



MAIORANO MINUTES

3RD QUARTER 2014



CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Fall is definitely in the air as the nights get cooler and the days have a crispness about them. The leaves in the garden are changing from green to brown, and the flowers are beginning to fade. To me it is a time to reflect upon the miracle of God's orderliness in the universe and a reminder that seasons come and go in our own lives. Just as the seasons change every year, our lives also change. Some changes are good, some not so much. Sometimes change is just change and needs to be adjusted to.

As we began to plan this educational year, plans evolved and changed with the circumstances. We had 20 returning students from last year. The big question was whether we would take any more. We talked to a couple parents and potential students and decided that they would not be a good fit in our classroom. So as of July, we made the decision that we would stick with the 20 students we had. This is only the second time in 15 years that we began the year with students familiar with our program, standards, and expectations.

Planning the activities for the year took on a whole new dimension as well. Jim took on more responsibility with the students last year, so this year he worked on planning the time in the computer labs, geography work, Bible stuff (verses, markings, and outlines), and monitoring students throughout the day. This has been a real blessing for both me and the students. Even though they know that Mr. Jim is constantly watching them, they know that Mr. Jim is watching over them because he cares. One student was crushed because they had done something to break that bond of trust/respect. After tears and hugs all was well once again.

In our last letter, we talked about our trip to Colorado with Mr. Steve and his wife Laura. That was a season of change for us as well. We were on our way to Colorado and received a text that they would not be joining us. Steve had been having some heart issues, and they were going to clear out some clogged arteries. When we got to the very nice, two-bedroom house, we thought it a shame to be there by ourselves when we had enough food for four. We called Jimmy and Angel and asked them if they would like to join us. They did, and we had a very enjoyable weekend with them. We were four-wheeling up on top of a mountain and were stopped by the snow that they had received just a couple of weeks before. But interestingly enough when you are on the top part of a mountain, you get pretty good cell phone service. All our phones rang at the same time with a text message. "They were going to be taking Steve in for quadruple by-pass surgery. Please pray." Since his surgery he has had more problems, including congestive heart failure. Living at our high elevation was not a good thing, and they have just moved back to the low lands of the East. He will be greatly missed by many. The students will miss him. They all looked forward to the day Mr. Steve was coming. Jim and I will miss his wisdom and advice. He touched the lives of many people here, but God has other plans for him.

As I was planning my curriculum for the year, I always try to plan days around Mrs. Kamp's visits. When she comes to teach Fine Arts (the visual arts), I plan time for her to teach everyday and leave time for art projects. This year things have changed. In November it will be three years since Dick went to be with the Lord. Last spring Mrs. Kamp told us that she had met someone special and on October 18, she became Mrs. Janice Williams. She and her new husband, Ray,

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

plan to travel out here after the wedding. She will not be teaching, only visiting on this trip. We will have a chance to meet Ray and spend some time with the two of them, and he will be able to see the ministry and meet the students. Once they get settled in their new life, we will see what Janice can do and when. Please pray for Janice and Ray as they blend their two lives together.

There has been another change in our health situation. I would love to share our health journey with you, but that would take us many pages through many letters, so we try to just hit the high points. Through a long and unusual series of events, God led us to a doctor who was able to set us on the right track. We changed what we ate and the supplements that we took. We started to improve, and I began to lose weight. I dropped 30 pounds and then just stopped. I seemed to be having issues with the thyroid medication, so I stopped that. I still had the rash on my arms that has been plaguing me for seven years. Every time we thought it was getting better, it would break out and be just as bad as it had been. After eight months, the doctor was unsure of what to try next. Jim was trying to order one of the supplements the doctor wanted me to take. Because of where we live, we have major problems with shipping! Many people have told us that we don't exist because they can't find us in their computer system. The company from which Jim was going to order did not specify how they would ship. One more thing that he had to put on his already full schedule - call the company. What a blessing from God. This man is a holistic pharmacist. His comment to Jim was that he wanted his patients to take the best and purest forms of a product at the cheapest price, and he thought he could help us save money. After Jim told him that he was going to go through the cabinets and figure out what needed to be ordered, his parting comment to Jim was, "If you have any questions, I would be glad to talk to you." Jim jumped on that, and we were soon on Skype talking with him at great length. He started us on a new path. Not much changed in what we were eating, just a little tweaking here and there. The big difference was the supplements he put us on and took us off. He wanted us to do that for two months and see how we felt. My rash is, for the most part, gone. It flares up a little depending on what I eat or what toxins my liver and fat are dumping that day. The major difference is that the flare up is gone in days not weeks or months, and I am not bothered by the persistent itching that wouldn't go away. I started to lose weight again (extremely slow, but it is something). The best thing is that both Jim and I feel really good. Jim hasn't

suffered from the allergies and stomach issues that have plagued him for years. We are beginning to gain energy, strength, and stamina which is a good thing considering the schedule we have been keeping for the last couple of weeks.

GOD'S GARDEN GOODNESS

Not only do we need to keep up with the classroom each day, two Bible studies in the evening, but we are coming to the end of harvest time in the garden. Harvest is a wonderful time, but it can be exhausting! We have been harvesting strawberries and raspberries. We were just at Sam's Club and saw raspberries on sale for \$5.28. We looked at the containers and figured that we were picking at least 3-4 of them every day. We have been for a couple of weeks. You do the math. The best thing is that ours are organic, and they taste so much better. We have been taking squash out of the garden and mixing that with my carrots, tomatoes and peppers, adding some ground beef and making a wonderful stew. We have been freezing peppers, but unfortunately, we will not be putting up any tomatoes. I have used them as fast as I ripened them, and we don't have many more coming. We still have onions, carrots, and winter squash in the garden that can and will be harvested after a freeze and we have a little more time. So after a long day in the classroom, we begin our work outside picking in the garden, and then spend the remainder of the night cleaning, freezing, and cooking. There have been more late night marathons than we care to admit, but a freeze is right around the corner and then it will be over. It is a sad day, but is a reprieve from the long days. We are thankful for every day we are given, and every jar that goes into the freezer for the winter. We are thankful for God's garden goodness as we harvest our fruits and vegetables from the desert land.

A HELPING HAND

We have been fortunate to have had a helping hand, several of them, actually, throughout the summer and into the fall. Some of our students came in over the summer to help with picking, watering, and weed control. They were a tremendous help. In fact, we would not have been able to do what we did this summer without them. They have continued to stay one day a week for an extra hour and come in one day over the weekend, and we hope to put them to work over the fall break. Angel has decided to join us for our Monday night Bible studies, so now we have Sam, Storme, and Christan staying on Mondays after class until Bible study time, so they have been helping us as well. My mom also likes to come at this time of year to lend a helping hand. She came for two weeks and helped students in the classroom with math, and then cleaned and prepared a mountain of strawberries, tomatoes and peppers.

NEW BIBLE STUDIES

We just started a new Bible study on the book of Romans. This will be a long, intense study, running through to May. We have about 25 people at the training center plus the class that joins us from Naschitti via Skype. We are also driving out to Naschitti on Thursday nights to teach Covenant. We leave our house at 5:30. It takes about an hour to get there. 20 minutes of the drive is on the last four miles of road. A very bump, washboarded dirt road. We have been getting home around 10:30 give or take a half hour. It makes for a long day, but it has been great working with this precious group of people who are hungry for God's Word.

ANIMAL FARM - PT 2

For years we have enjoyed our critters. I still miss my goats, but time and expense helped make our decision to sell them. This year we are studying Biology I - Zoology and Botany. As part of that study we have critters in the classroom. This year we have expanded out indoor zoo a bit by adding some hands-on critters. So far we have watched caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies and then released them into the garden. We had a triops hatch, grow, and enjoy sea monkeys for lunch. Of course we did ask permission from the sea monkey group before using their classroom project to feed to another classroom project. We had an abundance of sea monkeys which led to more sea monkeys which is still leading to more as I speak. We also have worms, ants, and ladybugs. But the classroom pets that have been the biggest thrill have been the hermit crabs, the chickens, and now our bearded dragon, Louie. He is a baby and not real keen on being handled yet, but hopefully he will stick around the classroom for awhile (they live five to seven years). Now we are having to learn how to breed crickets to feed to Louie, so that will be a classroom project as well. We are still waiting on the tank full of tropical fish. Jim has to build a stand to put the tank on and then we will add them to the classroom.

Now about the chickens. This is a first for us. We always said that we will never have chickens. This year we tried to hatch eggs. After 21 days and 26 eggs, none hatched. Not a great way to start off a project. So we bought day old chicks. When we brought them into the classroom, you can imagine the stir. Three weeks later they are still in the classroom, hopefully to find a home in the new chicken coop Jim built. It was an already existing out building in our dog pen. Jim is still fencing in the run for them and then they can move. The goal is to raise the chickens to about 12-14 weeks and then process them for meat. We want the students to be involved in that project as well although it will be on a Friday and/or Saturday so it is totally optional. We want the students to see how

they can provide their own clean food sources both from the garden and the animals. They will be free ranged chickens that eat what they can find outside and supplemented by scraps that come out of the garden. With this end goal in mind, we told the students that any names given to the chicks need to be reminders of their purpose, so our chickens have names like Nugget, Stew, Teriyaki, KFC, and Dumpling.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. We had a good start to the new educational year. The first week which is usually so laborious went smoothly. We have 20 students that are familiar with us, classroom activities, and each other.
2. We are thankful for the helping hands over the past months. Our students Devin, Naomi, and Josiah have been a steady source of help. Joshua and now Sam, Storme, and Christan have also been a help in the garden. My mom, Lillian Landis, was here to help in many capacities for two weeks. What a blessing that was.
3. Our continued health and healing.
4. We had a great turn out for our summer class, Lord, I'm Torn Between Two Masters.
5. 30-40 people that have been involved in the Bible studies. We praise God to see how many are hungering after His Word.
6. We have had the opportunity to spend some time with Jeremy, our youngest son, over the last several months. We have had dinner with him and his girlfriend Aubri on several occasions, including when my mom was here. We also had an enjoyable evening at an Isotopes (minor league for the Dodgers) baseball game with them.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .

1. The work is piling up and Jim is feeling the pressure of which of the top priorities is the top top priority. We are looking at ways to try to free up some time for him to be able to work at something for more than a couple minutes here and there.
2. The bathroom project didn't get touched over the summer. We are looking at that project for the summer of 2015. As we are building, if the Lord provides, we are looking at adding a 16 by 40-foot addition out the front of the building to add some storage space and relieve the overcrowding in some of our existing storage areas.
3. Jimmy is going through a very difficult time at work. He was appointed as undersheriff by the current sheriff who will not be reelected in November. That puts the office in a state of flux.
4. We are still trying to figure out available technology to continue moving forward with recording classes on DVD as well as tying together more people on a SKYPE broadcast. We have a business team from Apple working with us on this project.



On Colorado mountain answering cell phones

Linda teaches in the church at Naschitti



Mr. Jim teaches the students about the orchard



Holly checking for critters in the carrot patch

The class says goodbye to Mr. Steve



Storme draws pictures of the insects she sees



Naomi and Holly holding the chicks

Our hermit crab "Smoothie"



Mattias shows off his chick.