

THE LANDIS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019

FAMILY UPDATE (LISA)

As we gradually witness the shifting of seasons out our windows here in Northwestern Montana, our family moreover senses the more subtle but perceived transformation of our family life with the increasing growth and developing maturity of our children. As we leave behind a familiar wake of diapers, babies, toddlers and young children, we are entering into an uncharted season of teenagers, high school and more “bigs” than “littles” as I continually observe myself gazing eye to eye with a growing daughter. This new season we find ourselves in bears unanticipated joys, unique challenges and periodic waves of disbelief in the foreseen hastiness of our parenting journey. Our days together as a family are largely consumed with school, which at times feels like a well oiled machine that persists in operating smoothly day by day despite the weight and enormity that the task being accomplished feels at times to mom the “machinist!” All six of our children are participating in school this year, with Caleb’s preschool lessons being quite minimal while gaining in intensity with Hannah in 2nd grade, Eva in 4th, Dinah in 6th, Aleyah in 8th and Joella in 9th. Apart from schoolwork our children all enjoy involvement in music, church activities, spending time with friends, helping out around the “farm,” and having people over in our home.

The season of these “middle” years of raising children has proved to be enjoyable and laborious in an entirely dissimilar way to the preceding years and we have much to be thankful for. One of the greatest joys throughout the progression of training up our children and witnessing a shift in family dynamics as they each blossom and grow is the beautiful gift of observing and taking part in the continual work of the Holy Spirit in sanctifying our children and growing them in their love and knowledge of God. It truly is no small joy as a parent to participate in years of reading the Word together, instructing on it, memorizing it, conversing over it, being corrected, reprovved and trained by

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NEW FACILITY UPDATE (JAMY)

We are so thankful for all of the interest in the new facility here at Big Sky. Progress continues to be made although it is slow at times. We ran into some structural engineering issues with the last set of prints from the architect, so we went back to the drawing board and emerged with a plan that we really like and that will satisfy all of the engineers! Big Sky’s architect is currently producing the new set of plans and, at this point, we are planning on beginning construction in 2020. Please continue to pray for this project and for me as I try to keep up the momentum!



SUMMER REPORT (JAMY)

Once again, we were blessed beyond measure this summer with summer staff, speakers, work teams, etc. Here are a few highlights from the summer:

*Our speakers did an exceptional job this summer teaching the Word of God. We saw significant fruit in the lives of campers as well as comments from their parents following each week.

*Our theme this summer was, “three in one,” focusing on each member of the Trinity. The kids comprehended and soaked in these lessons far more than we ever thought they would. It was very encouraging!

*The Franconia youth group blessed us greatly with a lot of hard work! From moving firewood to setting trusses to helping counsel in the cabins, it was a joy to have this group and their leaders here participating in ministry.

*Others from PA came out to work on our new staff house and completely finished roughing in the electric and plumbing!

*Our leadership team was truly a blessing to all of the year ‘round staff. It was a joy to serve alongside of them.

*All of the other work that was accomplished by various work teams throughout the summer including painting the chapel, framing and roofing our staff house, beginning work on a new playground and countless other projects.

BIG SKY'S NEW PLAYGROUND (JAMY)

Big Sky obviously needs various "tools" for ministry and a new playground has been high on the list for years. With

hundreds of children in the K-6 grades, this is important! The custom made playground will consist of three platforms connected with various slides, etc for access. The middle platform will be large enough for a cabin to sleep out on! Thanks to Phil Derstine (Amanda Nice's father) for designing this and coming out to help build it. We hope to have this completed for summer 2020.



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it, and by the grace of God being allowed to witness the Word begin to take root and bear fruit in a child's heart. It was a great blessing to our hearts to witness Joella's testimony of her desire to follow Christ as she was baptized by our pastor in the lake at camp this fall. We are continuously humbled as the Holy Spirit graciously uses these familial relationships to expose the depths of each of our sinful hearts and our ongoing need for the message of the gospel and the hope of Christ!

We have been memorizing Romans 8 together as a family during this school year and the familiar phrases that are quoted together each morning have been an encouragement as we live closely together and can testify of one another's weaknesses and sin. Some of the beloved thoughts so far that we have been encouraged by: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death...to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace...the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies...you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons...the Spirit Himself bears witness that we are children of God...the sufferings of this present time are not worth the glory that is to be revealed to us." As we labor and strive together as a family in the pursuits we are committed to, we are so richly strengthened by the Word of truth that reminds us that though we bear no worthiness that we should merit God's mercy, He has freely poured out His grace upon us and called us His own, bestowing on us the righteousness of Christ so that though we stumble and fall, we can walk in freedom and newness of life!

FROM THE SUMMER STAFF...

(Below is a testimony from Nathan, one of our leaders from the summer)

"In my first week as a counselor, I realized how little I knew about walking through life as a servant of the living God. Through the faithful discipleship of Big Sky Bible Camp I quickly began to understand the necessity of knowing God, loving God, and being obedient to God. It is impossible to love God without knowing God, and it is dishonest to say you love God if you do not obey Him. Over the past two summers, the Lord used camp to develop me spiritually and as a leader. I had the opportunity to pray with counselors and staff each week. I was challenged to read instructional books. Each week I met with a discipler who taught me, listened to me, counseled me, and prayed with me. I was given responsibility for tasks and grew in my general competency. The Lord has used Big Sky Bible Camp to develop my love for God, His word, and His people. I am grateful to God for Big Sky Bible Camp, sustained spiritual growth, and the ongoing work of His servants at BSBC."



*Jamy, Lisa, Joella, Aleyah, Dinah, Eva, Hannah and Caleb Landis serving with BCM Int'l at Big Sky Bible Camp
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