



# Maiorano Minutes

2nd Quarter 2017



## Who Is In Control?

Are you a knitter? I'm not! As I was boarding my plane to come home from Florida, there was a woman in first class whose hands were making magic with her needles. You could watch her hands fly as they carefully knitted row after row until her project began to take shape. Did you ever think about how quickly all that hard work could unravel? I pictured a harried boarding passenger's button getting caught in the yarn and in seconds unraveling hours of work.

Life is much like that knitting project. You can work hard and make plans, and then something unexpected happens and it unravels everything you have done. We have felt a bit unraveled over the last six months. I, personally, have felt like my life has been spinning out of control. You might be thinking right about now that you are receiving a 2nd quarter newsletter and you don't remember getting one for the 1st quarter. You are not imaging things. You didn't. I have been trying to keep my head above water, so anything that was not absolutely necessary did not get done.

So what has happened that has caused our life to spin out of control. Problems! People problems. Student problems. Family problems. School problems. I don't know that I have ever felt this overwhelmed in the 26 years we have been in mission work. More than once I have had to take a step back and remember that God is in control of all situations. It is His job to work out the details; I just need to follow His leading in my life each day and leave the rest to Him. There were some days that that thought was the only thing that got me into the classroom. For anyone who doesn't know me, that last statement won't mean much to you. For anyone who knows me, they know that I live to be in the classroom for Bible study and to teach the children. The last month or two I had to drag myself into the classroom to teach.

So what do you do when you feel overwhelmed? Some people crawl inside themselves, have a pity party, and become depressed. Some try to relieve the pressure by "running away" so to speak. They go on vacation, get away for the weekend (every weekend).

They eat or turn to some other comfort activity. We have learned over the years to run to our strong tower, our refuge, Jesus Christ. We KNOW that He doesn't give us more than we can handle. He promises that His yoke is easy and His burden light. When we come to a place in our lives that we feel like we are going under, it is because we are trying to do things in our strength, do things that God has not called us to do, or not trusting that He indeed is "King of the World." This is one of my favorite songs sung by Natalie Grant, and the chorus says, "When did I forget that You've always been the King of the world? I try to take life back right out of the hands of the King of the world."

We need to realize that we can't fix all the problems that surround us. We also need to know that it is not our job to change people. We can listen to them, love them, and try to advise them, but ultimately they are responsible for their actions. It is our job to give them truth. If they choose to not live by the truth, then they are going to have to live with the consequences. Sometimes we think that we can or should do more and places burdens on ourselves that God never intended us to bear. So I have needed to learn to say, "God help me do what you want me to do today!"

## Rainy Florida

I just returned from a wonderful rainy trip to Florida. It rained every day, sometimes for a couple of minutes, sometimes for hours. The rains were welcomed because they helped cool things to the high 80's. Jim held down the home front taking care of all the critters. On May 29th while many of you were having a Memorial Day celebration, a friend of mine, Gina, and I headed south. We stayed at a beautiful rental home in Cape Coral. My sister, Bonnie, joined us on Tuesday, and my mom arrived on Wednesday. We had a wonderful week of prayer, Bible study, questions, and sharing burdens that were on our hearts. It was a week of wonderful healthy food, swimming in the pool, and fellowshiping together. We even went through a Passover Seder, so my mom and Bonnie could experience that. It was very relaxing and a welcomed retreat from the pressures of life over the last months.

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Note change  
of address

## House Guests?

One of the stresses in our life that wasn't bad, but it was different, was that Sam and Storme lived with us for most of this last school year. Taking care of four people is a little more burdensome than taking care of just Jim and I. There was more food preparation, more cleaning up, and more time for them by talking, playing games, or just spending time with them. It changed our bedtime which changed our rising time, which changed our days around. They would go to their mother's on Friday to Sunday and stay with us Sunday through Friday.

## Schooling Transition

We have been keeping tabs on Sam and Joshua as they have been attending the Middle College High School. Things did not go as smoothly this year which caused us to scramble, looking for other options for our students. Problems have come from various places. The University of New Mexico doesn't have a great reputation and that is the college that the MCHS works with. The Gallup branch of UNM is even worse. The boys have had some really good professors, but they have had some really bad ones as well. The MCHS is also experiencing some growing pains and problems as well. Because of this, we are looking at withdrawing Sam and advising parents of other students that they might want to think of other options for their child.

One of those options we have explored is the possibility of working with GCU (Grand Canyon University). It has a good reputation, and we have heard good reports from several students who have been involved with this university. What we have concluded is that we can graduate some of our students early (whenever they have all the credits they need to complete high school), and then let them start with online classes with GCU or another college. For most of the Navajo students, it is not difficult for them to get the scholarships and grants necessary to do this for free or close to it.

If things work out this summer, Sam may begin taking college classes online from his mother's home in Grants. Storme would like to stay with Sam in Grants (which is 90 miles away) but continue to receive her education from us. She is going to be our first student by extension. This is something that we have thought about, and Storme is a wonderful student for this experiment. She is almost done her education, so we are not concerned about her falling behind if there are any

glitches. She is a great communicator and knows what we do in the classroom since she grew up here. She will be able to help me work out the bugs in the system. She will be able to balance what is good, what is missing from the classroom experience, and help determine possible solutions.

We have truly appreciated Jim's sister, Beth, and her input into this venture. She teaches in a college in North Carolina, and she teaches some classes online. She has been sending lots of material on programs and opportunities that are out there for online education.

## Changing Classroom

As we come out of this last year of education, there are some changes that are being made. We have some students that will not be returning because of various issues. Storme will be joining us from Grants via Skype (we think).

We have several new students who would like to join us. One student left a couple of years ago and would like to return. Several are new. Because of all the changes that are being made, we are unsure how many students we feel comfortable taking on this year.

With the idea of putting classroom work online, I am in the process of putting studies into movie formats. We have purchased audio/video equipment, and some hardware/software necessities. I will be wearing a mic in class, and we will be recording lectures. That will take some getting used to. I will need to be more scheduled and structured in the class especially if we have Storme joining us at certain times. Yes, changes in the world mean changes in the classroom!

## New Website

We are changing our website. Some of you have already said that you have gotten the under construction sign. It will be the same address; we are just transitioning the program which means a lot of transferring of data. This is going to offer us many new opportunities as well as take us off Apple's iWeb which is no longer supported. I can't update the site anymore from my computer because a recent update has caused a plethora of problems in iWeb.

This new site will begin to open up the ministry to many other people through our Monday night classes and with what goes on in the classroom on a daily basis. It will be an avenue in which we can offer help to people from their homes in areas of English grammar, math, and Bible studies. We hope to load the praise and worship music to what we sing here on

Sunday mornings, so people can sing and be uplifted throughout the week. We have had people ask us if we can provide music for their church. This would be a way to make that happen. Where we live, having someone who can sing and play piano is like having a pot of gold. I have been offered jobs to play piano and lead music at local churches.

All that we have just talked about takes TIME and money. There are a couple of people who have volunteered to help. One woman in particular is helping to set up and transfer information to the new website. I am thankful for the help that God sends our way. But the work will be like everything else in life right now. Whatever is the most important and most demanding will get gone first. The rest may be a work in progress for months or years to come, or it may just not get done!

### Studying God's Word & Reaching Out

Our Bible studies have continued throughout the summer. We did a short four-week course to teach what inductive Bible study is using the book of Jude. We will do another four weeks in July covering the same topic but using the book of 2 Timothy. In the fall we will study the book of Hebrews. Kevin and his church continue to join us from Naschitti for these studies.

Our Sunday morning fellowship just finished the gospels and moved into a video series called Stranger on the Road to Emmaus. It is an 11-hour excellent video series. I strongly recommend it to EVERYONE because it solidly grounds the listener in their need for salvation, how that salvation came, and how it is applied to our lives. It is a life-changing program done by John Cross and Good Seed. You can buy it via book, audio, or video.

We have been thinking about outreach opportunities for those who are part of the fellowship and the community around us. We are beginning our first ever monthly "Family Movie Night," and we have already started "Family Game Night." We were also looking at starting a women's ministry, but we are still praying on the details of that. Another outreach we are investigating is using the front of our property as a billboard to pique people's curiosity. Most of you know that we built a 1/10 scale tabernacle four years ago. It was a hand's on project for the students. We then gave that tabernacle to an area church, so they can use it as part of their ministry. Eight years ago we built a 1/100 scale model of Noah's Ark (which we also passed on to an local church). This year we are

looking at building a 1/10 scale which means we will have a 45-foot ark in our front yard for 4,000+ people to see everyday. We are installing a gate that people can come in and look, and we hope this will draw people in to ask questions and open up relationships to share the Gospel.

### Animals Are Multiplying

We have talked about our chickens. Through a whole series of events that only God could have brought together, we are now back in the goat business. We have six Nigerian Dwarf goats (4 females and 2 males) and are looking to add a couple more to the herd. The fresh eggs and raw milk have been a great joy (I have missed milking goats!)

We have shared what a blessing it has been over the years to have Zem and Girl, our guardian dogs. Unfortunately, Girl, after seven years, decided that she didn't want to stay here and was constantly digging out. God provided a good family for her, and she has a new home. In the meantime, since Zem is getting close to eight, we have bought two puppies, Kai and Riley, to learn from Zem what their duties are in regards to the goats and chickens. Pictures on next page.

### God's Answers to Prayer

1. God is in control! No matter how difficult a trial may seem, God is going to work it out in His time and in His way. We need to learn to stand back, trust, and watch. All our worry and impatience will not change a single thing!
2. What a joy it has been to watch our new grand baby grow.
3. The joy of observing the animals - watching puppies grow, the chickens with their chicks, the capriciousness of the goats and all their antics.
4. For a wonderful refreshing trip to FL for me, and that Jim was able to hold down the home front while I was gone.
5. Continued health and strength

### Please Pray For the Following . . .

1. TIME and making sure we are doing what God wants us to do.
2. The outreach over the next months and years. We pray that it will draw people to the Lord.
3. Continued wisdom as we seek to educate the students and assist them with their future plans.
4. Storme and I as we try to build an online classroom.
5. Volunteers to help with projects for the ministry and the grounds.





New puppies!  
Riley on left, Kai on right

Goats out grazing

Hailey (our granddaughter) meets Riley. She is showing Pop the doggie. Hailey is 9 months old and Riley is 5 weeks.

Back (left to right)  
Erin, Joshua, Trey,  
Ethan, Leo, Colin, Kyle

Center (left to right)  
Dawson, Holly, Mr. and  
Mrs. Williams, Kadijah,  
Kendra

Front (left to right)  
Aijah, Storme, Noelle,  
Chaunte

