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September 21, 2021

Forgive us for this late report. Life didn't slow down much even during the summer!

That's a wrap!

As we catch our breath from a very busy year and gear up for a new one we want to give you an overview of what the Lord did from August 2020 through May 2021. Even with all of the complications from Covid restrictions, we had a great year! Both of the colleges that we serve implemented severe restrictions concerning campus meetings and student interactions. Through all of these changes God used the athletes' cancelled seasons and limited practice schedules to give us more time with them. It was difficult for them emotionally as they experienced some extreme heartaches over "losing" something they love. It was the perfect recipe for a spiritual movement! Our update will cover three of the highlights of this year, and then we will do a separate report on the mission trip.

McCracken Was Right

I'm referring to a "tall drink of water" farmer that was part of our single's ministry years ago. He taught us valuable lessons concerning farming that apply to the ministry, as well. He told us that they would do the best they could to prepare the land, use the best seed possible, fertilize whenever possible, and then trust God and the process for a harvest. That recipe works for evangelism as well. Hearts have been softened by demonstrating the love of Christ. The Word of God is the best seed there is! We continued to serve them after presenting them with the gospel. We then waited as the Lord did His work in their hearts. A football player in January. A wrestler in February. A gymnast in March. A football alumnus in May. All accepted Christ as their Savior!

The alumnus' salvation was very interesting. I started with my two standard questions: "How do you think someone gets eternal life?" And, "Can you know beforehand if you're going to make it?" "Good works" and "No, you can't know" are the standard answers. As we went through the scriptures to correct those religious misgivings, I asked if he ever asked Jesus to save him. He replied with the usual religious response of "Every week." I asked if he ever asked Christ to save him without trusting his own efforts, and he said "No." I asked if he would like to, and he said "Yes." He then bowed his head and prayed without my prompting or leading. I guess he led himself to the Lord!

315

Not just the area code for central New York but a rough count of how many meals we provided the athletes on Sundays. Affectionately called the "Lunch Bunch," it was Jhan's idea of utilizing the extra time they had to spend time with them in our home. Ninety-five percent of those meals were prepared by Jhan as this became a real labor of love. She refused to just serve them pizza, etc. and wanted them to have a good home cooked meal. More than 30 different athletes and NARPs* attended, and our largest gathering was 21! The students found it a convenient way of inviting others to our church service and then over for lunch. We also averaged four unbelievers at each meal. It was such a blessing to watch the athletes and students invite others to the luncheons, and to help strengthen each other through the fellowship! The pictures below are from a couple of our lunches.



A Glorious Day

Resurrection Sunday is glorious in and of itself. The resurrection of Christ is the event that sets Christianity apart, and above, all other religions. It demonstrates the fact that Jesus was God manifest in the

flesh and could conquer even the grave and hell. Oh, what a Savior!

This past Resurrection Day was even more special for us. Amy, a gymnast from Brockport, had been part of the ladies Bible study for three years and was personally disciplined by Jhan this year. Amy wanted to get baptized but also wanted her family from Virginia to attend, so she shared her testimony of faith and took the step of obedience on Resurrection Sunday! That is glorious. Being a senior, she realized that she could use this special event to reach some more of her teammates, classmates, and coworkers with the gospel. To sweeten the pot, we offered to do a luncheon after the service. We watched with great anticipation as the number attending grew from a handful all the way up to 35! Many of them did not know Christ as Savior. We set out Ultimate Questions booklets at each place setting and 20 of them were gone by the time we cleaned up! We offered Bibles as well and two were taken. Oh, what a glorious day!



None of these testimonies would be possible without all that you do for us. Your prayers and financial support makes this ministry possible and flourishing. We cannot move for God without your help!

Thanks for being a great support team!

Gary & Jhan



*NARPs – Non-Athletic Regular Persons