Nicholl News

Got Snow???

This photo was taken about a month ago. Ooops, I parked the backhoe too close to the shed. The 3+ feet of snow came off the roof in one big avalanche! Thankfully no one was standing near the tractor when it let go. After warming up the backhoe and a lot of bucket and hoe work, I was able to pry myself loose and drive out. What was left was a perfect 10 foot tall imprint of a backhoe in the snowbank! Needless to say, much of my time was spent plowing, shoveling and using a snow blower this winter! Praise God for Spring and melting!!



Do Fence me in!

As the snow melts this year we are seeing some of the fences that have been hidden for a few months. Many of these fences are in need of repair after the snow and plowing from winter. The fences serve an important purpose; to either keep animals in or out of a field. In spite of the old country song "Don't Fence Me In", fences really don't restrict freedom.

We mentioned in a recent letter that as it relates to pastors we minister to, it is easier to build fences at the top of the cliff than to build hospitals at the bottom. A couple tools we have used in this process are two books: Survive or Thrive by Jimmy Dodd and Dangerous Calling by Paul Tripp. Both are invaluable resources for pastors. In Tripp's book he shares this realization, "For much of my Christian life and a portion of my ministry, I had no idea that my walk with God was a community project." After reading this and sharing this with several pastors for the last couple years I now see that these fences are built when we lock arms with

one another through transparency and vulnerability. I am convinced that pastoral ministry is the loneliest profession on earth...but it doesn't have to be. Part of what God has called BHM to do is help provide a safe place as well as relational space so that fences can be built. At least the first post or rail, so then others can join in and lock arms and extend the fence. Fences like this are really meant for protection. As Tripp puts it, "I now know that I must commit myself to living in intentionally intrusive, Christ-centered, grace-driven, redemptive community."



Thank you for your prayers for Andrew and Kate, we know that many of you pray for them when you pray for us! Both are such a blessing to us as we watch them grow in faith. Over the years we have prayed that they would simply fall in love with Jesus! We are so grateful to God for putting His hand on them and growing their hearts for Him. One of the ways this love has been expressed is their desire to serve the Lord and reach the lost of this world. God has put it on both of their hearts to spend part of their summers overseas. They both have incredible opportunities this summer to share the gospel with people who may have never had the opportunity to hear before. Andrew will be going to Slovakia with CRU to help reach students for Christ. Kate will be going to Albania with MK2MK, also a ministry of CRU. We would covet your prayers for them as they continue their faith journey and seek to reach people for Christ. If you would like to help send them this summer you can give online through the Cru website. I know they would be very appreciative.

<u>Give.cru.org</u> -then enter **5624701** in the search line for Andrew. For Kate also go to <u>give.cru.org</u> and enter **0791803** in the search line.
Thank you!

We thank God for each of you and your partnership with us and BHM. We could never do this without you!

Prayer and Praises

Praise God for the way He brings pastors and missionaries to us for refreshment and for providing a safe place.

We Praise God for each of you and are grateful for how you bless us so we can bless others.

Please pray for Spencer's sister, Heidi and her daughters, Jordan, Madyson and Hayden as they continue to grieve.

Please pray for Annette and I to walk humbly and intimately with the Lord each day and listen to his voice.

Pray for us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, have discernment and be safe people for the variety of folks that come our way as well as the ones we travel to see.

Please pray for Spencer's back and sciatic nerve. He has been in significant pain for three months now with very little relief in spite of many visits to doctors.

Please pray for Andrew and Kate. Pray God will provide for their summer missions and would use them each in a powerful way!

Please Pray for our monthly donations as we have lost a few partners recently due to health and age, but Praise God for the new partners who have recently joined our team or increased their support

Please Pray for those whom we are helping to build these fences currently!

Serving Him by helping people take their next step,

Spencer, Annette Andrew and

Kate

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