

The Bislew Family shares 2011 in Scriptures

As we reflect on 2011, several scriptures that testify to what God has been doing come to mind for our family...

☉ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10*

There is an abundance of life in our home with our children, our friends, and our church. The richness of life is overwhelming, and we are blessed over and above all that we could ever ask or think. We are not just surviving in Jesus, we are thriving!

☉ *The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 AND And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Galatians 6:9 These have been scriptures that the Holy Spirit has impressed on Heather's heart almost every day at last half of 2011. New mercy every day keeps her going with homeschooling, homemaking, and loving her husband and her children. It also encourages her to keep doing good, even when discouraged!

☉ *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Romans 12:10-13* This is what we are doing daily for the students here at MSU.

☉ *...I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Matthew 16:18* We are seeing God's promises in the building of His church here at MSU. More and more students are becoming a part of the fellowship and following Christ. With students from all around the world (Japan, Kenya, Ethiopia, India, Guyana, Burkina Faso, China, and many others) we are enjoying God's diversity in the Body of Christ.

☉ *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13* We are thankful for our dear friends, Art and Karen (and their son, Andrew), who have come to Mankato from Oklahoma this year to help us build and be a part of the ministry. They are an answer to our prayers!

☉ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:22-24* In our home, we are working on practicing the fruit of the spirit daily and we get a lot of opportunities with five little ones running around. This is a scripture quoted almost daily. God's word does what it is sent to accomplish! (Isaiah 55:11)

☉ *She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." Proverbs 31:27-29* Our children are starting to really rise up and bless us as they are now getting older. Heather especially sees the blessings in housecleaning, folding laundry, and doing dishes! We have a lot of great helpers. Phinehas loves to help take out the trash, set the table, and unload the dishwasher (at 19 months old!).

☉ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write*

them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 As Johnathan has made a consistent practice of reading the Bible with us and teaching us in the morning, our family is growing together in the Lord and learning how to love the Lord in all areas of life. Heather is also so thankful for the opportunity to teach her children and see them learning all day every day! It is hard to believe that Evangeline is in 3rd grade and Isabel & Faith are in 1st grade already! The boys are rapidly growing and learning as well!

☉For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. Titus 2:11 We look back at 2011 with thanksgiving and praise for all He has done and forward to 2012 in anticipation of even greater victories and glory to Jesus!

Once again, this year we included a one-year Bible reading schedule. It is a great way to get “spiritual food” every day (in about 15 minutes). This book is a “must read” for everyone, and its truths have stood the test of time over centuries!

Love and blessings, Johnathan, Heather, Evangeline, Isabel, Faith, Isaiah, and Phinehas Bislew