

God's Word is Truth. God's Word will build you up, feed your soul, and give you strength, direction, hope, and faith. Psalm 119:160 The sum of Your (God's) Word is truth. John 17:17 Your Word is truth. 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

In 2017, we started reading systematically through the entire Bible as a family, then discussing it together. It is fascinating, though the full meaning of each account is not always appropriate for young children. God wants us to learn lessons through all the mistakes of others. God uses broken people who are yielded to Him.

Winter: hosting friends, sometimes for a full meal, sharing communion together, or sometimes just coffee and prayer. Skiing in Vermont as a family was a little intimidating at first, but we did find a trail that we all liked. Thankfully, the temperatures moderated a bit for our second day. We were delighted to spend a short weekend with niece Abigail in



chilly Bradford, PA.

Mom Brubacker moved to the Richland Home the end of March. She had spent 10 months with her daughter, Rose, in Blair County. David's oldest brother, Victor, passed away in April.



In the spring of the year, David drove the bus for the 7th grade field trip to Philadelphia. I (Karen) had the opportunity to drive the 4th grade to the Hans Herr House.

Summer found us on a 4 week car camping trip touring the west and Canada and visiting friends. We ran through the rain to tour the St. Louis arch. It was wonderful to reconnect with Shawn and Tina and family in CO; thanks for the great 4 wheeling memories! It was a pleasure to have Jetta, Paige's best friend, join our family for a day of canoeing on the Colorado River.



Tent camping at Dead Horse Point State Park, a beautiful area displaying God's glory, touring Arches National Park,

Canyonlands NP, and venturing together in Utah with the Beck family made for more fun times.

Climbing the hoodoos in Goblin Valley State Park was a blast but very hot. It was really neat to look



at the stars, planets, and Milky Way through big telescopes at Bryce Canyon.



Thank you Roy & Judy for hosting us again in Eureka! It was

a joy to spend time with you and to sleep on a bed. There was snow in Crater Lake, OR.

The Pacific Ocean was cold in Seaside, OR! Tent camping near Mt. St. Helens was a



little soggy after a day of rain, though worth exploring a lava tube and the scenery around the volcano.



On to Seattle we looked at the Space Needle, toured the Boeing Plant, and enjoyed

dinner with friends, Mark & Maria.

We were thankful that we did not encounter any bears at Glacier NP, though the deer were frequent visitors at the campsites. The rainbows



were beautiful just outside Banff National Park in Canada. The rainbow is a reminder that God does



keep His promises. The Icefields Parkway was filled with adventure – bighorn sheep, coyote, elk, bear, and the Athabasca Glacier. At Sunwapta Falls, we watched people training to do rescues.

Jesus is the greatest Rescuer – coming as our Savior to redeem us from sin! At Jasper NP we experienced 2 extremes on the same day – rafting on glacial cold waters to swimming in the hot springs. David surprised us with a day trip to the World Waterpark in Edmonton, AB. Lots of calories were burned as we climbed many steps to slide down the various slides in the world's 2nd largest indoor waterpark. It was truly a blessing to spend time at the Altona Christian Community and meet new friends in the family of God! Thanks to Tim & Judith for hosting us on our

trek eastward. We praise God for His protection as we traveled nearly 9000 miles.

Fun family times included tubing the creek by our house, picking raspberries in the tree line, and watching the solar eclipse. Swimming with friends and days spent with Grandma Zook also made summer special. To celebrate my (Karen) cousin's 50th birthday, we girls took a trip to Delaware to visit Amber and the beach! The girls were able to spend time with their cousins while camping at Ag Progress with Grandpa and Grandma Zook.

Chocolate chip cookies, a photo, a duct tape rose, homemade bread, and caramel popcorn were items that we entered in the Lebanon fair. We got a few ribbons and cash. Mariah's photo taken in the moat at the Angkor Wat in Cambodia was awarded best of show in the youth division.

Karen and Mariah had a great day trip to Indian River Inlet Bridge – huge waves, sand – with the 8th grade girls and moms.

Thanksgiving vacation found us exploring Arizona.



In 5 days, we toured Hoover Dam, hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back up in 9 hours, explored the ancient Hopi village of Walpi with a guide on behalf of Paige's 5th grade history, surveyed Meteor Crater, enjoyed Petrified Forest, looked for Spike at Saguaro NP, explored the Titan Missile Museum, and perused

Organ Pipe Cactus NP. We thank God for getting us out of the Grand Canyon and for rejuvenating our feet and legs, and for His guidance. Kitt

Peak National Observatory: three 1.5 hour telescope tours and the evening program filled the day and mind with a glimpse of God's great heavens, including through a 20 inch telescope. Visiting Karen's parents 5 days was the excuse for our Arizona fling.



Thanks to the Grandparents for taking us on a day trip to Mex-



ico and many miles of 4 wheeling!



Christmas in Florida was a relaxing time. God blessed us with beautiful days to enjoy the beach. It was a privilege to meet Audrey, a first cousin of David's late dad Victor. Thanks to our terrific hosts, Ray & Mickey, for the games of fishing and scum, and delicious subs!



A big thanks to Phil for a mini tour of Fairplay Boys Camp. Lunch in the chuck wagon provided an opportunity to see the chiefs and the boys. We had many laughs while playing scum with Phil & Lisa and their family.

Mariah (13) had a pleasant surprise winning first place in the science division of the Academic fair at Ephrata Mennonite School. A backpacking trip on the Chattooga River trail with EMS mini terms taught her many wilderness skills. She was thrilled to do a little more babysitting and looks forward to more opportunities. Mariah is in Algebra 1, along with 5 other 8th graders, positioning them to do Calculus in their senior year. Paige (11) is in 5th grade at EMS. It is a blessing that she can take piano lessons at school. In her spare time, she can be found reading, doing her 1000 dot to dot, searching for Waldo, or playing school.

I (Karen) am kept busy with being a full-time bus driver for EMS. In Ladies Bible study we have been doing the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Many times, I like Martha feel pressured by the demands of life. I desire to take the time to sit at Jesus' feet as Mary did. The times spent with other women having coffee and praying together are treasured times.

David is serving as one of the cooks this year at EncourageMen (Myerstown). He flew solo in December, and is diligently trying to finish his light sport license.



Our family is asking God to clearly lead us as we seek fellowship with other believers, and as we prioritize service opportunities; He has directed us numerous times previously.

By God's grace, may each of us live according to the law of the Lord and follow His commands; obeying God with all our hearts. Psalm 119:1-2

David, Karen, Mariah, and Paige Brubacker

Visit www.davidandkaren.us for past newsletters, articles, & messages.