

the MAIORANO minutes

that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty - Joshua 4:24



An Empty Tomb

*An empty tomb stands there today
Where once my crucified Savior lay
His body beaten, broken, and bruised
A gift freely given but often refused
Jesus died to pay a debt I owed
His life for mine was the gift bestowed
He took my sin upon the tree
He paid the price of my sin for me
But death couldn't keep Him in the tomb
On the third day He walked out of the gloom
Now I fall on my knees before Him and say
"I am nothing, O Lord, and I've lost my way
I accept what You've done on my behalf
Lead me and guide me with Your rod and staff
And one day soon I will stand by Your throne
I will be with my Father and never alone"
But until that time I will look back and see
That an empty tomb still stands there for me.*



After the trial was over the lawyers told Jimmy and Angel to go get their kids back, but no one knows how to do that. One person says they have legal rights to them, and the next says they don't. Right now they are living with Jill (against Judge's orders) and her new husband in a dangerous and abusive home. It could cost Jimmy tens of thousands of dollars to fight to get those kids back with no guarantee that he will win. The judge could side with the unfit, emotional mother, or he could place them with Jimmy, only to have Jill do this all over again in a year or two. This whole episode cost her nothing. She knows how to work the system. No scenario is good! This has to be a "God thing" again. Jimmy and Angel are looking to God for guidance and all we can do is uphold them in prayer. We have to trust the Shepherd in the midst of the storms. We know that God is in control, even though we don't understand what is happening!

✘ Shepherding ✘

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." We learn so many things by watching the goats. They look to us, depend on us, and trust us no matter what. That should be our attitude towards the Lord, no matter what storms are swirling around us. We have had some doozies of storms this year, yet the goats wait patiently on Jim to come and feed them. They have no worries, no concerns.

We have had to put that it to practice over the last seven months. Many of you know the issues that we have been facing with Sam and Storme. Many have been praying with us over the concerns. As I share, I am sure many of you will become indignant (I know we have), will rant at the injustice (I know we have), will cry foul! (I know we have.) But like the goats, we need to follow the leading of the Shepherd and know that He is leading, guiding, and protecting all concerned in this situation.

Marc's trial has come and gone. He was found innocent by the jury of what he was being accused. So many times through the trial we saw "God things" happening. The jury saw through all the lies and deceit and came to the conclusion of what happened one night back in May with uncanny accuracy without ever being given all the facts. The prosecution's witnesses self-destructed on the stand, each putting a nail in the prosecution's coffin. Those witnesses included Jill (Sam's mother) and Sam himself. It became abundantly clear that Sam was coached through this whole thing.

Our opinion has continued to be through this whole mess, that Jill was trying to manipulate the legal system to get Sam and Storme back. It has worked so far, because we have not seen them since August.



Kidding Season - Part 1

We had the first series of kids for the season. On February 28th, our goat Uno had one beautiful doe that we named Luna. She was born at 10:30 PM with a big beautiful full moon in the sky. She is jet black with a big round white patch just like the moon on her head.

Next it was Holly's turn. Holly is four years old and we have had her since she was a kid. Holly decided that she was going to start labor during classroom hours so two of our students, Monica and Rosa, had the chance to stay and watch and help. They had done research on the birth process and were ready to jump in. Holly had a little male at 4 PM that Monica named Pinocchio (white), then she had a little girl at 5 PM that Rosa named Jasmine (brown). Monica and Rosa both got to help with the kids after the birth. At 12:30 AM Holly delivered a stillborn, so Jim and I didn't get much sleep that night.

Our next kids are due in May. Raven and Gabby are both scheduled to deliver and maybe one or both will give the girls a second opportunity to play midwives.



Precept Classes

We have been thrilled with the turn out to our evening classes. We are studying Daniel on Monday nights. We average about 20 in the class each night. There are about 27 people attending all together. On Tuesday nights, we are offering Marriage Without Regrets. We have about 12-15 coming to that study. This has been a real encouragement to us. We are seeing several of our old students returning as well as many that are new to the studies. We even have two of the students that are part of the educational ministry coming to both evening classes. What a privilege it is to share the Word of God with those that are eager to hear.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Several of the students that are attending the evening classes have asked us when we would be having Sunday Morning Fellowship again. We have decided that we would begin our Sunday Fellowship again on April 11, 2010. We will open the doors to all who want to fellowship together while studying the Word of God. We look forward to seeing who God brings to this time.





Storm Stories

What a year this has been. No matter who you talk to they have a story about how hard this winter has been on them. Well, we are no different. We were just about to put a page on our website to show you all from the East coast what four feet of snow looked like. By the time we were ready to launch that, you knew first hand.

We were hit hard by three storms that came one right after another in less than a week's period of time. The first storm dumped about a foot. The next another foot. The third was the big one - two feet. It started with rain and slush and that was the straw that broke the camel's back or to be more exact the trusses that held our roof up. Around 11 PM we heard a large bang and assumed that it was snow falling off the roof. We looked out the window and saw nothing. Then another bang and then another. Looking up we saw our roof was caving in. Jim immediately went up and began



shoveling snow and slush off the roof. It snowed for two days. For two days, Jim had to go up every couple of hours and shovel off the roof, day and night. When we could get out to town, Jim bought some 2x4's to prop up the ceiling in the house.

Our prayer is that the 2x4's will hold until the end of May. Once the educational year is over, we will move everything out of the house and into the training center and then we will have to rip off the roof and replace it. I guess you know one of the things we will be doing this summer.

While I was out making sure that Jim didn't fall off or through the roof that night I was looking around and realized that the hoop house that was just put up in November had collapsed as well. We will have to wait to see if and when the NM agricultural department will choose to rebuild it.

The next day as Jim was up on the roof shoveling, and I was waiting to hold the ladder, I looked up and noticed that the carport roof was sagging because the main beam was cracked. We propped that up with a 2x4 until the snow melted off the roof. So that will need to be repaired this summer as well.

Our last adventure was when Jim checked the water tanks in the well house and noticed that the water was really low. He kept check on it and discovered that we have a leak somewhere between the well house and our house. We will have to wait until everything dries out and then try to find the leak and fix it. One more summer project to add to the list.



Educational Ministry

It is hard to believe that at the time of this writing, we only have 28 days left of this educational year. Just seven short weeks. We have had a good year. I feel like I have gotten to know the students on a more personal level through weekly writing assignments detailing their hopes, goals, dreams, and plans for the future. As a result I am more in tune with their lives.

We are busily preparing for graduation. Kendall and Tracey are working on speeches, Jim and I are working on securing a place to hold the graduation, and we are trying to get all the details down because it will be here before we know it.

The Feldkamps are coming out for the last two weeks of April. Dick will be teaching Physics in the afternoons and helping some of the students with their math in the morning. I have a whole list of stuff for Janice to do. We have missed their help and the fellowship we share, and the students have asked about them all year. We will all be glad to see them.

I just returned from a four day trip with the high school students. We went to Tucson for the week to explore the things of God's world. We went to the Biosphere II and to Peppersauce Cave and explored those one day. On another day we hiked up a mountain 5.6 miles round trip with a 1,000 foot elevation gain to get to a place called Ramero's Pools in Catalina State Park. I don't remember hiking too many places as beautiful as what we saw there. The wild flowers were blooming, the water was running, and the desert was alive. It was incredible!



GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER . . .

1. The trial is behind us. Jimmy and Angel are still standing strong in the Lord which is a real blessing to see. We have had wonderful times of fellowship with them both, and they are being a real blessing to the people around them.
2. The education year is coming to a close. We are thankful for a good year and seeing growth in many of the students.
3. We are thankful for all the students that are participating in the Precept classes. What a joy to see people hungrily seeking after God's Word and looking for answers to life's problems.
4. We are thankful for the health that we have been able to maintain throughout a year that has been plagued with sickness.
5. We are thankful that we have made it through a dreadful winter of cold and snow. Although we sustained quite a bit of damage, we are thankful for a roof over our head and water to our house.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS . . .

1. For Jimmy and Angel and how to deal with the situation with Sam and Storme. We pray for someone who has the answer to help them.
2. Storm damage repair. The roof of our house needs to be replaced, a carport roof needs to be fixed, the leak in the water system needs to be found and fixed, and at some point in time the hoop house is scheduled to be rebuilt.
3. Jim has some dental issues that we are dealing with. We have been doing all we can using natural ways to help save the tooth. What we have been doing seems to be helping according to the dentist, but he still thinks it needs to be pulled. We are praying that God will intervene and heal.
4. The economy has been affecting everyone, including us. The families of our students are feeling it, and it may be an issue for new students next year. We pray for financial wisdom during these hard times.

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