

Maiorano Minutes



3rd Quarter 2008

Lord, I Need Help!

Did you ever have one of those days (months or even years) when everything you touched seemed to turn out wrong? The thought occurs to you that perhaps it would have been better to just stay in bed. Sometimes you just want to throw your hands up in the air and surrender. That's a really good time for God to get a hold of you.

There has been a series of challenges in our lives over the last year or so that have brought Jim and I to that point. We pray that we would be sensitive to what God is trying to do in our lives. If God is trying to teach us something, then we want to learn it and apply it. If He wants to show us something, then we need to take the time to look. If He wants to change something in our lives, then we need to be flexible enough to allow Him to mold us. If He wants to discipline us, then we need to be humble enough to accept that. Sometimes, in the pressures of life, it is hard to keep that focus.

Our little "get-a-ways" seemed to all fall through on us this year. We shared the "chilling" experience we had in June. We tried to go to Ouray, Colorado, for a weekend in September. The weather report looked real good . . . right up until the time we left. We took a chance, because where we live when they predict a 30% chance of rain that usually means it won't rain. Well, we found out that in Colorado a 30% chance means that it is going to pour! We got a little 4-wheeling in, but not like we had hoped. Over our fall break we planned to take a trip down to the north of Phoenix for a couple of days. That never materialized because of another problem. From these experiences we learned to make the most of every moment to enjoy God's creation. There were days we just left everything behind to go for a leisurely walk or drive to Colorado to see the changing leaves. Most importantly we have a new sense of appreciation for each other as we can laugh and encourage each other even in the "not the best of circumstances" moments.

Jim has had an entry on his "to do" list of coat the driveway for a couple of years now. This year he bought the coating in the middle of June so the driveway could be done before the monsoons came. This coating needed 48 hours to cure. The monsoons never did come (which is another problem for us as we try to water an orchard and our gardens), but rain had a habit of popping up when it was least expected. Jim checked weather reports every day – 30%, 40% chance of rain – needless to say he didn't do the driveway, and there was not a drop of rain. Finally, they said there would be a couple of days of 0% chance of rain. He was out in the morning blowing the dirt off the driveway. He thought he could have it done in one long day. He wasn't making much progress so I went out to help.

I blew off the dirt, while he rolled the coating on the driveway with a roller. As we were both working, a really ugly cloud floated overhead and began to rain on us. We looked at each other and laughed (what else could we do?) and ended our day of painting. Four cans of sealant were applied, only 20 more to go. For the rest of the summer and into the fall, he played dodge ball with the rain. He finally applied the last can on October 8th. We learned that here in New Mexico 30% and 40% chance of rain means no rain. 0% and 50% or above means we may have a chance. We also learned to let God guide our days and not the weather forecasters.

Right before fall break, I sat down in a chair (a new chair that the students had only been sitting in for 30 days) to play a card game with one of the students. I sat in the chair and couldn't believe how hard it was. I looked at it, and the padding was gone! We looked at all the "new" chairs we had bought over the summer. The padding had deteriorated in all of the chairs, even in chairs where the students only weighed 50-70 pounds. Over our fall break we loaded all the chairs in the van and took them to Sam's Club in Albuquerque. They took them back, gave us our money, and we spent the rest of the day going from store to store looking for chairs that would be comfortable, supportive, and durable. We went to office suppliers, furniture places, and anyplace else that looked like it might have chairs. What we found out was that most chairs were designed for you to sit in them less than an hour or two a day. We came back from Albuquerque very tired, discouraged, and chairless. The next couple of days Jim spent on the internet and phone before finally coming up with some chairs that were guaranteed for 250 pounds and under for 8 hours a day. These phone calls caused us to miss out on the trip we wanted to take over the break. It also meant that when classes started on Monday we had nothing but 13 folding chairs for the students to sit in. They had to take their "buddy" everywhere they went in the building. We now have 25 good chairs that we ordered.

The Feldkamps came two weeks before our break. The wildlife put on a real show for them. They enjoyed watching the deer, coyotes, and bobcats out their window. One day over break they were able to enjoy watching the deer from our house. I looked out my living room window, and three deer were standing in our raised beds. That's right. They were in the raised beds not next to them. They were enjoying a dinner feast of strawberries and carrots. Fortunately, the strawberries were done for the year. We just needed to cut off the plants and feed them to the goats and cover the beds with straw. The carrots we normally left in until November. The cold units

make them sweeter. We chased the deer out, and they came right back. Once they had eaten all the carrot greens they began eating down the carrots. We had an economy and gardening lesson on Monday with the students. We showed them the damage that deer can do, talked about ways to protect your food supply, and then put some of them to work throughout the day helping Mr. Jim dig up the carrots and get them in storage for the winter. Immediately after the students left for the day Sam, Storme, and I went out to help with the carrot-pulling job. We finished with the last carrots just as it was getting dark and right before I needed to be out to teach Monday night Bible study. But we got about 267 lbs. of carrots now stored up for our winter and spring consumption.

We had several weeks of trying to discover where a funny smell was coming from in the training center. We went from room to room, place to place to try to track down the smell. After a week or so, Jim determined it was a sewer smell coming into the building. He spent the next couple of days trying ways to make it go away but to no avail. Then he took out the wall of the girl's bathroom and found a seal that had deteriorated. He fixed that, and the building now smells much better. Something still isn't right, but Jim can work on talking to some people to try to solve the problem. In the meantime, we are back to normal inside.

The last major issue has been a problem that I have been dealing with called Leishmania. This is a parasite (I have 2 different Mexican strains) that is usually transmitted by mosquito or sand fly. It may also travel on fruit or vegetables coming out of Mexico. It started last December when we were down in Tucson. It looked like poison ivy when it started. It has spread to the backs of both of my hands, my forearms, and is now traveling to my upper arms. It is an extremely difficult thing to get under control. If we cannot conquer this with one last thing, we will probably travel to PA to get some help.

Day by day we continue to learn to live being totally dependent on God. Sometimes it is the problems that turn our attention to God. So we praise Him for them, and praise Him that He gives us the grace to get through them. We ask that He gives us patience, a sense of humor, and a sense of His priorities for our life.

A New Educational Year

We are through the 1st quarter of our 2008-2009 educational year. We have three new students this year (all girls) and had two old students who did not return. We have a total of 11. They are Storme (1st), Sam (3rd), Dylan (4th), Rosa (5th – new student), Tia (6th – new student), Monica (9th – new student and Rosa's sister), Ramone (10th), Keith (10th), Mike (11th), Tracey (11th), and Kendall (11th). The new students are having a little bit of difficulty adjusting to our vigorous schedule, but hopefully they will be able to work through the problems.

Unfortunately, we have lost both KC and Summer this year. KC had been with us for five years and Summer for two years. Summer decided

that sports were more important to her, and we are not sure what went on with KC. We will miss both of them.

We just had the pleasure of having the Feldkamps here for the last couple of weeks. Dick was teaching Physics and working with the students in math. Janice helped with individual students and gave them a little special attention. It is always wonderful to have their help, friendship, and fellowship.

We are looking to bring the older students to the east coast to visit the great historical sites there. We are looking for dates between the middle of March to the end of April, all depending on the costs of the airline tickets. The students are looking forward to the trip.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER . . .

1. A good start for the new educational year. We are encouraged to see the students growing in the ability to think and process information.
2. We have been thrilled to see some great improvement with Sam. He would have been labeled ADD, ADHD, and any other label people like to put on children today. With some cooperation from his mother, we are keeping him off sugar, and we began some drops that are designed to clean toxins out of his brain. After 3-4 days of these drops he was able to focus his attention, tune into what you are saying, remembering directions, etc. We praise God for this change in his life!
3. We began a study on I Thessalonians in September. We are very disappointed in the low numbers, but it is a wonderful study that we are all being blessed by.
4. We are always blessed by the time we have to spend with the Feldkamps. We are thankful for their serving heart and encouraging words.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS . . .

1. Wisdom as we make plans for a trip with the students to the PA area.
2. Wisdom as we deal with the Leishmania that has bothered me over the last year.
3. Wisdom to deal with the students. Trying to prepare the secondary students for college and working with the new students trying to help them fit in is certainly a strain.
4. Patience to deal with the problems and disturbances as they arise. We continue to pray that we are open to all that the Lord may be showing and teaching us.

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