

THE LANDIS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..." Ps. 24:1

FAMILY UPDATE

Despite the many changes and disruptions to normalcy we have all experienced in the past few months, life here in our home has resembled somewhat of a familiar rhythm as we finished out another year of home-schooling albeit missing friends and family and the usual "fullness" of life. Like many of you, although life has been quieter our eyes have been more abundantly beholding God's goodness and kindness to us as we have enjoyed more fully the simple blessings so easily taken for granted in busy life. We are encouraged by the words of truth and life found in His Word and the promises of His sovereign reign and authority over all creation for all time. God is good and He does good (Psalm 119:68)!

As our family is preparing for another full summer of camp, our girls are enthusiastic over the prospects of further involvement in assisting in various duties and roles around camp. I (Lisa) am stepping into a new

position this summer as the manager of our camp store and am greatly anticipating the opportunity to learn this new task and be a part of the fun and enthusiasm that originates with the camp snack shop!



In the brief "in-between" window of time that elapses in the midst of school and camp our family has been savoring the warmer weather and splendor of springtime in Montana. Our kids have been actively reveling in open water down at the lake and seized the opportunity to take their first dip in the cold water shortly after the ice came off. Each year the first "swim" date is pushed a bit earlier and they ensure strict requirements are met in order for the chilly plunge to actually "count" as swimming. Considerable time has also been spent canoeing, bass fishing, more swimming, helping with the garden and reading books in their hammocks as they savor a few weeks of down time before camp begins; we were all thankful to sneak in a family camping trip with the reopening of campgrounds in Montana as well! We look forward to serving together this summer at camp and are grateful for this season we are in with children eager and able to be a part of the work here at camp alongside us.



CAMP UPDATE

Following considerable uncertainty and many unknowns we are so thankful for the opportunity to commence activities once again here at camp and open up our facilities to run our summer programs. God has incessantly shown Himself faithful throughout the numerous years Big Sky has been in operation and we have fully rested and trusted in His good providence with the unfolding of COVID-19 and the effects it has brought to non-profit ministries. Although we held very loosely to our desire to hold summer camp, it has been with gladness and thanksgiving in our hearts that we persist with plans to run camp. Countless hours have been devoted to writing up new policies and specifications on what summer camp entails in the midst of the current instabilities, but it is truly a blessing to be proceeding with plans!

PERSONAL UPDATE (LISA)

I have been immensely enjoying the book, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* by the Puritan author Jeremiah Burroughs. The book exhorts the Christian to rest content in our all-sufficient God, possessing a sufficient portion between Christ and the soul to find abundant satisfaction in Him under every circumstance. Calling the great mystery of Christian contentment the duty, glory and excellence of a believer, Burroughs describes this grace as follows: "Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition." As we face uncertain times with much murmuring of spirits around us, we are encouraged to find rest in God alone, knowing fullness of joy comes both in endeavoring to please God and also endeavoring to be pleased with what God does. Truly He alone is our fountain of life and source of true delight! If you are looking for an encouraging book, I recommend this one!



PERSONAL UPDATE (JAMY)

Two things I have been thankful for lately are both the fullness of the life that we live here at Big Sky as well as the opportunity for a recent break from it! Between being a father, running a camp, maintaining a small farm and serving on various ministry boards, life is full to say the least. While I am thankful for each of these opportunities, it was therapeutic to be able to step back from many of my obligations for a couple of months due to COVID-19. I truly valued the extra time we spent together as a family. Stepping back from an active life also seems to allow for perspective that cannot be seen in the midst of busyness.

One of the things that has kept me occupied at work (and an item which you could pray for!) is countless zoom meetings, emails, phone calls and important decisions regarding the new facility we are working on. I meet weekly on zoom with an architect and civil, structural, mechanical, electrical and fire suppression engineers. It is a lot of smart people (excluding me, of course!) in one meeting! But I have enjoyed this stage of the building process and we hope to have design documents in hand in a month or so.

We are continually thankful for the opportunity to serve at Big Sky and be a part of the Lord's work. Thank you to each of you for helping to make it possible for us to serve here!



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