

MAIORANO MINUTES

2ND QUARTER 2011

Wow! It is hard to believe that June is almost over. These last couple of months have been a blur of activity both good and bad. We will share both sides with you in this update. Now the question is where do I begin.

Birthdays and Celebrations

We have had many celebrations over the last several months. Graduations, birthdays, and anniversaries have all come and gone. I will tell you about the graduations later, but let me announce that I have now hit the 50 mark. Jim has just turned 52. It is now official - we are old, and there are days that we feel our age! Jim and I just hit our 31st anniversary. Jimmy turned 29 in January, and Jeremy just turned 27. Yes, we are old!

We completed the eleventh year of the educational ministry on May 19th. Upon traveling to the Window Rock museum for graduation preparation, Jim took pictures of the students loading up in the van in the snow. We got about an inch of snow that day! We held the graduation ceremony for our three graduating seniors on May 20th. We are guessing that we had about 200 in attendance. We feel the night was a real testimony to what God has done in the lives of the students. If any of you would like a copy of the DVD of the graduation, let us know. It is not something that we can post on the website because of its length.

We were blessed to have Dick and Janice Feldkamp with us for the last two weeks of class. Not only were they able to do all the wonderful things they normally do, helping in math, teaching science, marking papers, helping with tests, but they were a HUGE help when we had an emergency that we

needed to attend to two mornings. More on that later. We left the Kamps in charge while the seniors led various activities in the class. I am going to miss my seniors! Keith, Ramone, and Monica have been my right hand in the classroom.

Graduation night was a treat for us. We had many of our former students and graduates attending. It was great to see them. After graduation night, we started with graduation parties. Again, it was wonderful to have the Kamps there to celebrate with the students that they have worked with for years.

Ramone is now on his way to the Marines. Monica is on her way to college for elementary education. Keith is working to save money to go to welding school. We were also invited to Summer's graduation. If you have followed our ministry over the years, you may remember that I went to CA to learn how to help students who were having difficulty reading. I had three students that really needed help: Mike, KC, and Summer. They were in 8th grade reading at 2nd grade level. After helping all of them to read at grade level, they all moved on to various schools for various reasons. Mike graduated last year and is working on a college degree in aeronautical engineering, KC graduated this year, and he is heading to college for ecological biology, and Summer graduated this year and is heading to college for sports medicine. Not bad for students who the "school system" gave up on. Praise the Lord for what these young people have accomplished!



Danielle, who was one of our first graduates, celebrated two milestones this year. She was married in March, and she graduated from college with her degree in elementary education.

Critters and Such

This is where our bad times began. We shared about the birth of Bandit to our goat doe, Luna. It was a difficult birth because he came all four feet together. I love kidding season, until there are problems! Bandit is doing well and growing like a weed. The day after graduation, Raven went into Labor. We called Mariah (Jimmy and Angel's oldest girl), to come up. Mariah had done all the research to help in delivery. Mariah arrived, and on cue Raven gave birth to a ten pound girl. About 15 minutes later, had a ten and a half pound boy. Riah helped with the kids, making sure nose and mouths were clear, taking care of the cord, and weighing them. She named the kids Roxy and Twitch. That night Holly went into labor. The kid was coming head first. This was not good. The kid couldn't be delivered, I couldn't get my hand in far enough to grab legs, and even with Jim and I exhausting ourselves with pulling, the kid wouldn't budge. We had to put Holly down and we lost the kid and any others she may have had because we were not prepared to try to save any other kids. We had Holly for six years, and it was really hard for both of us.



Losing Holly and Gabby a year ago to the bear, left us a few goats short. Our goal was four does so we can milk two every year and allow the other two to rest, and two bucks. So we bought

another couple of goats to add to our herd - Diamond and Gidget. Hopefully they will be a good addition for us.



We shared our joy of Girl and Zem coming to us. This is where our emergency comes in. One morning we let the goats out to graze and the dogs out to watch them. Girl and Zem would take a lap around the property to make sure there was nothing lurking that could hurt the goats. One morning before class, Girl and Zem didn't come home. We called and called. Jim went looking for them. We finally saw them coming from the back canyon and Girl was limping and bloody. I could see bone sticking out of her leg. We had to make a decision - take her to the vet, or put her down. We couldn't put her down; she is too valuable

to us. So the Kamps took over the class, and we took Girl to the vet. They took x-rays and told us that she had been shot. We couldn't believe it. Jim walked the boundaries and couldn't find any evidence that the dogs left our property. Did they, or did someone shot them on our property? We will never know unless Girl learns to talk and can tell us. Surgery followed. They removed about two inches of bone and several bullet fragments and stitched her back up. She may have a limp, but we will have to see. If you look at your hand, it would be like the doctor removing the bone in your hand that supports your pointer finger. The hope is that the remainder of the bones will fuse to the bones of the middle finger, giving her some more stability in her foot. This awful event has now confined Girl and Zem to the pen until Jim has time and money to work with someone to go inch by inch over our fence line and secure and add fence so that we KNOW there is no way the dogs can get out. That will be no small project because we have about 40 acres fenced in.

Looking for the good in every situation that comes into our lives, there are some bright spots to this story. The confinement has forced the dogs to spend much time with us. If you read anything about Anatolian Shepherds, you read that you basically can't teach them anything because they are independent and not people dogs. They are members of the herd, not the family. I spent hours trying to get Zem to tolerate my walking within five feet of him without him bolting like I was going to kill him. Now they both come on command (most of the time), will sit, lay down, belly up, will give us paws, let us touch them anywhere, and will open their mouth for me to put in medicine or anything else I want. They crave our attention, and Zem is very upset in the morning if you leave the pen without giving him his belly rub. They are sweet and loving and continue to keep any critters at a distance by their terrifying barking. We praise the Lord for the gift that he gave us with these two dogs!



Ministry of the PTC

Precept class continues as we strive to finish the study of Revelation. We are on the last part, and will continue to work on it through the summer. I had one request to possibly start the study on Hebrews for the fall. We will run that by the rest of the students and see what they think about that.

We continue our study on Sunday morning. We have about 6-8 each week. We are working through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in chronological order. We are now in Exodus and studying the tabernacle and how the tabernacle was a foreshadowing of the tabernacle in heaven, a tabernacle not built with human hands.



We continue to work with our students over the summer. We also have met with parents of new students coming into the ministry for the next year. We are looking at 13 for this upcoming year. We will introduce you to them in our next letter.

This is summer "break." Everyone assumes that means we have a rest. There is no such thing as "rest," although it is nice in theory. There is so much preparation work that goes into being ready for Precept class, Sunday morning, and for the new educational year. One thing that has been a blessing to us is that we have a family who is learning to take care of the goats and the dogs so that we may be able to get away for a couple of days' vacation. That would be a real treat, but we will see what opportunities the Lord puts before us.

Gardens

The gardens have occupied our time since we wrapped up the year. Much to our amazement, we have more planted than we ever had, and we are further ahead than we have ever been in years past. I have a perennial herb garden started, and perennial flowers and some easy reseeding flowers in my lilac beds in hopes to make our bees happy so they stick around.

We have been blessed to be able to eat out of the garden, and provide healthy, clean food for not only us but for Jimmy's family as well. The rest of the summer will be spent keeping up the gardens (weeding, harvesting, etc), mowing (or should I say cutting down the weeds), spraying and debugging plants, and spraying vinegar on the weeds to kill them and get some pesky weeds under control.

Father's Passing

I have had some bad news about my father. About a month ago, he was admitted into the hospital, and they ran some tests. They found that cancer was taking over his body: lungs, liver, and brain. He just turned 80 in March. He and my mom decided that they were not going to do anything besides keep him comfortable. He said that he is ready to go home, because he knew where he was going.

He passed away on June 25th and services were held on June 30. I was able to fly back to PA to be a support for my mother. Please pray for my mom that God would give her comfort and strength through this time. Since my dad's stroke years ago, much of my mom's time has been devoted to caring for him.

Health Issues

Jim has been having problems with his back and pain and numbness running down his leg. The chiropractor didn't seem to help, massage didn't seem to help, and then he went the acupuncture route. This was a three-hour drive which was agonizing for him. The acupuncturist showed me some things that I can do to help him. He seems to be getting relief from this. As I write today, we have ridden out to Albuquerque and home, a five-hour drive, and he has driven all the way and has done relatively good.

We have asked you to pray about Jim's abscess that he has been dealing with for over a year. We went to the dentist on June 2nd, another painful 12-hour trip, and the dentist said that the abscess although still there, is healing from the inside out. We praise the Lord for that!

I am hanging in there health-wise. There are days that I feel my age, old, but I guess that can be expected when I am bent in funny positions when gardening.

God's Answers to Prayer

1. We had a very nice graduation and a good ending to the year and for all the help the Feldkamps were to us during that time.
2. A full classroom for next year, and we may even consider a couple of other students.
3. God may have prepared the way for us to have our well taken care of. We investigated the cost and prayed that if this is what we were to do, that He would provide the funds necessary. The story is amazing, but we will wait until next letter to share that with you as well as informing you as to where we are in the process.
4. We are thankful for all that we have planted and done in the garden and the grounds, and we now pray that God will bless us with an abundant harvest.
5. We still struggle with the lack of time and abundance of work, but we have made progress. We are getting much better at stopping projects, even when they are not complete, and calling it a day. That doesn't come easy to either Jim or me!

Please Pray for the Following

1. My mother as well as the rest of the family as we go through the grieving process for my dad.
2. Preparations that need to take place over the summer for the upcoming educational year. There is much cleaning, preparing, printing, organizing, and working with students over the summer. By the time most of you read this letter, There will only be four weeks until we start classes again. Our first day is August 8th.
3. We have been in the midst of a terrible fire season. We have not had rain for over a month, 9% humidity, and winds that have blown from 20-40 mph. These all contribute to the major fires that are burning out of control in our area. We are very fortunate that we have only had a couple of days of smoke.
4. Please pray for the students that attend our evening Bible study classes and Sunday morning study. We have been pleased to see the commitment with many of these people, and we pray that it continues.



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I am working on putting this year's videos on the website. Check out the website in July, and see if there are videos that you can watch to see the events of this past year.