



# Maiorano Minutes

4th Quarter 2015



## Wow! 2016

As 2015 is now in the rearview mirror, and we look forward to the New Year, it is time to reflect on what we have accomplished in the past and goals for the future. As we look at children growing up, people dying, sickness attacking those we love, we realize that life is constantly changing. God has given us the gift of life, and He has given us the responsibility to bring praise and glory to Him through our lives. He has given us the opportunity to show love to those He has brought into our lives and share a hope that can only be realized through a relationship with Jesus Christ. In Him, through His Word, we have answers to life's questions that can bring comfort to those who are dealing with pain and uncertainty. How have we used the time He has given us over this last year? How are we going to use the time (however long that may be) in this New Year?

## New Year Brings Changes

I know that we missed an issue of the Maiorano Monthly again, so this is the first letter we have written in six months. Since the promotion program in May of 2015, we have been very busy rethinking and restructuring what God would have us do with the educational ministry. For years we have watched students graduate and go on to college and do extremely well. One student was paid by the college to tutor other students, another earned quite a bit by tutoring fellow students. Students have won awards, made the Dean's list, were chosen from among their classmates to travel abroad, and told by their professors that it was a shame that they needed to take classes to get credits for information they already knew.

When God brings students to our doorstep, we invest our time and our lives into them. They become like our own children, and we become very protective of them. We want to keep them safe and guide them through their teen years. This year God showed us that we need to let some of them go sooner than we would like.

It is with a heavy heart that we are watching two students who have been with us the longest, leaving us to move to the next step of their education. We are excited for the opportunities that are before them, but they will be greatly missed by all. There is a charter school in Gallup called Middle College High School. It is a high school, but it affords certain students the opportunity to take college courses (receiving college credit) in place of high school classes. They receive high school credits for their college courses enabling them to finish high school and receive their diploma while accumulating college credits toward an associates and bachelor's degrees. Sam (our grandson who has been with us most of his life) and Joshua (who has been with us for six years) have both been accepted, taken placement tests, and begin their college career January 19th. Sam will be carrying 14 college credits (Science, History, English, College Algebra) along with Driver's Ed (which both boys wanted to take) and Study Skills (which is a required class for all new students). Joshua will be in all the same classes except math. He will start by being placed in a high school math class. Once his teacher sees his performance, they will decide if he can be bumped up to the College Algebra as well. After proving that they can handle the college classes, they can begin taking up 21 college credits per semester. The plan is that they will have two years to finish high school and both boys should be able to have their associates degree behind them and possibly a year's work toward a bachelor's.

We have other students that will be following in their footsteps, possibly two more next August. This means that we will have less time with our students to equip them with God's armor and prepare them to step out into the battlefield of the world. They will need God's strength and our prayers to support them through this change.

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We have lost one student this year. She decided that this was not the place that she wanted to be for her high school years. The work load for the high school students is pretty intense, and some students aren't up for the challenge. We had another student who was not making the effort to keep up with the work load, so we suggested that he find another place to go that might not have such high expectations of him. With the loss of four students this brought our classroom total down to twelve. We were contacted by a family that wanted to put their daughter in the educational ministry, so after meetings and testings, she will be joining the students in January.

### The Faces in the Classroom

Classroom dynamics will really change with Sam and Joshua gone. We have six boys left - Leo, Trey, Josh, Ethan, Colin and Jay. There are seven girls - Naomi, Storme, Kendra, Noelle, Erin, Holly, and Aijah (pronounced like Asia, the country, the new 6th grade student).

We talked about the help that Pam was in the classroom. She worked with us through October. She found a job and her own place and left at the end of October. After a couple of days transition, Jim was back in the classroom working with the students again.

### Bible Classes

We have a group of 20-30 students (depending on the night) that are attending the Monday night study



Jeremy  
Aubri

Jimmy  
Angel

Jim  
Linda

on the book of Revelation. It is a great study, and many new faces have joined the class. It has been a blessing for those who have been involved.

### God's Answers to Prayer

1. We are excited to be able to see Sam and Joshua move ahead in their education.
2. We have had snow and cold temperatures. We have had to cancel Monday night class, and we missed a couple of education days. We are thankful for the moisture, and that we haven't had the terrible snows, floods, and tornadoes that are all around us.
3. A wonderful New Year's celebration with our family - Jimmy & Angel, Jeremy & Aubri.
4. Being able to help Aijah and her family as she comes into our little family.

### Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. Joshua and Sam as they enter this new phase in their life. Pray for their adjustment as well as their ability to stand strong among the pressures of the college atmosphere.
2. The Larsen family, Josh and his mom, as they continue to deal with the loss of father/husband, especially through the holidays.
3. A quick adjustment for Jason as he leaves us, and Aijah as she comes to join us.
4. An open mind as we continue to re-evaluate the ministry and how to best accomplish what God wants us to do for the children and adults alike.



back - Trey, Joshua, Sam, Leo  
Colin, Naomi, Kendra, Noelle  
Jason, Ethan, Josh, Storme  
front - Jay, Holly Erin