



# Kidding Chronicle



10230 E. State Rd.

Spring 2015

Nashville, MI 49073



I would like to think that this is “Old News” to all of you but I’m afraid that for some, this will be the first that you have heard. The year 2014 was a terrific year for our ministry. Along with the great response to sharing the gospel through our magic and juggling programs, we launched the God’s Family web site in French AND Spanish. We also completed the life-size Nativity set for the front of our office building. Any of these things would have made for a good year.

However, the year did not end on such a positive note. On December 31, Sheldon was working outside in the cold getting things ready for taking the Nativity set down when he had a heart attack. It was a mild one that did not damage the heart but he ended up in the emergency room as a result. Within a few hours his bloodwork indicated that the heart had been stressed and something was wrong. On January first he was transferred to the Meijer heart center in Grand Rapids. The following day they did a heart cath and found three arteries that were blocked in such a way that they could not be stented. On the 5th Sheldon joined the zipper club as they did open heart triple bypass surgery. There were people praying all over the World as word got out immediately by way of Facebook, emails and phone calls. Because of those prayers, God saw Sheldon through the surgery without any complications.



Three days following the surgery his heart went into afib. That prompted the use of additional medication. Those meds did what they were intended to do but also brought about some minor complications with the bloodwork. The hospital stay ended up being longer than originally predicted.

Once he was home a visiting nurse came three times a week and six weeks of cardio rehab were scheduled. He was on a ten pound weight restriction as to what he could lift and because of all of the ice and snow, was cautioned about going outside. Needless to say, meetings had to be canceled and rescheduled. The rehab program was in Grand Rapids which meant driving an hour each way adding to the overall expense.

It is amazing that when hospital staff, visiting nurses and others enrolled in the cardio rehab program find out that you do gospel magic, they want to see a trick. Well, Sheldon is always prepared to do just that and was able to share Christ with several people that he would likely never have met outside of this ordeal. It has also resulted in keeping in touch with some of them. Pray that this influence in their lives will bring them to a saving knowledge of our Savior.

As one of our grandkids said, “Papa had a broken heart and they had to fix it”. Now that things are “fixed”, it is time to get back on the road doing programs. Before long the busy summer schedule will be here and it will be non-stop through the rest of the year. The hospital and doctor bills have been coming in and we praise the Lord that most of them are at least partially covered by Medicare and our insurance policy. However, this has been a major unexpected journey. A good portion of our income comes from doing programs and we have not been able to do ANY. Could I suggest that this would be a good time to make a donation?

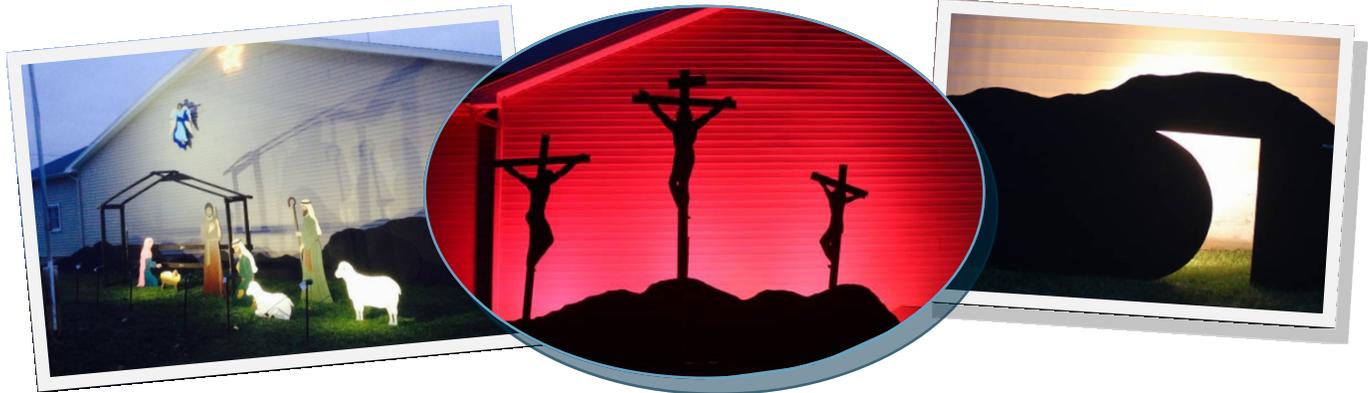
## Finish The 50

Sheldon and Vicky have been involved with this ministry for over forty one years now. During that time we have done meetings and presented the gospel in all but six of the United States as well as several other Countries. While in the hospital we talked about getting to those six states and finishing the fifty.

Two tours are being set up that will take us to the four New England states; Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The second tour will take us to Mississippi and Louisiana. If you know anyone we can contact in any of these areas, please let us know ASAP as it will not take long for the dates to fill. The first tour will be September 1—20 and the second one will be February 1—22. We would also like to be in churches coming and going to these areas. If you are along the way and would like us to do a program for you, let us know soon. [srhodes@jestkidding.com](mailto:srhodes@jestkidding.com) or 517-852-1851

## Another Christmas

Our plans for the Christmas display that we started last year are far from complete. We have a fantastic Nativity as well as a very impressive Easter display. During the month of December we would like to use the circle drive that goes around our office to depict the entire life of Christ. As people drive around our building they will see different events of the life of Christ starting with His birth and just past the crosses and the empty tomb they will come to His ascension into Heaven with a banner proclaiming, "I will return." So actually we have the beginning and the end, we just need to fill in the middle.



We are planning another Christmas in July workday July 25. Last year we had a job for everyone who showed up. This year we will have even more work to do. Please put this day on your calendar and plan to be here to give us a hand. We would appreciate your help by coming to work or by giving to buy the materials needed. This is going to be a tremendous outreach. If you can't be here, please remember to pray for us that day.

## On Top of Things

If you want to be on top of things that are happening with our ministry, please take the time to "Like" us on Facebook and/or sign up for our Prayer Group email list. You can sign up at our web site or just send Sheldon a message at [srhodes@jestkidding.com](mailto:srhodes@jestkidding.com) and ask to be added to the list. Both Facebook and email are free which is much less than sending newsletters. You will get updates on important things as they happen so that you can pray for us at the time instead of after the fact.



Also, are you aware that if you set up a RSS feed from our website, you will be notified shortly before Sheldon starts a program? This way you will know exactly where he is and can be praying that God will work in the hearts of kids as they hear the gospel. How cool is that? It would be great to know that there were at least a dozen people praying during each program. Just think of how much more God might do.

## What Encouragement

Shortly after getting home from the hospital, Sheldon received a note from a friend that said her husband was traveling for work. While in the Chicago airport he ended up sitting next to a lady from Amsterdam who had come to the States to be with her daughter as she had surgery. In the course of their conversation the fact came up that they were both praying for Sheldon Rhodes. What are the chances of that? Then what are the chances that we would ever find out? God is so good and His hand shows up all around us.

## Mission Minded

- ◆ This year it is our goal to get the God's Family animation recorded in three more languages: German, Chinese and Arabic. This is going to require the purchase of a portable digital recorder/mixer (\$250) and a good deal of travel.
- ◆ The goal of finishing the fifty is more than just being able to say we have done programs in all 50 States. The real goal is to be able to share Christ with at least 4,000 people. We will not "charge" the churches so we need you to help with the mileage, housing and meals.
- ◆ Christmas in July will take us to the next step of having the entire life of Christ depicted from His birth all the way to His return back to Heaven with the message that He WILL return.

None of these things will be possible without YOUR help. We are on a mission to get the gospel out to as many people as possible. Please join us.