



Maiorano Minutes

3rd Quarter 2016



Fall Is in the Air

The air is getting cooler and the nights are beginning to dip down below the freezing mark. We have had two mornings already that we have awoken to frost. It is a reminder that the warm days of summer are waning and the days of winter approach. Seasons of change are a reminder of the twists and turns life takes.

We have been reminded in our Bible studies and in our lives how easy it is to become complacent. We tend to find what is comfortable and desire to linger there. Instead, with the study of Revelation, we have been reminded that time is short, and there is a need to press on for the kingdom of God. People need to hear the truth of His Word. People need to know that there are others who care about them. There are those who need a smile, a kind word, a nudge in the right direction, a word of comfort. God has placed us here to be His hands, His feet, His voice to those we rub shoulders with each day. It takes time. It takes energy. It takes patience. Are we ready to be used of Him? Are you?

Heading East

We are in the midst of many different projects right now, with the upcoming trip to the East coast foremost on our mind. We started last week explaining to the students that we needed to pray as talks of government shutdowns loomed on the horizon. That affected just about every place we were planning to visit. As an answer to prayer, we were relieved to hear that the congress voted in enough money to keep us going until December.

We leave New Mexico on October 15th with three of our students. Trey (10th grade), Storme (9th grade), and Noelle (8th grade) will be accompanying Jim and I on this trip. They have worked hard over the last six months to earn money, exercised to keep in shape, keep up with their classroom work, completed reports on all the places they will be visiting, and prepared a presentation to share with all who come to see us. They will be on a history trip as we visit Valley Forge, Ft. McHenry, Washington DC, Gettysburg, Hershey, Washington's Crossing, Philadelphia, and Lancaster

(including a visit to the famous farmer's markets and Sight and Sound for the play "Samson").

While in the area, we will have an open house for anyone interested in coming to see Jim and I, Storme (our granddaughter), and the two additional students - Trey and Noelle. This open house will be held on Saturday, October 22, from 6:30-8:30 PM at Immanuel Leidy's Church located at 273 West Cherry Lane, Souderton, PA in the Youth Room. This is being held in the newly finished church. Please look for signs because there are other activities going on at that time.

There will be a short presentation with pictures of the ministry at 7:30. You are welcomed to come and go as you please. Stay for the whole time and visit or stop in to say hello. There will be light refreshments and a time to visit and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there.

We will be speaking at Immanuel Leidy's Church during the Sunday School time in the Issues & Answers Class in the Fellowship Hall. Jim will also be giving a very brief update of the ministry during the church service. This will be on Sunday, October 23. Sunday School time is 8:45 AM and the service begins 10:00 AM.

We will be returning to New Mexico on October 26th, 12 days later. We have a couple of days to rest up from our trip and then jump back into the classroom again on Monday morning.

The New Look of the Classroom

As we started the 2016-2017 year, we were expecting 16 students. Two of the students that we had for years decided not to return, and we had five new students who wanted to join us which would have given us a total of 16. The first day of class we were missing one of those new students, Ethan. His family was planning on moving into the area from a town three hours from here. Housing wasn't as easy to come by as they had hoped. They would still like him to join us, but they have to find housing first. Right now there are 15. New students are Kadijah (4th), Chaunte (5th), Dawson (6th), and Kyle (9th).

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Note change of address

Returning students are Holly, Erin, and Aijah (7th), Noelle (8th), Kendra, Storme, and Colin (9th), Ethan, Trey, Joshua, Leo (10th). We are waiting to see whether our new student, Ethan (7th), can join us sometime through the year.

We are working with six of our current students looking at the possibility of them attending the Middle College High School with Sam and Joshua in the fall term of 2017. Trey hopes to go into the nursing program and earn his associate's degree. Colin, Ethan, and Storme are looking to enter the program seeking their associate's degrees in various fields. Leo is looking into the Career Technology side of college where he can be certified in a field of his choosing. Noelle will not be able to join them in August but may be looking to enter later on in the year in January of 2018. This will take many of the older students out of the classroom, leaving mostly younger students. It will certainly take some getting used to!

Bible Classes

It took us over a year, but we have finally completed our study on the book of Revelation, and what an awesome study it was! We have now moved to a study of Covenant which will take us through to December. We have kept many of the same students and have had a couple of new people join us.

Our sister church, in Naschitti, NM, continues to tune in with us on Monday evenings for Bible study. They have just moved into a new church building that has been a couple of years in the making. They are excited as they wait to see how God will use this new facility for the church family as well as the community.

Kevin, the pastor, continues to grow in his teaching ministry and has been traveling to many different churches to speak to other congregations. He is prayerfully considering giving up his job in the bank so he can spend more time ministering for the Lord. What a joy it has been to be part of his life and watch the Lord open up this ministry to him. Please keep him in your prayers as the Lord leads. It is not an easy job, and there are so many needs. Sometimes it is really hard to hear God's calling amidst all the clamor of the world!

God's Answers to Prayer

1. Watching the students grow and flourish. We have had the opportunity over the last couple of months to visit with several students from 10 years ago. Watching Sam and Joshua tackling the college courses has been a blessing as well. At the end of this semester, they will be halfway done their associate's degrees.
2. Kevin has been such an answer to prayer. For 25 years we have prayed for someone to be able to take this inductive style of Bible study and use it to help the Navajo people. Kevin has been doing that. His excitement and enthusiasm for studying God's Word and the power it has to transform lives is having an effect on area pastors, elders, and churches.
3. I have had the joy of working with a couple of people over the past months, one in a counseling setting and another in an educational setting. In a counseling setting, it is wonderful to watch the power of God's Word transform a life. In the educational world, I had the opportunity to give a mother and her 14-year old daughter the tools necessary to give that girl wings and let her fly. Her mother is ecstatic as her very intelligent daughter is now excelling in school and wanting to read. Six months ago she wouldn't touch a book and was crippled by her reading inability.

Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. The way I was able to help the 14-year old girl with her reading was by taking the training I received years ago and begin developing computer programs to teach. I can use these in the classroom, but I can also use it to help people long distance. It takes hours (days) to develop a one-hour teaching session. I have many ideas for more, but it takes time! Pray for that time or someone to help me make the programs.
2. Kevin as he continues to teach and preach God's Word.
3. We have a big outdoor project that we are involved in right now. For years we tried to maintain a ball field area where the students could play. Our driveway area is falling apart, and the students play tag, football, and other games - slipping and sliding in the loose stones. We are making an enclosed playground area with a 10-foot high fence around it. It will be a place where the kids can play volleyball, badminton, four-square, tennis (against the wall), basketball, and dodgeball. Not all at the same time mind you. It is an area that is 50x60. Costs may force us to make this a piece at a time, but we are praying that God will provide, so we can construct this safe area for the students to play.
4. Our trip to PA/DC from October 15 to October 26.