



Maiorano Minutes

4th Quarter 2023



The Light of Men

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. . . . There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. . . . But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:1, 4-5, 9-10, 12, 14 (NASB) . . . “And they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” - Matthew 1:23

Jesus, God with us, came as a baby in order to be made like His brethren, emptying Himself of all that was His in order to be humbled, even to the point of suffering an agonizing death on the cross to become the propitiation (payment) for sin that condemned us to death. Because of His great love for us, He willingly gave His life to pay for that sin debt that we had no means to pay, so that we could have life in His name. Let's remember why Jesus came to this earth as a baby! People love the holiday season with all the trimmings, but sometimes the purpose for His coming - the cross - gets lost. We should be excited that Jesus came, but let us never lose sight of why He came!

God has placed us here on this earth for a given time to accomplish His purpose of sharing that Light. Everyday is an opportunity to share the miracle of Christ's sacrifice for us. Let us be diligent in our service to Him.

As I write this letter, I can look outside and be reminded of the changing of the seasons once again. Thick frost, single digit temperatures, and residual snow dustings are all a reminder that winter is coming. That means putting the gardens to rest and preparing animal shelters to

accommodate the cold. As outdoor projects wind down, it will be time to focus on all the indoor projects that have been put on hold.

Ministry

We mentioned in the last letter that we were going to study a book called “What on Earth Is God Doing?” It was a fascinating study, and you can access the class on our website. Right now there is a link on the home page that will take you directly to that great teaching.

We have just completed the Revelation - Part 1 study. It focused on the first couple of chapters of Revelation - the message to the churches. We will begin Part 2 in January. We continue to inductively study the Bible in chronological order on Sunday mornings. We completed a fascinating study on Ruth and the kinsman redeemer. If you are unfamiliar with the idea of a kinsman redeemer and how and why Jesus fulfilled that ministry for us, you will want to take a look at those lessons. You can access it through our website, hovering over the classes tab and choosing Sunday Fellowship and look for the Kinsman Redeemer and the Blood Avenger lessons on November 5-19.

God opened the door to a new group of people in October. We have begun working with inmates at the adult detention center in Gallup. I am helping inmates with the GED's, ASVAB (for military service), and some simply need to learn how to read, so they can function in life. Jim is making contacts and gathering information to help inmates as they leave, so they can plug into continued GED classes or connect with resources that can help them on a road to become useful members of society and make wise choices. Our goal is to share the gospel with them through our love, lives, words, and concern because we know that unless God changes the heart, they will not change. Ideas and plans are taking shape as to how we can not only teach the basics of education, but also give them the opportunity to hear God's Word. We are looking forward to seeing where God is leading in this endeavor.

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Family News

Jimmy is approaching the one year mark as Sheriff. He has been able to look back and see the many improvements that have been accomplished in that year. But looking forward, there is still so much to do and the task seems daunting. He and his staff have been making contact with the community, their presence being seen and known. They are working closely with schools, attending community meetings, reaching into the community with special programs, and becoming a Facebook presence in this world of digital technology.

Jeremy continues to raise his young family, looking for many opportunities to provide for them while striving to be present in their lives. It has always been his desire for his children not to be brought up in day care, so he works jobs that give him flexibility to be home and caring for his children when Sarah is at work. It is a difficult thing to do in the economic condition of the world.

The new grand baby, Shane, is growing like a weed. He is smiling and laughing, exploring the world around him, and becoming his own person with his own personality. They are so cute at this age. We have been traveling out to Albuquerque about once a month to visit with the family and see Shane as he is growing up. It is a 2 1/2-hour trip which wouldn't be bad if we were not traveling on I-40. It is a treacherous stretch of road with fatalities almost daily.

I was a little sad this month of November. For the last several years, I spent time with my sister in May and November. Last November, when we were together, she slept about 20 hours a day, ate very little, and I knew in my heart that it was probably the last time we would have this precious time together. By Thanksgiving, it became obvious to her children that she was getting worse. By January she was in the hospital, and in February, I flew to down to be with her when she passed. I have many fond memories of our times together, and I know that she is at peace, resting in the arms of Jesus. What blessed assurance we can have when we have entered into a covenant relationship with Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior!

God's Answers to Prayer

- Jim and I are doing a little better in the area of health. We both have a bit more energy and are able to do some of the things that we used to do. Some health issues have gone on for years and we are beginning to understand and treat them. Other parts of the problem reach back to

our first bout with Covid in 2020, and then we got it again in November of 2022 which left us weak, tired, and unable to function as we previously had. We are just now seeing that change for the better - praise the Lord!

- What a blessing it has been to study the Word of God and have the privilege to share that with others. The classes on "What on Earth Is God Doing" were wonderful. There were many who walked away from the class exclaiming how much they understand things now, things that never made sense before, including the problems going on in Israel right now.
- We are excited to see what God has in store for us in this new ministry opportunity with the inmates.
- The relationship we can have with family and friends and the encouragement that they bring us.

Please Pray For the Following . . .

- For Jim and I to continue progressing in the areas of health, energy, and stamina.
- For my sister's family and they continue to deal with the loss of their mother/grandmother. I have tried to reach out to them, but they have pretty much closed me off. We continue to pray for them and pray that Bonnie's witness to them may reach into their hearts and cause them to look to the Lord.
- The Revelation class. We have completed the first part of a four-part series. We will continue with part two in January. It is a tremendous study and should be very eye-opening in light of all that is going on in the world today.
- Jimmy and Angel as they continue to serve the Lord in the places that He takes them. They need strength and wisdom to deal with the day to day struggles.
- Jeremy and Sarah as they struggle with raising a family in today's world. They are also seeking to buy a home of their own instead of renting. We continue to pray that they would seek to put the Lord first for themselves and their family.
- For Kevin as he continues to minister to the people in Nashchitti, across the reservation, and other parts of the country. He has a desire to bring truth to his people and there are those (both churches and individuals) who are coming to him for help because they need someone to ground them in God's Word. We are thankful that he is there to stand in the gap and bring truth to their lives.