

summer/fall 2008 ministry update

Green FamilyLifers

Reaching People for Christ Through the Felt Need of the Family



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Carrie and the boys with Mom and Dad Hinman, visiting from Indiana

HËLLÖ FRIENDS & FAMILY! OUR ŁOVE TO YOU!

It's the beginning of a new season here in the Pacific Northwest! We've had our summer (the two weeks above 80 degrees!) and it definitely feels as though fall is in the air. The boys go back to school this week...Max into the 5th grade and Isaac into Kindergarten. Rob has been busy designing the promotional material for the fall conference season beginning at FamilyLife as well as designing the video presentation for our new parenting conference. He's also designing a new tract to replace the old "Four Spiritual Laws" handout that CCC has used for years. I have (finally!) had time to write a much-needed newsletter. I am child free 3 days a week, with both boys at school, for the first time in 10 years and am excited to dedicate needed time to our other important ministry responsibilities!

There are BIG decisions to be made this fall in our nation (U.S. elections), in our ministry (opportunities for FL Canada), and in our own home (priorities). It's *such* a blessing to have the privilege of seeking God's will. **Let's kick this letter off** with praises for God and prayers for all of these things and more!

Praises & Prayers!

➔ We praise you God! For all that you are and all that you do! We choose to walk in your Goodness today!

➔ Father, we praise you for our families! I thank God for my parents ... my mom as she walks with You through a reoccurrence of cancer (leukemia) and for my dad's surgery and recovery of a double knee replacement. I wish that we could be there with you Mom and Dad!

➔ We praise You for our children. We pray for the nurturing and growth of their sensitive and young mind's, body and spirits this school year.

➔ We pray diligently for our leaders ... of our nation, of our churches, of our ministries and of our homes.

➔ We pray for our missionaries here and abroad. Your

presence be poured out on all of those called to serve in this sacrificial way.

➔ We pray for the upcoming FamilyLife conference season, the upcoming episodes of Marriage uncensored, and FL Canada's presence in both China and India this fall. Allow us to take you into the homes and lives of families all across Canada and abroad.

One BIG BC BUG!





Max's friend Steven from BC

Max's first summer camp in BC

Max's little brown dog

fact, Max is a fair ride "junkie." He will take on any amusement park ride they can dish out. (We actually asked someone else's dad to go with Max on the Zipper last year ... Rob had had enough!)

I want to mention that even before the prospect of going to the fair this year, Max and Isaac have already had a good, good summer. It *has* been busy, and mom and dad *have* worked hard, but we've also made time for some fun excursions. We've driven into British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. We've explored gorges, waterfalls, rivers, and have gone sledding on our beautiful Mt. Baker in August. We've made new friends and spent time with old ones.

Best of all, Max and Isaac have had their family. My Mom, Dad, 2 sisters, their husbands and one cousin all came out for a visit ... some by train and some by plane. We hadn't seen them in over a year you know, so the time we spent together brought us a TON of joy.

continued

GROUNDING FROM THE COUNTY FAIR

Anyone growing up in a rural community knows that every kid waits with much anticipation for the county fair ...

ESPECIALLY if it's as awesome as ours in Whatcom County. Max and Isaac are no exception. The boys love everything about the fair ... the animals, the cotton candy, the picnic mom packs to eat in a shady spot midday, and knowing that, for one day, they get to ride rides from sunup to sundown. In

This is where “how Max came to be grounded from the County Fair” comes in ...

Last Sunday, when Max’ Sunday school teacher asked him how his summer had gone so far, Max answered, “Boring. I can’t wait for the fair!” I honestly stood there speechless ... staring in disbelief. Had he forgotten all of the fun he had? All of the wonderful places he had gone? Did my good and decent son just throw God’s goodness (and all of our training) out the window? Our training being that “this is the day that the Lord has made ... let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

I truly believe that our Father wakes up every morning and creates a new day for each one of us. He doesn’t operate in the same way we would ... setting up our calendar a year in advance ... designing all of the sunrises and sets ahead of time so we can check one more thing off of our “to do”

list. I like to imagine that I am His one and only child on earth ... and rain or shine ... that this IS indeed a day that the Lord has made ... and it’s just for me!

So long story short...we returned to the car after church...and it took Rob only a second or two before concluding that Max will not be attending the County Fair this year. You may think that it is a harsh and unusual punishment, but for this year, Max needs to take a timeout from the one thing he was so willing to disregard all of the blessings of summer for.

And you MUST know, that as I was relaying the story to Rob in the car, I saw in Rob’s face the EXACT same response that I had felt in my own heart ... HOW HAVE I BEEN RESPONDING TO GOD’S GOODNESS???

We’ve spent a lot of time talking about it as a family this week. Max, at first, didn’t want to share his story. But he can see now how

his own trial and testimony encouraged Mom and Dad. He thought THAT was pretty cool!

Max ...

You are the light of the world- like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5: 14-16

We pray that each one of us remembers the blessings He has given us this day ... that we take none for granted and throw none aside ... especially when it comes to marriage and family.

◆◆ GŌD KNOWŚ ◆◆

Most of you know by now, that there is typically an ebb and flow in our missionary support. It's just a part of life! And after having a *great* year of support, the economy has made it difficult for many of you and our support has dropped... or should I say plummeted! So, it's understandable, when Rob was offered a job outside of FamilyLife it was tempting to see it as a possible answer to our dilemma. However, God knows what it takes to *nudge* each of us in the general direction of his will. And for our family, major decisions have all been marked by 3 confirmations from God. God knows that Rob and I work well with clear and honest direction ... and He has been so faithful to provide it.

After having three separate

mornings in prayer, Rob was seeking God's thoughts on accepting the position outside of the ministry and God was sure and swift with His first warning, His second confirmation and then His third. These were the first lines of scripture Rob turned to on each of these days...

The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh in hell.
James 5:3

All right then! THAT surely had to be a disturbing coincidence! Then a few days later...

God bought you for a price; so do not become slaves of people. My friends, each of you should remain in fellowship with God in the same direction that you were when you were called. 1 Corinthians 7: 24

And finally, as Rob prayed last

Saturday, while developing his plan for raising our needed support ...

I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with His godly people. Psalm 111:1

Ha! God has such awesome timing! And although it may not have *quite* as much meaning to you, it is obvious to us, knowing the specific way in which Rob prayed, that God is asking us to remain true to our calling with FamilyLife. Yet, our support is the second lowest it has ever been. Rob is currently raising support locally, but it seems we need to be a bit more creative!

We have had good counsel from our local Pastor ... and some new ideas to work with. But we will have to have the blessing from our leadership to explore them. We will keep you posted!

Thank you, our friends and family, for being a part of our journey over the years and for sharing so much of your own. Please pray we stay surrendered to His control and become available for God's plan. That we live in the moment with Him, hearing His voice and knowing His heart, timing, and direction for the specific thing that is in front of us that day, remaining centered in God's will during this new season. Let us live in the moment with Him, ever aware of His presence, and ready to move in His unexpected ways, as He gives us opportunity to express His heart and do His work, one day at a time. Rob is content knowing that if he does this and the support for our cause (or for us personally) is NOT there, that he will be free then, and only then, to move on.

DATES FOR WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

♥ We really encourage anyone to attend a marriage conference. Call us for any info or for a discounted ticket! And go online at FamilyLifeCanada.com or FamilyLife.com (U.S. info) for conference registration and accommodations.

CANADA ... click here

Weekend to Remember Conference (3-day marriage conference)

- Nov. 7-9 Barrie, ON
- Nov. 21-23 Whistler, BC
- Nov. 17-19 Ottawa, ON (Chinese Conference)
- March 6-8 Victoria, BC
- March 20-22 Winnipeg, MB
- March 27-29 Kelowna, BC
- April 3-5 Fredericton, NB
- April 17-19 Jasper, AB
- April 24-26 Niagara Falls, ON

Real Marriage Conferences ... click here (1-day marriage conference)

- Sept. 27 Nanaimo, BC
- Oct. 4 Carlye, SK
- Oct. 4 Langley, BC
- Oct. 25 Salmon Arm, BC
- Nov. 1 Burdett, AB
- Nov. 1 Chilliwack, BC
- Nov. 1 Ottawa, ON

Legacy Parenting Conference ... click here (our new parenting conference)

- Oct. 4 Brantford, ON
- Oct. 18 Chilliwack, BC
- Nov. 8 Surrey, BC
- Nov. 15 Abbotsford, BC

UNITED STATES ... click here

There are 55 WTR conferences to choose from this fall!

BE A MENTOR WITH TRUTHMEDIA.COM!

People often write in with questions after they watch our television show "Marriage Uncensored." These questions are then passed on and distributed through our mentoring service "Truth Media." Mentoring one-on-one with truthmedia.com is definitely one of my favorite parts of ministry ... and truly blesses me. The questions can be difficult or unusual (smile) but well worth the window it provides to touch the lives of others with His love.

