



MAIORANO MINUTES

3RD QUARTER 2013



WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

There are many people in our country and in our churches today that question whether or not God answers prayer. People have come to us asking that we pray for them, like we have some special power or a special connection to God. Any follower of Jesus Christ has a special connection to God, because we are told that through His intercession, we can come boldly into the very presence of God.

Then why do so many people think that God doesn't answer their prayers? I think that one reason is that we bring "urgent" requests before God and expect Him to answer our prayer in what we consider proper timing (usually yesterday). Another reason may be that when we ask for something, we expect Him to answer it our way and think that any other way is not an answer. Sometimes His answer is just a flat out no, and we don't like to be told "no" by anyone, including God. Sometimes, in His mercy, He doesn't give us what we ask for because He knows it is not for our best. We are told to pray according to His will. It is hard for us to pray, "God, we bring this need before you, and we ask that you meet this need according to Your will." When we pray like that, we need to give up our preconceived ideas of our timing, and the way we would do things if we were God. So somehow we get the notion that our finite little mind can understand and grasp as much as an infinite God. How audacious and arrogant of us!

In the summer of 2000, our Sunday fellowship prayed every week for the students that God wanted at the PTC Educational Ministry as we opened the door that very first year. We prayed fervently for those that God wanted here, and then we put a number on it. "God we know that we prayed for the students you want here, but we think there should be 20-25. Week after week we prayed. The first day of class we had two students and three teachers. Not quite the response that we thought we should have. Did God not hear? Did we misunderstand what God wanted us to do? Why didn't He do what we

asked Him to do? Where were the 20-25 students?

God most certainly did hear our prayers. He loved us enough to bring us two students. By the end of the year we had six. But you might be thinking, God didn't answer your prayers. He did. In His mercy, He brought the six students that would help us learn how to handle the ten the following year. He brought those ten to teach us how to handle twelve, and so on. He loved us enough that He didn't give us the amount of students we thought we could handle, He gave us the students He knew we could handle. Through the years we have learned and grown with our students.

Fourteen years later, we begin our fourteenth year at the PTC Educational Ministry with 25 students. We are at one over the maximum this year. Had we had this many students that very first year, it would have been the first, last, and only year of education! We learned how to handle challenges with students and parents on a small scale as we grew and stretched our wings.

Needless to say, 25 students present a whole new set of challenges, especially when we have ten that are new to the ministry. It has forced Jim to become a full-time, full-time teacher. Last year he had to be in the classroom most of the time, but he still had times he could slip out and run to the post office, do a quick job, or make lunch. Those days are gone. We have a couple of volunteers who are coming in. Steve Schaffer, a retired teacher, is coming in to teach math on Tuesdays, and we will try to squeeze a Bible lesson from him whenever we can. My mom will be coming out to help for two weeks in September/October. Janice will be coming in October/November for four weeks and then again in spring. There are also a couple other people that have volunteered to help with various projects throughout the year. We know this will be a challenge, but just like the first year, we know that God has brought the students He wants us to reach out to with His love.

BIBLE STUDIES

We had a great Bible study over the summer. We worked through the book of Jude, learning how to do cross referencing and word studies. We also did a video series on how the Bible came to us called "The Indestructible Book." It was all well received, and we had a group of 15-20 people each week.

In September we started a new study with a book called Lord Is It Warfare? Teach Me To Stand! We have 18 coming to this study with more coming every week. We praise the Lord for the people that He has brought to study His Word. We have been greatly encouraged by the stories that some of our students have shared with us as to how they came to us and how God's Word has ministered to their lives and the lives of their churches, families, and communities.

PA BOUND

We are headed to the PA area from October 11-18. This is our fall break, and Jim and I are coming back to the area to have our health checked again. We plan to visit with some family and friends and hopefully get some much needed rest. If you would like to visit with us while we are in the area, you can contact us via phone or email, and we will see if we can fit something in.

MEET OUR STUDENTS

We wanted to briefly introduce you to our students this year. Next letter we will give you more details and some pictures.

11th grade - Devin and Kelsey

10th grade - Christan

9th grade - Naomi (promoted a year early)

8th grade - Sam and Joshua

7th grade - Ethan, Trey, Nicole, Josh, Matthew (new), Jason (new)

6th grade - Storme, Colby, Kendra (new), Erica (new), Colin (new)

5th grade - Noelle

4th grade - Josiah, Holly

3rd grade - Erin (new), Mattias (new)

2nd grade - Kaleb (new)

We do know how to count, and yes, there are only 23 on the list. We lost two students due to family issues a couple of weeks ago.

GOD'S ANSWERS TO PRAYER

1. We started this year with 25 students and now have 23. We are almost finished with the first quarter. It has been a time of learning for all of us. It is a different experience that has good points and bad. We hope to learn how to accentuate the positive and keep the negative to a minimum.
2. God provided the help and the funds for the revision of the playground area. Sam, our grandson helped in some areas as well as a couple of local men. The swing set has four swings and it has been a huge hit with the students.
3. The blessing of extra hands in classroom with Steve and soon to come, Mom and Mrs. Kamp, and a couple other local volunteers that God has supplied.
4. How quickly the new students, for the most part, have learned what is expected of them and the routine of the classroom. The new students go through a major adjustment period whether they come from private or public schools because of the demands we put on them. Our graduates have all said that the first year was really tough.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING . . .

1. We mentioned that we lost two students. The parents have split. She follows the Navajo traditions/religion, and he's Christian. Since the split, she has the children and doesn't want the Christian influence. The kids and the dad are heartbroken.
2. Continued health and healing for Jim and I. We are still battling issues which is why we are coming to PA in October.
3. Jim has experienced hearing loss over the years due to driving truck and farming. It is becoming an issue in the classroom because of him having to hear the students. His hearing was tested fifteen years ago, and he had moderate to severe hearing impairment, but with old technology he was told that hearing aides would make things worse not better. Today's technology is amazing, but costly. They now have the ability to amplify the areas that he can't hear but not the areas that he can, thus allowing him to hear all things equally. As soon as we have the funds, we will place the order and give Jim a new way of hearing things that he hasn't heard in over 30 years.

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