

HODGES SPRING TREK 2012

Thirty states and almost 14,000 miles in 90 days!

That's our brief report in 10 words or less. But if you want some more details, read on!

Though we might call part of this trip a vacation, it was actually for three main purposes.



- 1) To take Jean's mom's and dad's ashes back to Springboro, Pennsylvania for burial in the family plot.
- 2) To visit friends, family and supporters.
- 3) To make contact with many of the past members and volunteers with Hard Hats for Christ.

Our actual vacation is coming up the middle of August when we meet Jean's sister and husband in Southwest Colorado. After that we make our way back to the Staff Rendezvous at Cascade Ranch near Grants Pass, Oregon.

Unfortunately we did not see everyone we hoped to on our trip. Some we could not contact because of wrong phone numbers, and three times at least, we drove past an area before we realized it. But we were able to visit quite a few. What fun it was to reminisce about past projects and special times. Several of our old "Hard Hats" said their time with us was the best part of their retirement years. We also made two hospital visits, and checked on a couple of projects.

Jean's sister's family joined us for the interment at Spring Cemetery May 11th. Also a cousin of Jean's dad, Pastor Les Wells, was able to do the Scriptures. John Hamblin also helped, since I was fighting a bad case of pneumonia, and could only get a few words out between coughing bouts. My son and his girlfriend came, as well as one person from the community who had memories to share.

Jean and I "based" for three weeks with her sister in South Carolina. We took several side trips to see different people and places. One such "side trip" was almost 1400 miles back to Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia.

After visiting Lee and Sherlyn McLaury in Melbourne, Florida, we drove to the beach where Jean put her feet in the Atlantic Ocean. On our way home, she did the same in the Gulf.

Since there were lots of forest fires, we decided to head across South Dakota and Montana on our return route. We came home a few days early in hopes of being here when our first great grandchild was born. We made it with hours to spare. Andy and Lara had Noah James Hodges at 12:44 am July 4th.

It is good to be home, except for three big, heavy boxes of mail to sort and lots of neglected yard work. We definitely keep the post office in business! On top of that we had a minor flood in the basement when the main water line sprung a leak.

We hope you will come to visit. We are now using Grandpa Sheppa's next door apartment as our "Prophet's Cottage". It has one bedroom with twin beds, and a hide-a-bed sofa in the front room. Reservations are suggested. We do have a second bedroom in our house as well.

Jean's family letter will give a lot of particulars about who and where we went. This is just an overview from me! So let Jean know if you want a copy.

Here is a picture of us on the steps of Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia where we met on September 18, 1960. We were only 19 then.



Jim and Jean Hodges

mrhardhats@gmail.com

mrshardhats@gmail.com