

Majestic View Ministry

Spring 2012



Dear Family and Friends,

This is what spring looks like in our corner of Montana. This picture was taken on April 7th. There is still snow in the mountains, but most of the piles around us have melted, except some of the deeper ones. It has been a winter and spring of wondering if we would ever see the sun again, but we know that we fared much better than many in other parts of the country. Many people are starting their gardens indoors this year to get a jump on it, and then hopefully move them outside after a few more nice days. We look forward to a warm summer of having friends, old and new, at the camp with us this year.

We have had some wildlife back in our yard. Besides the 10 deer who are not alarmed when we make noise, talk to them, drive a car by them, etc., we have had up to 18 elk in the yard at one time. Most are cows, but there are two spike bulls in the group. Our horse Sparrow has tried to make friends with the elk, but so far they have not been quite as friendly with her as the deer have been. The deer are even so bold as to go into the corral and barn to get some of Sparrow's munchies.

Most of the time this winter has been spent trying to keep the road cleared, working on the fire hall, giving the inside of our house a fresh coat of paint, cutting firewood, doing paperwork that seems to continue to pile up, etc. It seems that everything takes at least twice as much time in the winter. Alex has been a big help in keeping us warm taking care of the boilers at the house and the fire hall. Clyde has also done some electrical jobs to help pay the bills.

Both Abbie and Nate have taken the GED and look forward to college next fall. Nate is heading to northern California for firefighting and Abbie will take classes locally until she is 18 years old. We are planning a graduation for them on Sunday, May 27th. Anyone who would like to attend, or send a note for them during that time, would be greatly appreciated. We know that, especially in the earlier years, many of you had a part in their education, whether it was reading with them, teaching them a skill, or sharing an area of expertise, and it would be great to put your thoughts into a scrapbook for them. That weekend both kids are also in the play/ballet of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Nate is playing four characters, and Abbie has a smaller single character role. Although Abbie has not had the desire to learn ballet, she does have a small dance number that fits her style a bit better. We are proud of all our kids have been involved in. Abbie misses playing softball this year, but hopes to ump the younger kids. Nate is busy with play practice here and in Kalispell (*Mascarade* scene from *Phantom of the Opera*), along with taking an EMT course in Kalispell. He lives there (in a fire station) about as much as he lives here.

Friends in Glory

Two friends of our family and the ministry have gone home to Glory this year, and though it is very sad for all of us, we have to trust that the Lord knows what is best for each one of us. One is a young lady we have enjoyed watching grow up through the years. She always had a smile that would light up the room, and a word of encouragement for everyone. Through the years we have heard her quote many scripture verses (including the ones to the right) and watched her encourage others to do the same. The other was an older gentleman who, in his own gentle, quiet way, was an encouragement to all of us. When we first adopted the boys, he was one who would talk with the boys and share how good God was to give them a home such as they had been given. He also gave them gifts to help develop their appreciation for all they had. We will miss both of these friends on this earth, but we look forward to seeing them in our heavenly home. Please pray for their families.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

*"O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?"*

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58