

In June Jim Hodges and I joined several other Hard Hats in Kansas City for what we hoped would be a "National Construction Ministries Summit". Not many came, but at least it was a beginning.

On the way home we had a layover in Oakland, California, so I decided to layover. It's amazing how much attention you can get slumped on the floor of an airport concourse clutching your abdomen in serious pain: TSA, police, firefighters, EMTs, flight attendants, gate agents, other passengers ... I ended up in the San Leandro Hospital emergency room for four-hours. Two or three hours into it, my pastor called me on my cell phone and prayed for me. Within 15 minutes I was fine! We're still trying to figure that one out! A plug for Samaritan's Health Ministries (it's what I have instead of health insurance): so far, through their coaching, God's grace, and the kindness of many of the health care providers involved, over \$11,000 of the \$15,000 (so far) in expenses was either completely forgiven or discounted, and Christians around the country have given about \$3,000 toward the remaining need through Samaritans. I just had a colonoscopy but all it turned up was that I have "a beautiful colon", according to the doctor. We're awaiting results of three random biopsies. Here is a photo of my beautiful colon ▶▶▶



The best Ann could do to try to top that, was to have a large, plastic screw removed from her knee – it was supposed to have dissolved after her surgery a couple of years ago, but didn't.

In July I traveled to Nebraska where I met with long-time Hard Hats volunteers, attended the dedication of a youth center Hard Hats missionaries helped to build in a rural community, and spoke at a local church. Then I was in Colorado Springs for a week, attending a seminar presented by the Navigators. While there, of course, I saw the grandkids, Seth and Tiffany, my parents and sisters. Speaking of grandkids, we now have 9 with the two most recently added in September and October. How did people so young as ourselves acquire that many grandkids!??!



Ann and Caleb and I spent a beautiful August week camping in the Wallowas – Colorado-like mountains in eastern Oregon (setting for the book The Shack). We stayed in the Lostine Creek Canyon, at the "Williamson Campground" (really!). It's just too pretty over there!

Ann finally got her opportunity to travel in September in when she flew to North Carolina to help Rachel with Zachariah's birth (I understand it takes a Mother and a Grandmother to bring a baby into the world these days – they didn't teach us that in biology class). She went early, so of course the little bugger came late – but in time for her to get some good cuddle time with the nine-pounder!



Zachariah & Grandma



Elijah, Ann, Zachariah, and Jeremiah

While she was away, surviving mostly on TV dinners and McDonald's, Caleb and I spent a weekend at a Dad & Me event at Warm Beach Camp in northern Washington, where we had a blast "mountain boarding" and doing lots of other fun stuff together.

When she returned, school and homeschool resumed. Ann was 'downsized' from her job in the Special-Ed room at the public school near our house, but was re-hired (for fewer hours) to care for a severely autistic student at a school near the office. We start our homeschooling morning together with Bible time, which she attends at our Commerce Avenue School

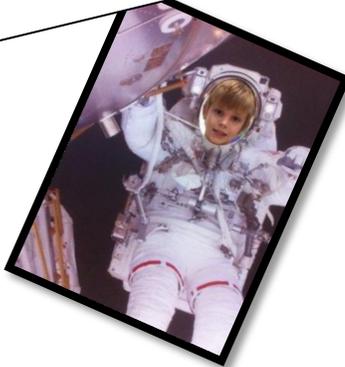




Caleb loves science, especially when we can go on a field trip – whether it's just to the median outside our office or to a museum.

before going on to her school. We're tickled that she gets to join us for lunch, also! Two of the ladies on our growing office staff each take an hour of class time to help with typing, art, and science, which has been a real blessing! After lunch, Ann does a reading time with Caleb before they head for home, and I stay on at the office until about 6 PM playing catch up with office duties.

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Most of what Ann earns now goes to pay her medical insurance, which we want to keep in force, if possible, until she can have one or two (at most) hips replaced – maybe next summer (Samaritan's won't cover pre-existing conditions, or on it, too). Please be in prayer with us about this!

our Hard Hats Board of Directors' Retreat at the end of September, I flew from SEA-TAC to Portland to Fresno to the missions conference. En route I got food poisoning and almost the entire flight retching in the teeny tiny bathroom little pedal-pusher airplane. Yuck! I think I'm going to quit to/through California!

Undaunted, the next weekend I winged my way to Arkansas for my 35th college class homecoming and Construction Management Division Advisory Board meeting. Once again, I was the "geezer" among the alumni on the Board – It was fun seeing old friends, but I think I'll quit attending homecomings! Too hard a reality check for me!!

Ann was the jet-setter in November, flying to Colorado to hold brand-new-grandchild #9 Sparroh Williamson (and others – of course).



While our kids keep giving us grandchildren, the staff at the Hard Hats office has been attending coaching workshops every other month by the Mission Increase

Foundation in Portland on Transformational Giving – a whole new way of looking at the spiritual act of worship and discipleship through giving. It's changing the way we approach the entire subject of giving – we hope for the better!

video work continued

Staff increase... began weekly staff meetings; started work on Safety Tailgate meetings

database, and outreach; Board Chairman and I began to meet monthly; Transformational giving seminar;

God's provision... bought new server and attendant software;

July – upgraded data base and moved to new donor module; finished video; Phil & Lucy Hayes come on board;

August- renewed work on Missionary Handbook; worked kinks out of new systems; Staff developing G-T-O's; HH4C night at Black Bears game; relationships at Warm Beach and beyond;

November – getting organized personally;



Above: Claire, Cole, Tiff, Sparroh, Seth, Shiloh

Below: Samara, Ann, Nicholas

