



Maiorano Minutes

1st Quarter 2023



Spring Has Sprung

As winter gives way to spring, there is an expectation of new life. The sun shines a little brighter; the days are a little longer, and bits of green are popping up all around.

It is also a time to reflect on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life that was offered to all who believe through God's great mercy. First Peter 1:3-5 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Life has been a bit hectic for the past two months (more on that later), so this will be the first time in about ten years that we will not be having our yearly Messianic Passover Seder. This Seder has been a wonderful time of celebration. We have a recorded Seder on our website if you would like to check it out. Go to the "resources" tab and hover over the Passover Seder. You will find the video and other resources. Let's celebrate the resurrection and all that means this year!

Ministry

We are currently studying Deuteronomy for our Sunday Fellowship and the book of Judges on Monday nights. What powerful books! In Deuteronomy we are constantly reminded of the character, attributes, and workings of God. Working through the book of Judges is like reading through the daily news. The names have been changed but the evil is the same. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes, creating their own definitions of what is right and wrong. If you haven't read the book of Revelation lately, you may want to. We are quickly heading toward the end. The birth pangs are upon us!

We have been open to going where God opens doors to make connections with people with the desire to share truth with them. God has brought people into our lives and given us opportunities to share our lives with them, and Lord willing, giving us an opening to share our faith. We continue to counsel, encourage, teach, tutor, advise, and meet needs wherever we can.

Family News

I will begin with the happy but sad news first. On February 19, 2023, my sister Bonnie went home to be with the Lord, one month before her 68th birthday. She was hospitalized in January after being found unconscious. About three weeks into her hospital stay I got a call from her, booked a ticket and headed for Florida. I sat with her in the hospital and fought with doctors, nurses, and hospital staff on her behalf. She was released on hospice care to her daughter's home. I slept in the room with her reading, praying, listening to instrumental hymns at night. Four days later she left this life. She was ready to go. We had the joy of watching her life change about six years ago when she gave her heart to the Lord. We rejoice that her pain and suffering is over, but it is hard not having my sister to talk to anymore!

In our last letter we shared that we had the opportunity to go to the "River of Lights" with Jeremy, Sarah, and the four kids. If we go next year, there will be five grandkids. They shared with us that night that they were expecting, and we just found out that they are going to have a boy in the beginning of August if all goes well.

Overwhelmed would probably not be a strong enough word for Jimmy's new job as Sheriff. He has certainly run into many obstacles already as he tries to stand in the gap for the community he serves. While he tries to stay afloat in the world of politics, someone told him not to think of himself as a politician, instead he is a community leader. With God's help, that is what he would like to do!

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Busy Schedule

I shared that we would not be holding a Seder this year because of our schedule. Let me give you a quick glance at our first quarter of 2023. At the beginning of the year, Jim and I were still trying to regain strength and stamina after being sick. My sister called daily to check up on us because there were literally days that we couldn't move. Then she was admitted to the hospital in January and now the focus and concern was on her. In February I flew to FL leaving my loving husband at home to keep things running here. I knew I was going until my sister passed. We did the best we could to prepare for a long stay. Two weeks later I was home again. Since I teach science to high school students, and they need a certain amount of hours in order to obtain credit. Upon returning, we needed to put in extra time to make up for the hours they missed. In February I was scheduled for a trip to PA to spend some time with my mother and help her with some projects around the house. That trip was moved to April 5th. I will be gone another week. In May, I return to FL to wrap up a couple more things that revolve around my sister. Three months, three trips, and science classes being squeezed in between has made for a very hectic schedule! Lord willing, things should slow down after May!

God's Answers to Prayer

- Little by little Jim and I are getting back on our feet and accomplishing some of what we used to be able to do.
- The time that I was able to be with my sister before she passed. We talked in our room at night. We laughed, we cried, and we had ample time to say a proper goodbye. I was blessed to be there for her and for her family.
- We have been blessed and encouraged by the Bible studies we are leading as well as the encouragement we are hearing from the students. We are hearing stories of overcoming obstacles, standing strong in the face of persecution, and drawing on God's Word to change lives. There have been many positive stories, but we have seen others who have come for help, been given God's solution, and have chosen instead to continue to walk their own way, rejecting God's power to change their life. We pray that in some way, God will get ahold of their hearts!
- We have talked with Kevin and heard of his struggles and his victories. How thankful we are

to see a man of God standing and proclaiming God's truth, even when others cast aspersions. What an encouragement he has been to us!

- Jeremy and family had a great family trip together to rain drenched CA. Although the weather wasn't great, they were able to make the best of it, and they decided to do a gender reveal on the beach with just their family. It looked like a special time for all of them.
- Jimmy has gotten through his first 90 days as Sheriff. Although he looks at all the things that haven't gotten done yet, he is remembering and recording all the things that have and has taken encouragement in the accomplishments thus far.

Please Pray For the Following . . .

- For safety as I travel and Jim takes care of the ministry at home.
- Healing for family members after my sister's passing - for myself, my two brothers, and my mother as we grieve a daughter, sister, and friend. For her children and grandchildren who didn't share her faith and don't understand why she was looking forward to leaving this world! They just know that their mother is gone and it is leaving a void in their lives.
- Continue to uphold the classes that are being taught. Now more than ever, we need to be grounding people in God's Word!
- Jimmy and Angel - after speaking with him last night - please pray that he doesn't get so bogged down by the million little things that he misses the big things that need to be done.
- Jeremy, Sarah, and their growing family. We pray that all will go well with the growth and delivery of their son.
- Kevin's continued ministry to the people in his family, the church, and the surrounding areas. Strength to stand against the forces coming against him and wisdom as he continually leads people to God's Word as the answer to their problems.
- That God's Word continues to go out in clarity, truth, and boldness as the world seeks to quiet His voice of reason. The church needs to gird herself in truth, oppose evil, and stand firm against the schemes of Satan.
- Continued physical strength, and wisdom to do what God has called us to do.

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." - Lamentations 3:22-24