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Dear Friends,

Fall, 2018

The summer began when the Knobloch team headed up to camp for the Memorial Day Family Camp weekend. They had a very full schedule which included eleven weeks of camps and VBS before they finished out the summer with another Family Camp during the Labor Day weekend. We joined them during His Ability week at Camp Barakel except that we were serving in the kitchen! Although an enjoyable experience, it was certainly different than connecting with the campers through the puppets during chapel. The whole team did a great job and we enjoyed seeing their performances. We were also able to enjoy them when they did VBS for our home church although Robin spent more of her time entertaining Gwen and Claire back at the bus!



Our office duties for the rest of the summer included Robin doing payroll and banking, paying bills and sending out receipts. Jeff did some reorganizing in the building and kept up with maintenance projects that are set aside when he's getting stages, props and equipment ready for the team. He continues to work on the construction design for the Reach More project. The funds for this project are just beginning to come in so he needs to have a plan in place. He was hoping that the existing building could be re-roofed this summer, but the \$12,000 needed has not yet come in. All of the planning and phone calls require him to sit at a desk; but when he gets tired of sitting, there's always grass to mow!



The biggest project this summer was getting Mom's house ready to be put on the market. First it had to be emptied. Many items were given to family and friends-- especially Dad's artwork. Then there were repairs that needed to be made, some deep cleaning done and fresh coats of paint in some of the rooms. Not only was it time-consuming, but it was also emotional. Dad built that house and he and Mom spent over 40 happy years there. We had hoped to have it on the market earlier in the summer, but it wasn't ready until September. We listed it with a realtor on the 18<sup>th</sup> and by 5:00 p.m. the following day, we had a signed sales agreement. It was all in the Lord's timing! Though the 40-year-old septic system failed inspection, it will be repaired in time for the closing before the end of October. We would appreciate your prayers especially for Mom during this emotional time. As if all these changes aren't enough, she was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. It was detected early and is slow-growing, but she will see a surgeon on October 26 to determine the best course of action.

In our spring letter, we told you that Robin would be having a total right knee replacement on March 14. That did happen, but things didn't go as smoothly as we expected. Although the knee surgery was successful,

Robin's heart stopped during surgery and twice more while she was in the hospital. Each incident was 10-20 seconds long. In addition to a new knee, she received a pacemaker as well to keep her heart beating smoothly. Recuperation time was a bit longer and more involved; but six months later, she is feeling almost normal. And, just in time! Jeff will have his first knee replacement on October 29, but our kids have given strict instructions for him not to scare them like that! Who would have guessed that 40 years of puppetry would be so hard on a person's body?!

Jordan spent his summer serving as an engineer at Camp Barakel twice, went to HPA drama camp, designed and ran lights for a production of "The Pirates of Penzance" and went to the Los Angeles area with his youth group for "Lead the Cause" which was great training and experience in sharing the gospel. And he hasn't stopped yet! Though school has begun, he has been able to keep up with his work and pursue theater at the same time. He is also leading a skit team for his youth group and is taking part in an in-depth Bible study with his youth pastor. Logan has spent much of his summer working at the veterinarian's office, but he did enjoy a camping trip with some of his friends. They had a good time even though the weather was cold and rainy! He has also begun to add some theatre back into his life and has been cast in two shows, including one in which he and Jordan work together on stage.

Chris, Amber, Juli and Nicole have been doing a puppet podcast, "Off hand with Stephen and Lydia," for over 6 years. It is quite popular, but kids are now asking for videos. The team did a couple of video blogs this summer that turned out pretty well. Videos do, however, take quite a bit more work! This is just one of the things we, as a ministry, are pursuing as another avenue for sharing the gospel. Whether it is a puppet program in front of an audience, a podcast through iTunes, curriculum for use in a classroom or family setting, Bible lessons through the mail, or video blogs, a clear Biblical presentation of the gospel is the reason that we do it. Would you pray with us that this would always be our focus and our goal? And would you also pray that God would provide the opportunities as well as the means for God's Helping Hands to reach more children for Him? We are blessed to be part of this outreach to children and to have you as our prayer warriors and supporters!



Because of Jesus,

Handwritten signature of Jeff and Robin.

Jeff, Robin, Logan and Jordan Awe