

Munro Family News

October 16, 2016

Dear Family and Friends,

I apologize for the delay in our family update. I actually did complete a newsletter in April but I did not get it sent out to many people. The last six months have been challenging, to say the least. Beauty for ashes, Oil of joy for mourning...perhaps this would be an apt summary of the last six months. We have gone through some very harrowing events and have been challenged in ways that we would never have thought we could survive. God's grace carried us. That is the only logical explanation. Most of you know that Randy Erickson, one of the staff members here at Gleanings, died at the beginning of May. It was an extremely traumatic season for our immediate family, as well as the base. Only God could bring healing and restoration out of that pain, and he was faithful. It has been breathtaking to witness the miracles that God has done in relationships through this season.



At the end of May, our family went to Canada for a much-needed rest. While in Canada, we stay with my parents on their acreage. Sheldon and I get the holiday trailer and the kids are piled in the "cottage" with my folks. Sheldon's oldest son, Reid and his wife, Elysia, blessed us by coming up to visit. We spent almost a week together at a little cabin at One Island Lake. The kids had fishing contests, played a killer Monopoly game, and ate lots of hot dogs. We also

celebrated Sheldon's parents' 60th wedding anniversary, as well as my grandparents' 68th anniversary. We were so thankful to be able to be part of their special days. It was just what we needed: healing time with family.



When we returned to Gleanings at the beginning of July, we jumped into the peach season with both feet. And what a summer it was! God showed up in miraculous ways. This summer, our Love Feast theme was "Blessing", so we wrote out various blessings on river rocks and put one rock on each person's plate. One of the Summer Staff guys said that each Friday night, he got the same message. It didn't matter where he sat. He always ended up with the same blessing: "HOPE ". Another volunteer thanked me for the rock idea. When I asked him what his rock said, he said "WORTH IT" with tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat. We were so thankful to be a part of what God did this summer.

Personally, this summer had some scary mountains for me but God kept coming through. Kaiden is going through a challenging season right now, but God has been one step ahead the whole time. He provided a Christian counselor before the storm hit and has given Kaiden the ability to express how he is feeling in a way that he was not able to do previously. Sheldon and I have been able to work together more than ever parenting Kaiden and that in itself is priceless. I'm so grateful to God for his kindness and grace.

Seth is in his senior year of high school and he is planning to pursue a gunsmith school next fall in Susanville, CA. He is developing into a man of compassion and integrity. We are very excited to see what adventures God has planned



for him.

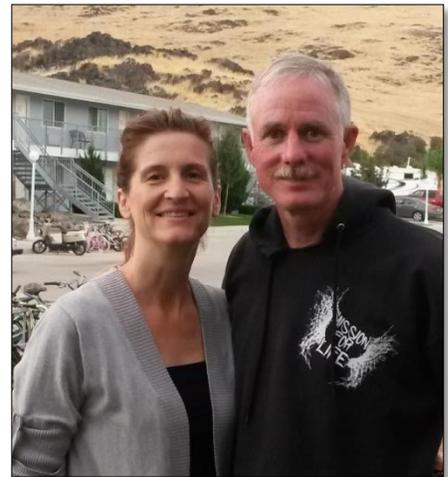


Kalina is a junior and continues to be very excited about a future in veterinary science. She has a really full academic load this year, as well as an internship at a local vet clinic. She loves the opportunity to work with animals. Every time, she comes home with a (gross) story that reminds me that we all have our different gifts and abilities! We love to watch her grow and discover the joy of following her dreams.

Sheldon continues to be the master juggler on base! He is constantly out and about:

fixing, encouraging, connecting, fixing, saving the day, etc. He was very encouraged this summer by some new friendships. He has been able to connect deeply with various volunteers, and this is pure energy for him!

I am busy gearing up for the Donor Banquet in November and then the various Christmas events. Our guest speaker is a missionary in China and we are using that to inspire the "flavor" of this year's gala. Please pray for this event as our guest list was drastically increased this year and I'm wondering how all the logistics will work.



We are so grateful for your love and support. We have felt your prayers and we know that we are not isolated in this journey. Thank you so much for believing in us and investing your friendship, time, and finances into us.

Sheldon & Carol Munro