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Dear Friends,

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love." 2 Peter 1:5-7 ESV

These verses are the theme of our summer series, "Mount Everlast," and list character qualities that need to grow in every believer once we've placed our faith in Jesus Christ for our salvation. As the puppets try to get to the top of Mount Everlast by various means, they will be teaching lessons about these qualities and about placing our faith in the only one who can save us—Jesus Christ. There will be lots of fun characters: a villain in a dirigible, a vulture who speaks truth, a St. Bernard who barks his lessons and the nature-loving hiker who understands him, and a pair of marionette baristas who attempt to define each day's character quality! The Old Testament is full of men who in various times of their lives exhibited these virtues. Abraham was faithful. King Josiah longed for knowledge of God's word. Daniel exhibited self-control. Godliness was evident in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. And God's gift of Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of love. Pray for the message from God's Word to be clear and that hearts would be ready to receive it. Pray, also, that our hearts would be ready to serve as we teach these truths.



Before summer begins, we will be having another high school graduation! Logan will be graduating along with about 60 other homeschool graduates on May 25, 2017, at Centerpoint Church in Kalamazoo where each graduate will receive his diploma from his parents. We will then celebrate his accomplishments at an open house on June 3. After several years of experience with Homeschool Performing Arts, Logan's interest in theater has grown. His plans are to get some more training and experience locally, while working in order to raise money to attend Sights and Sounds Conservatory in the future. Meanwhile, he will get some of that experience when he becomes an intern with us this summer increasing his involvement and using his talents in performance to share the gospel through puppets and storytelling. We are proud of Logan and are looking forward to seeing how the Lord uses him!

Getting school accomplished has been quite a feat this year. While the boys have done pretty well organizing themselves and their assignments, Robin has just now begun to focus better on her teaching duties. She had back surgery at the end of October and recovery was a longer journey than expected. She has only recently been done wearing the back brace and had activity restrictions lifted. We are grateful that the surgery seems to have been successful in relieving most of the pain she had been experiencing although the surgeon says it may take more time for those nerves to finish healing. During her recovery, Jeff stepped in and made sure she followed doctor's orders while he and the family made meals, washed dishes, did laundry and kept the family running. You could say that there were more lessons in home management this year than ever before! We praise the Lord that the boys have been able to take some homeschool tutoring classes and that Logan is driving this year to get them where they need to be which gave Robin time to heal.

With Robin unable to help with programs, we kept our schedule very light. In fact, the last programs we had were only a week after her surgery. On that particular weekend, a friend stayed at our house and took care of Robin while Jeff and the boys recruited Courtney to travel with and help them. It was fun for them to have Courtney doing puppets again! The low point that weekend was when the van died on a busy Chicago freeway. Help came in



the form of a friend from one of our supporting churches who helped get the van and trailer home. For a while, we were able to revive the van. In the meantime, a supporter made a matching funds challenge to help us get into a newer and more reliable vehicle. We are pleased to say that because of the generosity of our supporters, we are now driving a 2010 Chevy Traverse! In January when we purchased it, this car had only 89,000 miles on it. It gets reasonably good mileage, has some very helpful features and, as Robin would say, "It's pretty!" Thank you, once again, to those who gave to this project!



Jeff has been very focused on getting the bus completed in time for this summer's ministry. He had a few helpers last fall and hired a finish carpenter to get the doors, cupboards, trim work and kitchen countertop done which saved him much time. As you can see, it is getting really close and will be ready to use even if there are a few nonessentials that are left unfinished. Something that cannot be left unfinished is replacing all the tires as that is a safety issue. It is also important to have it finished long enough before the Knobloch team have to leave in June so that Chris can have a bit of time to practice driving that big rig. Juli and Nicole will be traveling alongside them in the large ministry van and pulling their own travel trailer. Driving practice would be very helpful for them, too, as well as taking the time to learn how to "set up camp" once they arrive! Everyone is excited about having their own living quarters even though it may take some time to learn how to operate with this new mode of travel.

It is a good thing the bus is almost finished since the Knobloch family has welcomed another daughter into their family! Claire was born at home (that part was planned) on February 27 at 4:34 p.m. She weighed 9 pounds and measured 20 inches long. Her arrival was about 20 minutes *before* the midwife arrived (that part wasn't planned)! However, the midwife coached Chris and Amber over the phone while she was driving to their house and Claire was born quickly and safely. They are all doing pretty well although it has been quite an adjustment, especially for Gwen who just had her first birthday and isn't ready to give up being mama's girl just yet! Robin was blessed to once again be on hand for the birth and got to hold baby Claire right away.



In other family news, Courtney has returned to Albuquerque for a job as a global account manager for Hewlett Packard. After having her near us for a year, we were sorry to see her go but excited for this new chapter in her life. Robin went with her to share in the driving and flew back home after she was able to help her choose an apartment. Just before we learned that Courtney would be moving away, we were finally able to make a trip to North Carolina to visit Nick, Kendra, Emma and Éowyn in their new home. It was fun to see them in their own home and neighborhood, visit their church and take in some of the local sights. In December, we celebrated with Holly when she graduated from nursing school. She received a special award and was also recognized for her participation as the president of her Associate Degree Nursing Honor Society chapter. This past month, she passed the NCLEX exam and accepted a job offer in the surgical ICU of one of the hospitals near her. She is excited to put her training to good use, and her servant's heart will be an asset to her patients and other staff members.

The Lord continues to give us strength and opportunities to serve Him, and we are looking forward to another summer of ministry! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support of our family in this ministry. Together, we are able to continue to reach the children with the good news that Jesus saves!

In His Service,

Jeff, Robin, Logan & Jordan

Jeff, Robin, Logan and Jordan Awe