

Maiorano Minutes



2nd Quarter 2008

A Great and Mighty God

It doesn't take much effort to look around at our world today and see trouble everywhere. God is trying to get our attention, and everything around us should be screaming, "WAKE UP!" Gas prices are skyrocketing. Food costs are going through the roof. Things are doubling and tripling in price since last year. Floods and other natural disasters are destroying our food supplies. People are dying by the millions from starvation, wars, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. When will it all stop? Maybe there isn't any stopping. Maybe this world is spinning out of control.

It is at times like these that people begin examining the things that are important in their lives. It is a time to question our lives and our priorities. It is a time to realize that man is not in control, but God is. It is a time we look to the God of the universe for our answers instead of looking to ourselves. We live in a world full of people whose hope and joy are wrapped tightly in what this world has to offer them. As our way of life deteriorates more with each passing day, these people begin to lose all hope. Experience tells us that it is when people are the most hopeless that God can do His greatest work.

Many people are scared. Those who know the greatness of our God have an opportunity to share our hope. Instead of complaining let's explain that we know who holds the future; we know who is in control. Psalms 104:24 says, "*O Lord, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all; the earth is full of Thy possessions.*" We encourage you to read this entire Psalm. It shows us that God is in complete control of all things no matter what things may look like in our world! This world is going crazy for a reason. Maybe these things are to warn us to wake up and look to the God of heaven!

Summer Vacation?

Oh, yes, I remember them well. Summer vacations. School was out. You could stay up late and then sleep the day away. There were no deadlines, just fun in the sun. Well, those kinds of summers may have been our past, but they certainly are not our present! Alarms go off at 4:30 AM so we can work outside in the garden and greenhouse before the gnats wake up and decide that we look like a good meal. We have been pleased that we have been able to basically eat out of our garden and need to buy very little in the stores. This has been our goal both for health and financial reasons.

After a couple of hours outside my work moves indoors. I have just gotten the classroom cleaned up from last year, and now it is time to prepare for the upcoming year. Since I write the

curriculum we use, this means quite a bit of work on my part to pull a year's worth of lesson plans together. Jim has a lot of cleaning, organizing, repairs, and general upkeep that needs to be done both inside and outside. By the time we are both about halfway through our "to-do" list, a new year will start, and we will add new things onto our lists that have yet to be completed.

Graduation 2008

We had a wonderful graduation and end of the year ceremony. It was relaxed and very enjoyable for Jim and I. Some of that was due to the extra help we had with the Feldkamps' visit. They were with us for the last three weeks of classes. Dick and Janice both helped with grading papers, working with students, and watching over the class so that Jim and I were free to tie up all the loose ends for the year. The night of the ceremony Dick ran the video camera and Janice manned the digital camera so Jim and I could concentrate on other things that needed to be done.

The other thing that was a big help to us is that we had a couple of students working on the senior memories video and the 2007-2008 video yearbook. These videos would have taken me well over 100 hours, but Mike and Kendall did the majority of the work on these projects and did a fabulous job. If you are interested in seeing the complete graduation program including senior memories and the video yearbook, let us know and we can send you a DVD.

New Classes

We will begin a new educational year on August 11. It looks as though all our previous students will be returning except of course for Branden, who will most likely be in college. That will give us ten in the classroom thus far. Storme would be the youngest in 1st grade at six-years old, and there would be three 11th graders between 16-17 years old. We are willing to take a couple of more students for this upcoming year. There have been several inquiries and meetings so far. We will see what the Lord has in store for us. In the next newsletter, we will give you a complete list of students and possibly a class photo.

We will begin new evening classes in September on the book of I Thessalonians. We thought it was very applicable to our world today. We pray that there will be a good turn out of students for the evening classes. We also pray that the students will stick with the classes. There is always a drop off in attendance after the first couple of weeks.

Family Update

June is always a big month for us when it comes to birthdays and anniversaries. Jim and I celebrated 28 years of marriage on June 14. On the 22nd I turned 47 and on the 25th Jim turned 49. Our youngest son Jeremy turned 24 on June 28th. Jimmy is the only one in our family that has his birthday in the winter. He will be turning 27 on New Years' Day.

Many people have asked if we do anything special to celebrate these occasions. We usually celebrate by working hard in the garden since our birthdays and anniversaries coincide with planting schedules. We did, however, try to go away to Colorado for a couple of days in June. We came home early because there was a cold snap while we were there. The thermometer outside our cabin never went above the 50's and we were heading up the mountains to 4-wheel. Going up 1,000-2,000 feet in elevation drops the temperature about another 10-15 degrees. Then add 30-40 mph winds into the equation and needless to say, WE WERE COLD! The cold snap broke two days after we came home. The nice thing was that we did enjoy our time together and we got to do a lot of reading and talking.

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Check out our website at
<http://teacheroftruth.googlepages.com>
DO NOT USE www. to view this site!



Above – the Feldkamps help in our “Who Killed Charlie” drama. Dick was our forensics expert and Janice took care of the evidence room and missing persons department. The students used their accumulated knowledge to try to solve this mystery!

Branden and his parents celebrate his graduation!



GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER . . .

1. We are grateful for another year that God has given us to impact the lives of our students both during the day and in the evenings.
2. We are thankful that all went well for Branden's graduation and that the Feldkamps were able to be here to share that time with us and with him.
3. We are thankful for the ability to walk out into our garden and pick the things that we need to eat each day. We stand amazed at what God does with the plants and how much we learn from watching and observing them.
4. We are thankful for the time away that we had even though it was very cold. It is nice for us to have some uninterrupted time to think, plan, and talk without distractions of everyday life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS . . .

1. We ask continued prayer for Jimmy and his family. Things are still unsettled for Sam and Storme as well as for Angel's three children. We pray for God's direction and intervention.
2. Pray for us as we plan and prepare for the upcoming year. We strive to make an impact on the lives of our students, both the children and the adults. We pray for God's guidance and His words as we reach out to each one He brings into our paths.
3. For continued health, strength, and wisdom to accomplish all which God wants us to do.
4. For God to raise up the students that He wants to part of the ministry here.
5. That God will continue to bless this ministry as He has for the last ten years.

Students learn to take blood pressure during our circulatory system unit. This picture also shows me at 50 pounds thinner than last year and 100 pounds less than my heaviest weight.



Jimmy Angel, Sam and Storme celebrate Storme's graduation from kindergarten.

