



Maiorano Minutes

1st Quarter 2020



New Year, New Beginnings

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." As we begin a new year, this verse is a reminder that, as children of God, we have a future and a hope. These are comforting words in our world gone crazy dealing with COVID-19. Fear has gripped our world, and people are afraid. We pray that we can be a voice of reason, a light on the hill, bringing God's words of hope and promise to those who need to hear.

We have received texts and emails from people wondering how we are fairing during this uncertain time. We are very rural, and it is easy for us to keep our "social distance". The Navajo Reservation, Arizona, and New Mexico are on "shelter in place" orders. As a result, we have cancelled our Bible studies for a time and will encourage our students to watch the classes online, so those here and around the world can continue to study God's Word. Health wise, Jim and I both got something nasty in January and haven't been able to kick it completely. Jim came down with it about two weeks after me, and we are both dealing with the residual effects.

I have been asked how it feels to not be teaching anymore. I truly don't know. After school ended in May, we were busy learning Spanish and preparing for our trip to Mexico. October and November were spent in prayer seeking God's leading as to the next step in our life. In December, I began working one-on-one with Tommy, Jimmy and Angel's nephew. When he started as one of our students in the 2018/2019 educational year, we made the commitment that we would do what we could to help him complete high school so he would be ready to join the military. We worked four hours a day five to six days a week until mid January. Then we went to seven hours a day. He completed his studies on March 13. His ASVAB scores are extremely high, and the Air Force recruiter is excited to work with him. He has been told that any job in the Air Force is open to him.

Now we are working with other former students. Several are looking for help in math for high school or college. I also met with a seven-year-old who has difficulty reading. I will meet with her a couple of times and see if she can be helped with the reading program I have posted on the website. We have had inquiries from others who are also seeking help educationally, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Throughout the last several months, we have been leaving ourselves open to be used of the Lord in whatever capacity He desires. We know that God has planted us here in Black Hat, NM, and we will continue to bloom where He planted us.

So what does the future hold for the Maioranos?

1. We will continue to have our Sunday Fellowship and Monday night Bible studies.
2. God seems to be leading us into the area of shepherding the people that He has brought into our lives over the past 28 years.
3. We feel as though we are being called to be living examples in our marriage, family, lives, and ministry.
4. We will continue Biblical counseling with those who are seeking answers.
5. We will share God's Word with those dealing with marital and family problems which abound.
6. People here are drowning in debt. There are more pawn shops and quick loan companies here than any other place in the US. We reach out to those who need to learn financial responsibility.
7. Most of the Navajo people own livestock and don't understand even the most basic form of animal husbandry. We offer answers and demonstrations.
8. We are dealing with many who have been imprisoned in a lifestyle of addiction to drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography, among others.
9. We want to offer answers to those suffering pain and heartache. We live in a spiritually dark area. Many years ago we had two missionary ladies tell us that of all the places they had ministered in the US and abroad, they have never encountered the darkness they experienced here on the Navajo reservation.

10. God has been bringing people into our lives that are seeking answers about proper health and nutrition. We have worked with people who have been able to avoid surgery. One woman had severe brain fog and other issues that have disappeared. These are just some of the people we have been able to help. What a privilege to share what we have learned about God's amazing design of the human body and its ability to heal itself.
11. We will continue to help Kevin as he shepherds White Water Community Church in Naschitti, NM, and in various places across the reservation. We also want to be able to come

- along side and help other churches or ministries in the area.
12. Continue to be a resource for people in the area. We want to be able to use the property, the buildings, teaching skills, and our experience to help disperse the good news of Jesus Christ.
13. Continue working on the website. There are people from all over the world that have been following the Bible studies we have made available online. If you haven't checked out our website lately, take a look. We are open to suggestions to make it better and to make material available to any who want it.

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God's Answers to Prayer

1. Completing Tommy's education.
2. God's direction in our lives as we have sought the next phase in ministry to Him. We have not had time to wonder what we were going to do, because there has been a steady stream of people asking for help in various areas.
3. We feel blessed for the area in which we live. We have certainly had our share of strange occurrences with the virus threat, but for the most part things are calm, and we have access to almost everything we need.
4. We continue to praise God for the people that He has brought into our lives to minister to us during this transitional period. People have dropped us notes because they were "just thinking about us," and they have been God's instruments of encouragement.
5. We continue to work on projects that have been put on the back burner for years. Cleaning, organizing, and planning out projects that need to get done, give us something to do while we are "sheltering at home." (It's amazing how our vocabulary has changed over the course of a few weeks isn't it?)

Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. Pray for our country and our world. It is times like these that cause people to question their life. We know that God is in control, but there are many who believe the world is spinning out of control. Now's the time for us to speak God's love and peace into the lives of the people around us.
2. We want to continue to be able to help people in the areas where they need help, but the orders of the state of "social distancing" are making that difficult. We pray for creative ways to be able to reach out and minister to people.
3. God has brought a family into our lives that are seeking help with health as well as education. They have three children and all three have a genetic disorder called Navajo neurohepatopathy. There are many ways this disorder presents itself, and none of them good. Their children are doing well because they decided to make their children's health their top priority. We have been able to help them in their quest for answers.
4. Please continue to pray for Jeremy and his family. We continue to pray for restoration, healing, and change in their lives.