



00311 M-40 • Gobles, MI 49055

Summer, 2012

Dear Friends,

We are on our way home from our last performance of last year's series set in the old west town of "Psalm Springs." Tomorrow we begin rehearsal for this year's series, "Truth Travelers." Our puppets will be traveling through time as they learn that God's truth never changes. In a culture where kids are bombarded with relativism and tolerance for all things *except* God's truth, this series boldly proclaims that there is only one God and only one way to heaven, that God created everything for His glory, that there is a right and wrong and that we know these things because God's truth *never* changes. Our theme verse is from John 17 which is Jesus' prayer for his disciples and all believers. He knew that we would face opposition in this world and that the only answer to our struggles would be to hold onto the truth--God's Word. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (v. 17)

During the winter months, we had a number of programs in a variety of settings. We did a few Christian school chapels, a Saturday kids' club, an overnight kids' lock-in called Super camp, a closing program for a sports ministry outreach and an annual church family retreat. Just as we kept teaching the children through the lessons of "Psalm Springs," God always takes care of us. Although we have been struggling over the last several months with vehicle issues, we have seen God keep us going to each of the opportunities He has given us to share the Gospel. Even when our vehicles are untrustworthy, God is not! Recently as we were driving home from one of our programs, Jeff suddenly realized that we were out of gas. You have to understand that Jeff pays pretty close attention to the gas needs of the car, but this one has a faulty gas gauge. Looking up, we realized that we were just coming up on an exit that had not one, but two, gas stations! However...could we make it? We chugged and sputtered and the engine finally died, but momentum kept us moving forward. Up the ramp (yes, up!) and toward the stoplight (thank goodness for right turns on red!) then down the hill and two rights into the gas station where Jeff actually had to apply the brake as we glided next to the pump. As we came to a stop, the whole family starting praising the Lord! Once the gas tank was full, we had no trouble getting home.

Last fall when we got off the road, we came home to Kendra and Nick's wedding. This year, we are looking forward to the birth of their first child! Kendra is expecting a little girl somewhere around August 23. We are hoping to make it home in time to greet Emma Joy as she arrives, and we are already praying for her by name.

Grandchildren are such fun and we enjoy spending special time with them. During two different weeks this summer, we will take granddaughters with us in the bus. Kylie and Elli, Amber's girls, will be with us when we minister at Camp Selah. Isley and Kiera, Holly's girls, will be with us when we minister at His Ability week at Camp Barakel. We love spending special time with each of them and try to make arrangements to have them with us without their parents a couple of times each year.

We are praising the Lord that He has provided a young woman to stay at our house for the summer and be available for Jeff's mother who now lives with us. Paula has just graduated from college and is working in our area during the summer months at a large farm. She and Mom are hitting it off very well and we know Paula will take care of things while we are away. Our only concern is that maybe Mom would rather have her stay than have us come home! I guess there isn't too much chance of that since Mom has been enjoying getting to know her two youngest grandsons since she's moved in. And Logan and Jordan are pretty good about helping their Grandma with whatever she needs!

Something for us to get used to this summer is traveling with our new addition! Before Kendra got married, Nick got her a shihpoo puppy. We all fell in love with Minnie. Then Kendra got married and took Minnie with her! So for Christmas this year, we got the boys their own puppy. Sadie is a toy shihpoo and is just the right size to fit in the bus. There will be a couple of times that she will stay with Nick and Kendra (and her friend, Minnie) while we go to camp, but otherwise she will travel with us because she's become part of the family!

Our vehicle troubles do continue. As of yet, we have been unable to replace our van which is the most practical way to travel with our family and tow the equipment trailer. Since the equipment is stored in the bus bay and we don't need to tow a trailer in the summer, we are able to use the four-door sedan. We were planning to sell Kendra's old car to help add to our car fund, but the engine on that one died...for the third time since we purchased it two years ago. It's time to just sell it for parts. We are praying that the Lord will give us wisdom (and patience!) as we wait for Him to provide just the right vehicle.

Thank you so much for your interest in God's Helping Hands and your prayers and support for us as a family in this ministry. Please pray that there would be many who would respond to the truth of God's Word and His gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Please pray, too, for us as a family that we would serve Him well and learn and grown in Him together.

In His Service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff & Robin". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid and personal.

Jeff and Robin Awe