



December 18, 2009

Merry Christmas! 'Tis the season for food, fun, family but most of all faith in the Saviour that so willingly gave Himself to be sin for us so that we can live for eternity with Him! We as a family are so grateful for all that God has done for us this past year! Lots of changes have taken place and we've seen God work things out that barely looked possible. The biggest change happened in **May** with our move from SC back to IN. Some friends of ours, Lyndon and Beth Raber, helped us, along with my parents, and we got most of our stuff up here and in storage. We didn't have a house right at the time and lived out of our motorhome, that Gospel Express and some other very generous people donated to us, for about a week. Norman and LaVertta Miller from our church, Pleasant Grove Mennonite, have been temporarily living in AK while he's doing some carpentry work and offered us their house for the summer. It's a beautiful place back in the woods and off a dirt road. We accepted and moved in right away. That was such a blessing and the boys loved the setting. It was the perfect place for us to get settled back into life here in IN.

I say settled but if you know us very well it hasn't STAYED settled. =) After our term with Gospel Express we really wanted to slow down a lot in our travels. It's been a good change going from being gone 2 ½ -3 wks. in a month down to 6-9 days a month. Amos and I, after praying about it and asking several folks for advice, decided that once a month trips would be the best for our family at this time.

June was a month of uncertainty. Amos was not able to find work and we had a lot of questions about what God wanted us to do. We own (*make payments*) a house in SC and that has not sold. We have come to the conviction of not going into debt again so the idea of buying a house up here and still having payments down in SC was not an option. We knew the Lord would provide but when and how?

July brought an answer to prayer! Amos found part time work for Flora's Auto Sales. They buy wrecked vehicles from insurance auctions and sell to people who want to repair and drive them. He does a variety of things but mostly truck driving. He picks up loads of vehicles from auction sites in Chicago, Indy, IL, Louisville and several other areas and brings them back to the shop. They then clean them up and take them to the warehouse. Amos has worked some in sales and I think that has stretched him. =) We are so thankful for this income God has provided! There are also two other businesses that he can call when Flora's don't need him. During the month of July we also had a week of ministry travelling. We joined Gospel Express in PA for a couple of days at a tent crusade and then stopped and sang at Holmes Co. Fireman's Festival in OH on the way home.

In **August** we took two ministry trips. (*This was the first trip for our new nanny, Joann Yoder from Michigan.*) A short one to Daviess Co. for a modesty seminar at Zion Amish Mennonite and then a Raber reunion. Brenda Kiem, (our former nanny), joined us on a trip to CAN. We really enjoyed that! The boys were thrilled to see her. The CAN trip also included an Express tent crusade and several church services. While we were home and Amos worked I got to help my mom with a lot of canning and freezing that for the last 3 ½ yrs. she did for me. I obviously didn't have a garden this year but she planted extra. I really enjoyed the experience and the boys did too. Cole often went out to the garden to "help".

September 2nd our oldest, Cole, turned 3! We celebrated the fact that he is in our family with a trip to the Ft. Wayne zoo with my whole family. It was great fun camping together and watching 4 little boys, ages 3 and under, interact. My oldest brother Landon and his wife Angie have two boys that are pretty much the same ages as our boys. Lots of rowdiness and noise but they usually play together very well. Gospel Express had their fall banquet/ singspiration tour through our area in Sept. and asked us to help at the two local events in Shipshewana and Middlebury. We also made another trip to Daviess Co. and enjoyed a shed singing at Amos's parents with Merle and Lena Mullet and Lyle Chupp. We then joined Express in Arthur IL and helped at another banquet. The last week of September we moved to our current house south of Milford. This was yet another answer to prayer. We needed to be out of Norman and LaVertta's house and at "just the right time" God led us to the house we are now in. It's an old farm house on 5 acres with very reasonable rent. A big back yard and garden and room for some chickens and other animals we hope to get in the spring. This will hopefully be home for a while unless God leads otherwise.

At the beginning of **October** we flew to LaCrete Alberta with Merle and Lena Mullet. We flew because to drive it would've taken 3-4 days. LaCrete is located 22 hrs. north of the MT line. Amos and I have been there several times and Amos has went by himself for meetings but this is the first time the boys have went and the first time we've flown together as a family. Let just say we had one VERY excited three yr old on our hands. He had a million questions when we left for the airport, another million when we got on the first plane, some more when we landed at another airport and well, you get the picture. Amos was very patient with him and explained what the wings were and why airplanes had wheels and anything else at least a dozen times. Cole is very detailed and can't rest until questions are answered. =) Both boys did very well, especially when we missed a flight and had to be at an airport for 11 hrs. That was definitely NOT in our plans but maybe the Lord was testing our patience level! It was great to have Merles along and the trip was a blessing to us in many ways. It was so good to see former friends and make new ones. We sang a few evenings and Amos held meetings at a church in town. The Lord blessed tremendously! At the end of the month Amos, along with some guys from church, went down to Wabash Valley CI for a two day crusade.

November weather was cold cold cold. We were home most of the month except for a trip to GA for some revival meeting in Cuthbert. That was a very refreshing time for our family and the folks there made our trip so enjoyable.

December has been a busy month here at home. We had a Sun. morning service in South Bend at a Pentecostal church and evening service in southern MI at Calvary Chapel one weekend. My two sisters Alana and Nancy went along to help with the boys. Logan's 2nd birthday is on the 22nd. He is at a fun age, talking and playing with Cole and LOVES to be with Daddy any chance he gets. His favorite song is Power in the Blood. He's still our baby but not for long! =) We are expecting another child the middle of April. We are all very excited! Everyday Cole mentions something about my tummy getting bigger or that he can't wait till we get our baby. We often pray for the baby during family worship time. I'm confident that I will have two very willing helpers this next summer! =) We are planning to spend some time with Amos's family the weekend after Christmas. Blessings, *Margaret for the Rabbers.*

ByGrace Schedule

January

20th. Memhis, MO Singspiration.

21th Leon, IA

22nd-24th Dallas Center, IA. Church Retreat.

February

Our 5th anniversary get away trip!!

March

5th-6th Mens Conference. Winkler, MB

6th evening Community Singspiration.

Winkler, MB

7th-10th Community Evangelistic Meetings.

Winkler, MB

April

2nd-3rd Faithview Books Appreciation Days.

Holmes County, OH

4th Open.

May

7th-8th May Fest. Shipshewana, IN.

Ways you can Pray!

-Upcoming meetings and singings

(Pray for safety and God's blessing on the children as we travel. God's blessing and anointing as we minister.)

-Wisdom on whether or not to pursue 501C3 status for ByGrace Ministry

-Possibility of a new CD next year

-New possibilities of ministry in 2010

T-shirts with Gospel messages

Music phone line

Live Music Video

A note from Amos

Please pray for me as I seek God for revival in my own heart in different area's,

I pray for a renewed burden for lost souls, passion and compassion for especially those who "go" to church but don't really know Jesus. ByGrace, Amos