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Fall, 2015

Dear Friends,

What a whirlwind of a summer! It felt as though we had just left home when our summer tour was at an end. Although it's always nice to get back to the comforts of your own home, being able to share the gospel in such a fun way with groups of children and adults throughout the summer is just so much fun! Here are a few of the stories:

- A young mother came to talk to us asking for prayer and encouragement as she battled with many fears. Pointing her to several verses, we reminded her to focus her heart on God's Word and to apply His truth in order to have victory.
- One girl responded to the salvation invitation at VBS but told the counselor she wasn't ready yet. At home that evening, she prayed to receive Christ as her Savior. She then told her sister that she needed to be saved, too. The following day her sister responded to the invitation and prayed to receive Christ!
- A couple of the songs we taught the children were scripture songs. What a fun way to memorize God's Word! The theme verse is memorized quickly when put to lively music. And have you ever tried to remember the fruit of the Spirit? It's easy when you sing it, and we've been told numerous times that the children are still singing it!
- During the week we were doing a Family VBS, a man who has struggled with alcoholism thanked us for the messages. He said that he has struggled with all the "monsters" the puppets had talked about and had been encouraged.
- A young Hispanic mother brought her children to VBS and stayed to listen. The woman who had invited them would sit nearby and clarify what Jeff was teaching since she struggled a bit with understanding English. At the end of the week, she said, "That's what I want. And I want that for my children, too." We are confident that the believing family continues to reach out to this young family.

Stories such as these humble us and remind us why we do this. When we are tired, discouraged or begin to think that what we are doing is not important, God is so gracious to remind us that He is working in and through us as we obey Him.



This summer was the eleventh year in our present bus. We hadn't really thought about it until we stopped to evaluate why there were "already" some things needing repair! One large repair that surprised us in the middle of the summer was two new steer tires and wheel studs. On our way from Chicago to Michigan one weekend, the driver's steer tire blew. Jeff was able to control the bus and get it to the side of the freeway. With the help of some modern conveniences (Wi-Fi connection on the computer and cell phones), we were able to locate a tow truck that could handle an 18-ton vehicle; and with the GPS locator on our phone, he was able to locate us! It was not an easy job to connect onto and tow the bus, so it wasn't until 1:00 a.m. on Saturday morning that we arrived at the shop where the tires could be replaced. Since the tires weren't in stock, the owner allowed us to spend the night still connected to the tow truck in the yard of his business! Right at 8:00 a.m., the mechanic was back. After a couple of trips to South Bend to get tires and new wheel

studs to replace the damaged ones, he had us back on the road. Although it took us much longer than we anticipated, we arrived at our next destination in time to set up and begin the next week of VBS.

Technology is one of those things on which we have come to rely, and it can be one of those love/hate relationships! At the end of June, the computer at the office crashed. Fortunately, we continuously back up the information on it so there was no loss there. However, it did leave us without the ability to pay bills, pay staff, pay taxes and generate receipts to our donors for over two weeks. We are blessed to have a friend who donates his time and knowledge to care for our technical needs, and he got a new hard drive installed and running while we continued on with camp and VBS.



As the boys are getting older, they are growing in their skills, and our rehearsal times are more productive reducing the time spent preparing for programs. They are also quite good at talking (unscripted) with "Uncle Jeff" during the singing time which encourages the children to participate. Their puppets have quite a following, and Logan and Jordan began taking pictures and making videos to put on the GHH Facebook page showing Caleb and Aaron at various churches and camps playing board games, going down Thunder Express, and driving go carts. It was a fun activity for them and it was a great way to keep people updated on the summer ministry. Jordan did a great job of telling the story on the third day of each week. He played four different parts and used hats and different voices to tell the story about Joseph interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker and then of Pharaoh himself. The children were always very attentive as he told this story and his western-sounding Pharaoh always got lots of laughs. There were a few days when Logan had laryngitis and we filled in for him and a couple of other days when Jordan had the flu and Logan had to fill in for him. Since Jordan's puppet, Aaron, was a daily character, Logan quickly came up with a way to cover for his sudden disappearance that flowed with the storyline. Their help in the ministry is invaluable...and lots of fun, too!



Now that we're back home, it's time to catch up on office work, plan and begin to work on next year's series while we continue to use this year's material for various programs, teach 11th grade subjects to Logan and 7th grade subjects to Jordan, and allow Jeff to finish the bus renovation for Chris and Amber who are adding to their family in February! Thank you for your faithful prayers, friendship and gifts of support! You are an important part of this team as we share the gospel with children and families!

Praises:

- *Many lives touched by God's Word
- *Our boys who are a great help
- *A great staff who work well together
- *Safety when the bus tire blew
- *Vehicle insurance that paid the towing bill (\$875)

Prayer:

- *Our own family's spiritual growth
- *That this ministry would remain true to God's Word
- *Strength to help Dad and Mom Friedl as Dad's health has been declining
- *Additional support: Ours has dropped yet costs rise

In His Service,

Jeff, Robin, Logan and Jordan Awe