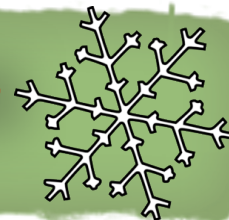




MAIORANO MINUTES

1ST QUARTER 2015



OOPS

Time has gotten away from us. This letter was originally started two months ago. It was supposed to be our Christmas letter. Because of decisions that we have made, some events that have transpired, and the busyness of life, our letter was pushed to the back burner. So I will rework the letter and share what has been happening in our life.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

As we step into a new year, it is time to reflect on what has been accomplished over the last year. We have been studying the book of Romans on Monday evenings, and I have been struck with how that blends into the Christmas season. Many stop to reflect on the gift that was given to us when Jesus came to this world in human form as a baby, but few stop long enough to think about what that gift truly means to us.

Almost anyone who has ever been in or around a church has heard someone quote Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death. . ." Most "church" people understand that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and because of that deserve death. They have heard the message that Jesus died in their place, taking our penalty of sin on Himself. They look from the cradle to the cross. But what about the 30+ years Jesus walked on this earth? The Son of God wrapped in human flesh. He faced ridicule from His own family and neighbors. He was falsely accused by the religious leaders. He was tempted and tried, but yet totally without sin. He lived a righteous life before men. His righteousness was lived out on this earth in sharp contrast to the sinful, selfishness of man. At the time of true salvation something wonderful happens. At the time when we place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ (faith that is proven by the living in obedience to His will), He removes our old garment of sinful flesh,

and He clothes us in His righteousness. I Peter 2:24 says, "*and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*" We needed our sins forgiven, but we also needed a righteousness applied to our lives in order to stand before a holy and righteous God. Praise the Lord that He sent His Son that first Christmas morning to do all of that on our behalf.

SOME TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES

January marks the halfway point in our educational year. That means evaluating what we have accomplished and plan for what still needs to be done in the months ahead. Our two week "break" was quite a busy time. This year has been a little more stressful than most. There were many projects just waiting to be done, but this year we had to deal with a dilemma in the classroom.

We have taken a very strong stand on the issue of boy-girl relationships in the classroom. We have stressed that the students are with us for an education and the classroom is not to be used as a dating service. The students had been warned that this kind of relationship will cause a break down in classroom dynamics and cause tension among the students. Unfortunately, this year we had two students who chose to ignore these rules regardless of the consequences they knew would come. After some emotional meetings with students and parents, we expelled two of our oldest students - graduating seniors. We had to implement a suspension for one other student who was covering up for one of the guilty parties. That was an emotionally trying and mentally exhausting two weeks. Because this involved inappropriate conduct in the classroom, we now have eyes everywhere in the building and outside, thanks to an eight-camera surveillance system that has been installed for us.

**Jim and Linda Maiorano * PO Box 5415 * Window Rock AZ 86515
505-409-8312 * ptc2522@gmail.com * teacheroftruth.net**

SAN DIEGO TRIP

I believe that we had mentioned that this year in our study of zoology and botany, that our plans included a trip to San Diego's Zoo and Sea World. I spent a large part of my summer looking for a house to rent and plan for this trip. We decided to make two trips due to the size of the class because it is difficult to find a house that will fit 20+ people, good chaperones are hard to find, and we would require a second van. One of the lessons we learned last year taking the kids on day trips is that large groups make it difficult to keep the kid's attention. Smaller groups are better. So it was decided we would head to San Diego with the boys for a week and take the girls the next.

We found a house and paid for it. We gave the parents the travel dates - the end of March and first week in April. Plans were set in concrete; we were all set. At Christmas time we received a letter in the mail from San Diego. The house we rented had been sold and here's your money back. So we scrambled to find a new place. The Lord opened the door to a place right on the Pacific Ocean beach. The kids could walk out the front door onto the beach. Only one small problem. We had to make the trip the first two weeks in February. So a mad dash was on; we had a month to prepare for the trip.

As I write this letter now, we are on the way home with the second group of students. Both groups left on a Monday morning. 12 hours in the van to San Diego. A day at San Diego Zoo. A day at Sea World. A day at Birch Aquarium, tidal pools, and playing in the ocean. On Friday another 12 very quiet hours in the van back to the PTC. Jim and I had Saturday and Sunday to regroup and leave with the next group on Monday morning again.

Here we are 3,000 miles later. We had a great time. The kids had a lot of fun, although they were certainly tired at the end of the trip. Jim and I did great as far as getting the right amount of sleep and felt really good through the traveling and keeping ahead of the kids. We were very thankful for Diane and Marc, a nearby couple we have come to know over the last year, who were willing to come take care of the dogs, chickens, and Louie, our bearded dragon. They also kept an eye on our pellet stoves. They made it possible for us to go and not have to worry about things on the home front.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. God showed us some problems with our transmission before leaving for San Diego. The mechanic thought he fixed it, but he didn't. Jim needed to coax it up over the big hills by manually down shifting. The mechanic came in on Saturday between trips to work on it again. This time it worked. The van ran beautifully on the last trip.
2. Jim and I continue to see improvements in our health. Some of that has been in guarding our sleep and being able to just say, we have done enough for today and quit. Hence the reason for the late letter. We have made our health, our sleep, our relationship with God and with other people a priority.
3. We have our new water system in and running. Jim also replaced our water heater that had been leaking. These were some major projects on his to-do list. There is still plenty for him to do, so please don't be concerned that he will now be bored!
4. God provided safety and health as we traveled with 16 of our 18 students to San Diego over a two week period of time. He gave us beautiful weather

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .

1. To continue to protect our time and our health as we minister to the people God has placed into our lives.
2. The students as they continue to adjust to the new classroom dynamics, losing the two leaders.
3. At this time of year we have parents and students coming to talk to us about attending the PTC. We have one young man that we are currently working with. As we interview these potential students, we need wisdom to know whether they will be a student that will thrive in our style of education, and if they will fit in with the current student population.
4. For the teaching that we had during our time in San Diego. We watched a series called "Teens in Crisis." The focus of this series is pain and how to deal with it without looking to suicide as a way out. When we had our Sunday Study between the two trips, we heard that a teen in Window Rock High School had just taken their life. We pray that the students would take to heart what we studied, and be able to use what they learned to help others who are hurting. Statistics are staggering and the amount of suicides and suicide attempts are increasing exponentially. They are even worse here on the Rez. In fact, there has been one suicide at the Window Rock High School and another attempt in the last two weeks. We pray that our teens will be able to reach out to their hurting friends and give them words of life.