



FOUNDER'S FLASHBACK

Spring 2011

Dear Friends and Family,

“CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD; RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. THEN WILL I TEACH TRANSGRESSORS THY WAYS; AND SINNERS SHALL BE CONVERTED UNTO THEE. (Ps. 51:10 & 13)

What beautiful verses for children’s workers! You probably all realize that working with children can be a real challenge, but then I have heard pastors make a similar statement concerning adults. I think we all need to frequently do an attitude check. Agreed??

Below is a picture from last fall of the men building our garage, followed by a picture of how it looks today. Isn’t it beautiful!!!! There was such a change in the appearance of our home that a friend coming to visit us, drove right past our driveway. And I can’t describe to you how we felt the first time we pulled the car in and out of the garage. We simply pushed the button and the garage door opened and then closed behind us while outside was deep snow! We never thought of a garage being cozy, but it certainly felt that way. The third picture is the little room that connects the garage to the house and is used for a laundry room. Can you believe it! Amazing! I hope you can tell how grateful we are for it.



As you know, we have not been doing much traveling the past few years. However shortly after New Year, we took a trip to our former home church in Illinois. In 1969, Bob had done a watercolor painting of the church which, sadly, burned down a few years later destroying everything. The painting was in the hands of one of the families from the church all these years, but we suddenly found it back in our hands. The reason for our trip was to take this 42-year-old painting to the church family of today. This church has grown to be very large over the years. I would guess that the majority of the members today had never seen the original church. They seemed delighted to have the painting and hung it in their boardroom.



We had what is now a rare opportunity the day after Christmas. We did a chalk drawing at our home church. It was exciting to be involved in that way once again. Due to physical happenings in our lives, it had been a year since we had done a chalk program. In years gone by, we have been known to do 100 chalk drawings a year. Our kids and grandkids and great-grandkids that live in the area were all there to help set up and take down. They said they watched with concern as we climbed the steps and stepped over all the electric cords. Once we accomplished that, they relaxed and enjoyed the program. It was a special night!

What an encouragement to receive a note from a parent of one of our discipleship students stating, "Thank you. Your mail excites the kids and teaches them useful lessons. Our family has applied many to our lives. Not only do the lessons help young believers but also guide parents in keeping God first in our lives."

This month I gave the children in the discipleship program a challenge. I sent them each a small bag of jellybeans with the six colors of the Gospel message, a card of instructions for using this tool and a challenge to tell a friend the story of Jesus before sharing the jellybeans with that friend. I'm hoping to hear from some of them of their experience.

Bob continues to faithfully repair all those cute little puppets who come to him in tears saying things like, "Fix me! Fix me! I'm falling apart and I don't know what to do!" It seems that puppeteers using these little guys day after day creates serious problems. The hand of the puppeteer gets sweaty causing the puppet's neck to literally disintegrate. Eyes and arms have been known to fall off (if this happens in the middle of the program, it can divert all attention from the kids). An armature (apparatus made from copper wire which when inserted into the fingers allows the puppet to hold things) comes through the fingers causing the hand to look like claws, which is alright for a bird but not a kid). "Bad Hair Day" occurs frequently. Ears and noses fall off creating a monster look-alike. Chris came up with one this year that so far has been an impossibility (how would you make a tumbleweed puppet?). All of that to say, Bob keeps quite busy doing what he still does best.

We are so grateful for your heart for the children and for your partnership with us in reaching them for Jesus. You are a blessing and a great encouragement. Our financial support is feeling the effects of this troubled economy. As a result we would ask you to pray with us for the Lord's provision of additional support. Our current support level has dropped to 77%, which amounts to needing an additional \$1090 a month.

PRAISE:

1. God's love John 3:16
2. God's guidance Isaiah 30:21
1. God's faithfulness 1Thessalonians 5:24

PRAYER:

1. That boys and girls will hear and respond to the truth of Jesus Christ John 14:6
2. Our 10 year-old refurbished computer is in need of replacement. This is used constantly for the discipleship program.
2. Our monthly support need

Because of His love,



Bob and Shirley Friedl