



Maiorano Minutes

4th Quarter 2020



Looking to the Future

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Over 2000 years ago the Word took on flesh in the form of a baby born in a manger. He came to be the Light of men, came so that we would no longer have to walk in darkness. In this new year, draw near to the Light and allow Him to illuminate the path He has laid before you. Our prayer for you, our faithful friends, as well as ourselves is that we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects.

As the new year of 2021 begins, the state of NM and the Navajo Reservation are still closed down with no sign of reopening. Schools are online, restaurants are open for take out only, and Walmart, Costco's, Home Depot, etc. were only allowing 75 people at a time in the store. Wait times were 1-3 hours from the time they opened in the morning until the time they closed at night. Fortunately, in the last week or so they have opened these stores up to 25% capacity. No one knows what life on the other side of this pandemic will look like.

Over 30 years ago we dedicated our lives to work for the Lord full time in whatever capacity He willed. 30 years ago He moved us to New Mexico where we have ministered among the Navajo people. God has opened doors before us, inviting us to follow Him. It hasn't always been easy. Sometimes He pulled us out of our comfort zone. There have been joys and concerns, good times and bad, lean years and times of abundance, but it has always been an adventure, and we have grown in our understanding of the faithfulness of God. The primary focus of our ministry has always been to share the life-giving Word of God at every opportunity laid before us. Every interaction we have with people is an occasion to bring His light, His love, His joy, His peace, His hope, and His salvation into their lives, and to ground them on the solid rock of His Word.

Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that "*The mind of a person plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*" We know that God has a purpose and a plan for our next phase of ministry. God has opened various avenues of outreach, but because of the "Stay at Home" orders in place, we have not yet had the freedom to walk through some of the doors. As we share what we believe lies before us, please pray with us that God would direct our steps as we seek to bring hope to the people on and around the reservation.

1. First and foremost is the continued ability to teach the Word of God. We continue our Sunday Fellowship and our Monday Bible studies on Zoom. Even when we have the ability to open the doors again, we will continue with Zoom since we have people joining us from seven states and all around AZ and NM. Our studies have grown in 2020 because people are looking for hope and answers in the midst of a world gone mad.
2. Bible studies have led to two other ministries. One of those ministries is that of our website. Developing, updating, and adding to a website are EXTREMELY time consuming. We are encouraged to keep going when we have seen as many as 600 people a month checking out our videos, and 200-300 people a month coming into the website for information. If you haven't checked it out, please take some time to do that. It is meant to be a help to everyone from Bible studies, to Biblical resources, children's activities to health information, animals and farm life to education. It is constantly growing and expanding, and some parts are still under construction, but it is a labor of love designed to help people in all walks of life.
3. The Bible study ministry has also led to aiding Kevin with his ministry at White Water Community Church, around the reservation and beyond. He has begun work on recording



Jim and Linda Maiorano
PO Box 1671 * Gallup NM 87305 * 505-409-8312
ptc2522@gmail.com * walkinlight.net



- Bible lessons in Navajo and our desire is to help him get that message to as many Navajo speaking people as possible. He is now holding his services with teleconferencing which allows people to call in (since many don't have internet or smart phones) and listen to Bible teaching and ask questions. There are people joining him from Phoenix and Flagstaff areas hundreds of miles away. We would like to get him up and running on his own website where he can attach links to his videoed messages. We also pray for guidance as he contemplates the possibility of translating messages into Navajo for Global Recording Network (GRN). It is exciting to see God moving in Kevin's life and ministry.
4. The animals and gardens have opened doors to many people with whom we would not normally have contact. We have sold chickens, goats, and we just had our first litter of pups (pictures available on our website under animal adoptions). We have a good reputation and people trust us, so this has drawn people to our website, to our Bible classes, and/or has made them curious as to who we are and what we do, and they are asking questions.
 5. We continue to counsel and encourage people. Right now, much of that is being done through email, texts, and Zoom. There have been some who have braved the virus to meet face to face, but not many.
 6. I have continued to tutor past students who are having difficulties, some new students who have sought me out, and some adults who are pursuing college degrees and require some extra help. I will continue to tutor those who are looking to continue in their educational pursuits.
 7. I have helped adults and children who have had difficulty reading in the past. We would like to pursue helping those who need and want help because school and the real world are difficult enough, let alone not being able to communicate through the written word. I have some programs online that can aid people, and in this new world almost everyone now has access to Zoom which would allow me to test and help online if there are concerns about in person contact. We will be pursuing avenues to accomplish this over the winter.
 8. Once our area is out of the "Shelter at Home" orders, we would like to open the classroom back up for women's retreats.
 9. Throughout the summer, we would like to offer camps for kids. These would be day camps (maybe four to six hours) that would last for one week. They would be geared for a certain age group (depending on the content) and focus on one area of study like, science, history, writing, English, math. These would be filled with lots of hands-on activities, and fun ways to educate children over the summer.
 10. We have talked about holding classes for adults in the evenings (or days depending on the group). These would be classes on world history, specific areas of science, English grammar, writing classes, math tutoring, nutrition, health, healthy cooking, essential oils, natural remedies, gardening, animal husbandry, and the list could go on and on. We have had people ask us to do this, so now may be the time to pursue it (again, when we are back to being able to meet in person). We will also Zoom the classes for those wanting to join from far away.



**In March of 2020, people talked about the month we lost. In December people talk about the year we lost. The world is spinning out of control. Where will it end. Is this the end?
 Covid, riots, election disputes. They have shook our world. They have changed our world.
 But this we do know - GOD IS ON HIS THRONE! He is in control and we can trust in Him!**

Dale Rickard went home to be with the Lord in May of 2020. Most of you don't know Dale. You weren't aware of his battle with cancer. But all of you can be encouraged by Dale's words which have spoken to my heart and hopefully will speak to yours. In the midst of his pain and the knowledge that he would leave a loving wife and children behind to grieve his passing, he said this,

**"I don't feel like my life is falling apart. It is what God has declared it to be.
 My job is not to react to it, but live for the Savior through it."**

Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending. We pray that 2021 will be the beginning of your brand new ending! - Jim and Linda