

# Views from the Top

## The Cloudhaven Chronicle

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### Greetings from Cloudhaven

2009 seems to be the year for anniversaries. This year has marked the beginning of our 7th year of ministry at Cloudhaven and the 7th anniversary of Christ the King Church (CTK) in El Paso. University Presbyterian Church (UPC) in Las Cruces and our friends Les and Bobbie Cover from Alamogordo both celebrated 50th anniversaries, while Katy and I celebrated our 25th. Missionary Dan Young—newly designated Eastern Regional Director for Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM)—also celebrated his 50th birthday in April.

### Ministry milestones

Amidst all the anniversary celebrations, we've also had a busy Spring at Cloudhaven.



Andrea

In January, Andrea Beckman spent a week with us that was filled with much study and good times of discussion. Andrea got us started cataloging our many books, tapes, CDs and DVDs.



UPC High Schoolers

The UPC youth led by Rev. Patrick Tebbano brought lots of energy to their annual retreat. Jim and Katy had to hurry back from preaching in El Paso to prepare for their arrival.



El Paso for Jesus

Leaders from *El Paso for Jesus* met here in February, as did the Board of Covenant Christian Academy which is also in El Paso. Dan and Becky Young's daughter Lisa is one of this year's graduates and is excited about winning a musical scholarship to Covenant College. Congratulations, Lisa!



Covenant Christian Academy Board

The end of the month saw the annual planning retreat of Reformed University Fellowship from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. This is the last school year that Rev. Shaynor Newsome will be leading this ministry. We'll miss him, but delight with Shaynor, Heather and Jonathan as they move on to new opportunities at Baylor University in Texas.

In the photo [next column] everyone is dressed in winter gear for a cold evening session of peering out at the universe through our 20" telescope.



NMSU RUIF

We got it all set up on a very clear but cool afternoon. That evening, after a movie, we got ready to go outside in 35° weather for a brief look around. We all filed out, watching our step over the uneven ground with the obligatory red flashlights, and climbed up onto the telescope deck before we noticed that the sky was entirely clouded up! While the rest went back in to warm up, Robert and Ceasar stayed out to help me take down the scope. By the time we were finished twenty minutes later, the sky had cleared up completely! Guess there's always next time...

In March, Cloudhaven hosted Randy Graham and a group of disciples from El Paso for a weekend of fellowship, prayer and study.



Randy & Friends (where's Linda?)

Jim also participated (as *The Amazing Jimbo*) in Christ the King's annual talent show. Despite Jimbo's feeble efforts, there was a great turn-out of very talented folks from among the congregation. Poetry, music, drama and laughs were in abundance!

April saw the return of the employees of 1st Valley Realty of Las Cruces for their annual retreat. Jim presented

(over)



First Valley Realty

a series on Christian Joy, but it was a bit like preaching to the choir. It is always a great encouragement for us to host and be ministered to by these guys.



St. Clements Leaders (where's Clay?)

Then in May, Cloughaven once again had the delight of hosting the St. Clements Church Youth Leadership for their annual planning retreat. Yeadon and Jessica Smith brought young William for his third retreat. He was not yet born when they first came to Cloughaven.



### Outside opportunities

In just these few months of 2009, Jim preached once at CTK, twice (including Easter morning) at Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC) in Albuquerque, and five Sundays at Westminster Presbyterian (WPC) in Alamogordo. Many of these opportunities sadly were the result of illnesses of Pastors Rick Steele (WPC) and his

brother Randy (PPC). Please pray that these faithful men will be graciously restored to full health and many more years of fruitful ministry.

Jim also preached and participated with Katy in the Lenten Lunches hosted by the Sacramento Mountains Ministerial Alliance and the Cloudcroft Methodist Church. This annual series for the mountain community has become a blessing to many in preparation for the celebration of Resurrection Sunday.

We also were involved in two stated meetings and the committee work of the Presbytery of the Southwest. Katy continues to be a part of two women's Bible studies in Alamogordo, and has had opportunities for counseling besides those at Cloughaven.

### Tell ya what...

For those of you who have been praying for Katy's mom, Luella, we are pleased to report that God has graciously granted her continuing good spirits and relative freedom from



Mom

discomfort as she undergoes chemotherapy for her cancer. Katy and her sister Robbie travelled to Wisconsin to visit Mom for a few days at the end of April.

They were joined there by High School classmates Linda (Ludvigson) Olson and Maggie (Jorstad) Brazener who enjoyed visiting with Luella and her daughters.

It was a joy to see Mom settled into her new environment and to meet the staff and residents of Monroe Manor. Mom has found that she can help bring some cheer to others there who are less fortunate than she. We're thankful that she has peace in Christ that transcends the brokenness of this fallen world.

The latter part of May, we will be driving back East to visit friends and relatives and attend Jim's 50th High School reunion (another anniversary!) We plan also to swing by Wisconsin on the way back to visit Katy's mom.

### Prayer requests

We would appreciate your praying with us (as God may remind you) for...

- ...God's continued provision for Cloughaven and our guests.
- ...rain for southern New Mexico.
- ...protection from forest fires in our mountains. The danger level is already posted as *Extreme*—the highest level.
- ...full recovery for our dear friends New Mexico Pastors Rick and Randy Steele.
- ...God's continued mercy to Luella as she deals with ovarian cancer.
- ...safe travel and a refreshing time for us as we drive East this month.

And most importantly, would you pray that God's truth be proclaimed faithfully by your church and ours, by you and by me, so that the Kingdom of God and his glorious name would be reflected throughout this world?

That, of course, is why we're here.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

