church in Naschitti, NM, is getting closer to putting videos online. We have been working with him on his website. He is mastering the use of Zoom not only for people online with computers, but also for people who call in via the phone. This has enabled him to stop paying for a teleconferencing phone service. He has been working with the editing process and now has the equipment necessary for everything to work together. We pray that the Lord will use this mightily to bring His word to people in both English and Navajo.

God has opened doors through our cancer battle to minister to people at Oasis (both staff and patients). We have been able to help staff with projects to help other patients, and we have had the opportunity to become involved with many people. We stay in touch via text, emails, and phone calls. We have been able to share recipes, encourage the discouraged, let people know that they are being remembered and prayed for, and share what we have learned that may be of help to them. We are going to extend that ministry by starting a cancer support group at the PTC on the last Tuesday of every month. We will do some teaching on nutrition with a cooking class, share knowledge of natural ways to help support the body, share stories, encourage and strengthen families, and most importantly share the hope, joy, and peace they can have to help them in their time of need through experiencing a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

On A Personal Note

Jimmy just informed us that in 8 months, we get to go back on the campaign trail again as he runs for a second term in office for Sheriff. We don't know if he will run unopposed at this time. It would certainly make life a bit easier. It has been fun to watch all the things that Jimmy and Angel have been involved in and how in touch they are with the community.

Jeremy and Sarah continue to have their hands full with their five children plus pets. Both are

looking at different jobs that will help them with the financial burdens of raising a family in this economy. We continue to pray that God would lead and guide them in their life together.

Jason moved in with us in February. He has purchased an older mobile home located about 60 miles from here. We are praying he will be able to get it moved to the property in the near future. The state of New Mexico makes hooking up mobile homes to electricity problematic and fairly priced moving companies are far and few between, so there is a lot of red tape that needs to be waded through. For those who are wondering who Jason is, we have mentioned him through our letters for the last year. He is the newest adopted member of our family. God brought this 27-year old man into our lives through a series of circumstances surrounding Jim's declining health for the last couple of years. He has been a true blessing, helping with projects that Jim can't do or needs help doing, caring for the animals when we make our trips to Mexico, and being a breath of fresh air each and every day. We are truly blessed by having him as part of our family!

God's Answers to Prayer . . .

- God continues to provide for Jim's ongoing treatment. The need seems overwhelming at times but nothing is too difficult for Him!
- Bringing Jason into our lives. He blends in with our family so well and has been such a blessing and encouragement to us.
- For all the friends and family that have continued to keep us in prayer, text and email us, those who have stopped in to visit, and those who have sent cards. We appreciate the prayers and concerns of so many!
- The opportunity to be used of God in this new opportunity of cancer outreach. It would not have been the path we would have chosen, but it is the path that God has placed us on, so now we pray that we would be faithful to reach out to those He has brought and will continue to bring into our lives.

Please Pray For the Following . . .

- Jim's continued battle - his biggest problem is the pain which zaps him of his energy and then he takes pain medication that makes him tired. We pray that the pain is from the cancer being killed off and his body would continue to heal.
- Wisdom for the doctors as we work together to restore health. We know the Great Physician has plans, and we all want to be on the same page as Him!
- Our return trip to Mexico in June (5 weeks away).
- Jimmy and Angel and Jeremy and Sarah and their families
- Jason, as he works on the details to move his mobile home and get it set up on our land.
- Kevin as he brings forth God's Word in English and Navajo and records his messages, so they can be utilized by others.

