

Family Revelations! —————> 2011



An annual newsletter by Andrew & Beckie McNiece

Beck and I hope your Christmas season will be an enjoyable one. This year has been pretty quite for us as we've scaled back on a lot of our activities and travels. We did have a few events this year though, and we'll share those with you here!

WEDDING AT THE TOMB!

You read it right, we had a wedding at a tomb in March! Our son Mike and his love, Mary had an awesome outdoor wedding at Rucker's Tomb in Everett. Andrew officiated over the ceremony and at the reception was dubbed "The Ninja Pastor" (you don't want to know why)! If you are interested in watching the service, it's posted on YouTube... just look up McNieceVideo and you'll find it there.



FAMILY MEETING

As some of you know, Andrew was recently reunited with his sister after 40 years! Since then Andrew has been working on introducing Reba with the rest of her family. One part left out of the loop was Mike's family in Oregon. That was remedied when Reba flew up and joined Andrew & Beck on a road trip southward to California by way of Condon Oregon! There Reba was able to meet her nephew Mike for the first time, along with his wife Mary and their daughter Megan. You would have thought they had known each other all their lives though... it was so awesome to see how well family connected!

TRAVEL CURTAILED

With the cost of gas and the requirements of work, travel has been curtailed a bit. None the less we have made two trips to California... one in June and the other in October. A previous goal had been to make quarterly trips to check on "The Mom's" but given our current circumstances, that ambitious travel plan has been trimmed!

BECK'S INVESTMENTS:

Beck has been investing where it counts... touching people's lives in two areas. At work she continues to support several elderly clients as a Home Care Provider. On the other end of the spectrum she has also supported a group of pre-teen girls on a volunteer basis.

ANDREW'S WORK:

Andrew now has oversight of four cost centers at his job and has branched out heavily in development of training programs as well as teaching in various venues at his organization.

A WORD FROM ANDREW:



Many of you have heard me say, "I don't know what I want to be when I grow up". Well, this year I finally answered that lifelong career question. And while it's too late to actually implement that revelation, just having the answer brings its own level of satisfaction. I'm also occasionally asked what's new in my life, and my typical answer is, "Not much; working, eating and sleeping... that's pretty much it". Actually I've done a little more than that this year... I've had a chance to fill in as Guest Worship Leader a few times; I've had a few Guest Preaching engagements; I also got to coach a worship team for a season. I haven't done much with music though, with no new CD's being produced except for a Bi-Lingual single that was used as a travel "give away" during our California trips. Most of my attention is now directed toward overseeing my cost centers, developing training materials, and teaching in my organization's corporate setting.

A WORD FROM BECK:

A few years ago, my friend Deb and I took the ferry to Kingston. As we struggled up the slight hill into town, lured by the promise of an ice cream shop, we coined the phrase "exercise in disguise". I would prefer a straight, level road where visibility is clear, the footing sure and nothing is falling from the sky, drenching me to the bone. I'm not a big fan of stumbling or skinned knees. But life isn't smooth sailing. It's more like swimming through mud. But when my path is uniform, I never develop stamina, agility or strength. I don't learn to navigate tough times or situations. My skill level can't soar and excel. I remain helpless and stuck.



God uses "exercise in disguise" to develop me into a person with depth and character. When I cooperate with Him, refusing to become bitter about what He allows to touch my life, I grow in compassion and empathy for others. I become a conduit of His love, comfort and support. My life has purpose and mission.

I am surprised along the way. Our Mike married his beloved Mary in March. In April we adopted a little dog! We've been blessed with the gift of family and friends throughout the year. In October, God sent our friend Deb to live with us for a season: she models laughter, grace and love every day.

The upcoming year will bring changes that I am ready to embrace. I don't anticipate an easy course, but I do expect that God will lead me in the way I should go and equip me to follow Him.

A WORD FROM CHICO:



Ho! Ho! Ho!
Arf!



Can you believe it! 35... that's "Three Five"... three and a half DECADES of marriage! Yep, we hit that milestone this year!!!

WHAT'S UP FOR NEXT YEAR?

We will likely be continuing our trend of staying close to family in our travels, hopefully making it to California at least twice next year along with more frequent shorter localized trips, including stops at Mike's in Oregon. Work will be our primary thrust next year. So there you have it... our year in a nutshell!