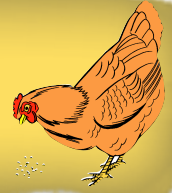


Maiorano Minutes

2nd Quarter 2015



Showers of Blessing

The sun is shining brightly now in the New Mexican sky. We are going to start by praising the Lord for the amount of rain that has fallen on our land. After about ten years of drought conditions (yes, it is possible to have a drought in the desert!), we have been blessed by rain. It is probably a normal amount for us, but it just seems like a lot after all this time.

Dealing with Grief

Over the last several years we had asked for your prayers for one of our students, Josh, whose dad was awaiting a heart transplant. Almost from the time Josh had started coming to the PTC, his father was in the hospital. For close to three years the family prayed for a heart transplant. Chris, Josh's father, finally received the news that a new heart was available. At first it seemed like all went well, but a couple of days later, he passed away. On Thursday, May 7th, we cancelled class so any student who wanted to attend the funeral, to stand by Josh, could go. Two-thirds of our students went to the service to support Josh. They sat in the family section because, in his mom's words, "they are Josh's family."

Some of our students went through this kind of grieving before. One student lost her father unexpectedly last summer. Two brothers lost quite a few relatives in a couple of weeks time this winter. Other students have never lost someone close to them. In order to help everyone through this time, the students put together a video set to music. Students chose some of the songs. We used photos of the students and beautiful, peaceful scenery and each student included a message to Josh. Some included a Scripture verse. I was very impressed and moved by the students' expression of love and concern, the verses they chose, and their suggestions for the video. It served to help the students work through

their thoughts and feelings about death, and it was a real blessing for Josh and his mother, Winona.

Promotion Night

We had a great promotion ceremony on May 15. It was a big night for many students. Kelsey, our autistic student, has decided that he wants to venture out into the world. We awarded him with a Certificate of Achievement. He has come a long way over the last three years. He stood in front of over 200 people and gave a very good speech. We are still trying to collect video, so we can get it online. Three people tried to video his speech, and all three had recording issues. We are trying to retrieve everyone's pieces to see what we can splice together.

Students being promoted from 8th grade to 9th is cause for great celebration among the Navajo. This year we had eight students moving into their high school years, two of which were promoted from 7th grade to 9th grade. Several of these students also prepared speeches to share their thoughts at this juncture in life. Josh was one of the students who wanted to speak to everyone. He spoke about his father. It was a very moving and courageous tribute from a young man who is taking this big step in his life without his dad. This was only one week after his father's funeral.

Summer Fun and Rest?

Well, I don't know about the rest part; however, we have had some fun. Jimmy and Angel joined us again in Colorado for some 4-wheeling fun and adventure. We all enjoy the history, the mountains, the old mines and ghost towns, and some time of rest and relaxation together. Our trip was six days and made possible by a good friend who was house/property/garden/dog/chicken sitting for us. More about her later on in this letter.

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Summertime is always a time for lots of projects. This year is no different. Jim plans on finishing up the Kamp Science Center. He needs to do some electrical work in training center. We need to do some fencing on the property for our chickens (more on that later). Louie, our bearded dragon, has outgrown the tank we were told would be plenty spacious enough for him. We would really like to upgrade the bathrooms in the training center as well. But that won't be getting done over the summer! We will wait and see if time and money allow at a later time.

We are very fortunate to have some helping hands around the training center this summer. There is a young man named Leo who will be a new student this upcoming year. He has been helping with weed control (one of the "blessings" that came with our rain) around the property. He works for about three hours every morning, and then I work with him for an hour at the end of the morning to do the testing that we need to do for each student and to help him in math. Leo will be in 10th grade this year.

We have two other students that come in a couple of times a week to help water, pick berries, pull weeds, and other little projects inside and out. They usually come from 8:00 AM and work until noon; however, this year the biting gnats were so bad that we couldn't be in the gardens past 7:30-8:00 AM. We had some good hard rains which drowned the gnats, but they have now been replaced by mosquitos. That makes work a bit uncomfortable.

Many years ago we had a mother, Pam, who came to help in the classroom and act as a chaperone on trips. Pam has found herself between jobs and in need of some uplifting, companionship, and a little extra money. She is helping us around the training center, in the gardens, pulling weeds, and taking care of animals. She is the one that made it possible for Jim and I to get away for a week. We are very thankful for her help!

Once Upon a Chicken

At the beginning of the last educational year we introduced animals into the classroom. Some of these animal became permanent residents. We have a beautiful 29-gallon tank of tropical fish. Louie looks regal as he sits on his perch and

watches the fish and the goings-on in the classroom. Then there were chickens. We tried to hatch eggs. That didn't work. Bought 15 day-old chicks called Pioneers. The kids loved to play with them, and we decided we would try to use them for a food source. Out of those 15, we have six laying hens (love those fresh eggs) and we had four males for dinner. This experiment worked well, so we ordered 50 more and then another 100. To make a very long story short, we are convinced that predators from the air and the ground moved in and cleaned out all but four of them within about two weeks time. We are trying again with new chicks. The difference is that they will be living with our guardian dogs and the fencing will allow the dogs to go out with the chickens throughout the day when they are chasing bugs and eating greens.

Preparing for a New Educational Year

We are beginning our new educational year with 15 students at the time of this writing. Last year we ended with 18. Kelsey is moving on in his life with an open invitation to come back if he decides he wants to complete a diploma. Three other students opted not to return for various reasons. That makes 14 old students and one new one. This will be the year of the high school students!

11th grade - Naomi

10th grade - Sam, Joshua, Leo (new)

9th grade - Nikki, Josh, Ethan, Trey, Storme, Colin

8th grade - Kendra

7th grade - Noelle

6th grade - Jay, Holly, Erin

My challenge this year is to work with schools and colleges to begin college courses with some of these students. Several of the students are doing so well that they should be able to finish their high school credits while working towards a college degree.

Bible Classes

We have a good group coming to our classes on Monday evening. We are working through the book of I John over the summer. It is a wonderful follow-up to the book of Romans. We plan on moving into Revelation in the fall. We are also working through Daniel on Sunday evenings with the group in Naschitti via SKYPE. We teach for 45-60 minutes in English, then Kevin, the pastor, and some of his family help translate the lesson into Navajo.

God's Answers To Prayer

1. Our health continues to improve. We have been able to make that a priority, knowing that we need to be healthy and strong in order to carry out the task that God has placed before us.
2. The wonderful rains that we have had saved us much time in the garden. It normally takes about three hours to water the gardens and that needs to be done two or three times a week. The rain did much of that for us.
3. We had a great time of rest and fun in Ouray. We enjoyed our time with Jimmy and Angel. Maybe this will become an annual event for us.
4. In May, we had the opportunity to meet up with Jeremy and his girl friend Aubri, Jimmy and Angel, Sam and Storme for dinner and a ballgame (Isotopes - minor league for the Dodgers) with fireworks to top it off. It was the first time the whole family was together for ten years. What a great time it was. We included pictures at the end of this newsletter.
5. We are thankful for the helping hands which have made our work outdoors a little lighter. Without their help, much would not have gotten done.

Please pray For the Following . . .

1. A good harvest with both our gardens and our chickens so that we will have a freezer and pantry full for the winter.
2. Both the students and ourselves as we prepare to step into the classroom for a new year on August 10th. Wisdom as we continue to look at possibilities for college education for some of our advanced students.
3. Continued wisdom to be open to changes that need to take place to accomplish what God has placed before us. As technology changes and our ministry expands, we are continuing to update, upgrade, and put forth more of our material into a form that can be used both off the internet and spread throughout other churches.
4. The Larsen family, Josh and his mother Winona, as they adjust to their life without their father and husband respectively. There are some financial concerns as well as the loneliness which both are going to feel differently. We had them over for dinner one night and Jim took Josh outside to toss the football. Josh needs a man in his life right now.



Linda, Jim, Sam, Jimmy, Angel, Storme, Aubri, Jeremy



Angel, Jimmy, Sam, Storme, Jeremy, Aubri

Back - Sam, Kelsey, Jay, Trey, Ethan, Joshua, Colin, Matthew, Josh
Front - Mattias, Jason

Erin, Kendra, Nikki, Noelle, Storme, Naomi, Holly





Kelsey giving his speech on promotion night.

Jimmy stops to admire the scenery as we make our way up Black Bear Mountain Pass in Ouray, CO. The waterfalls and wildflowers were spectacular.



Pam gives the training center a good scrubbing.