



First Grandchild

What a blessing we have received with the birth of our first grandchild. Ilana Marie Rhodes was born Jan. 7. She weighed in at 7lb 8 oz and 19 inches. She is the daughter of Kedron (our son) and Amelia Rhodes. Ilana was not expected to arrive for another week but had plans of her own. She caused everyone some excitement which brought about an emergency c-section. We praise the Lord that everything went great and mother and baby are doing fine. We had made plans to be there when the baby was born but of course that didn't work out like we planned. Vicky was able to get there a couple of days after she was born while Sheldon finished meetings that were scheduled back home.

Faces

By Greater Vision

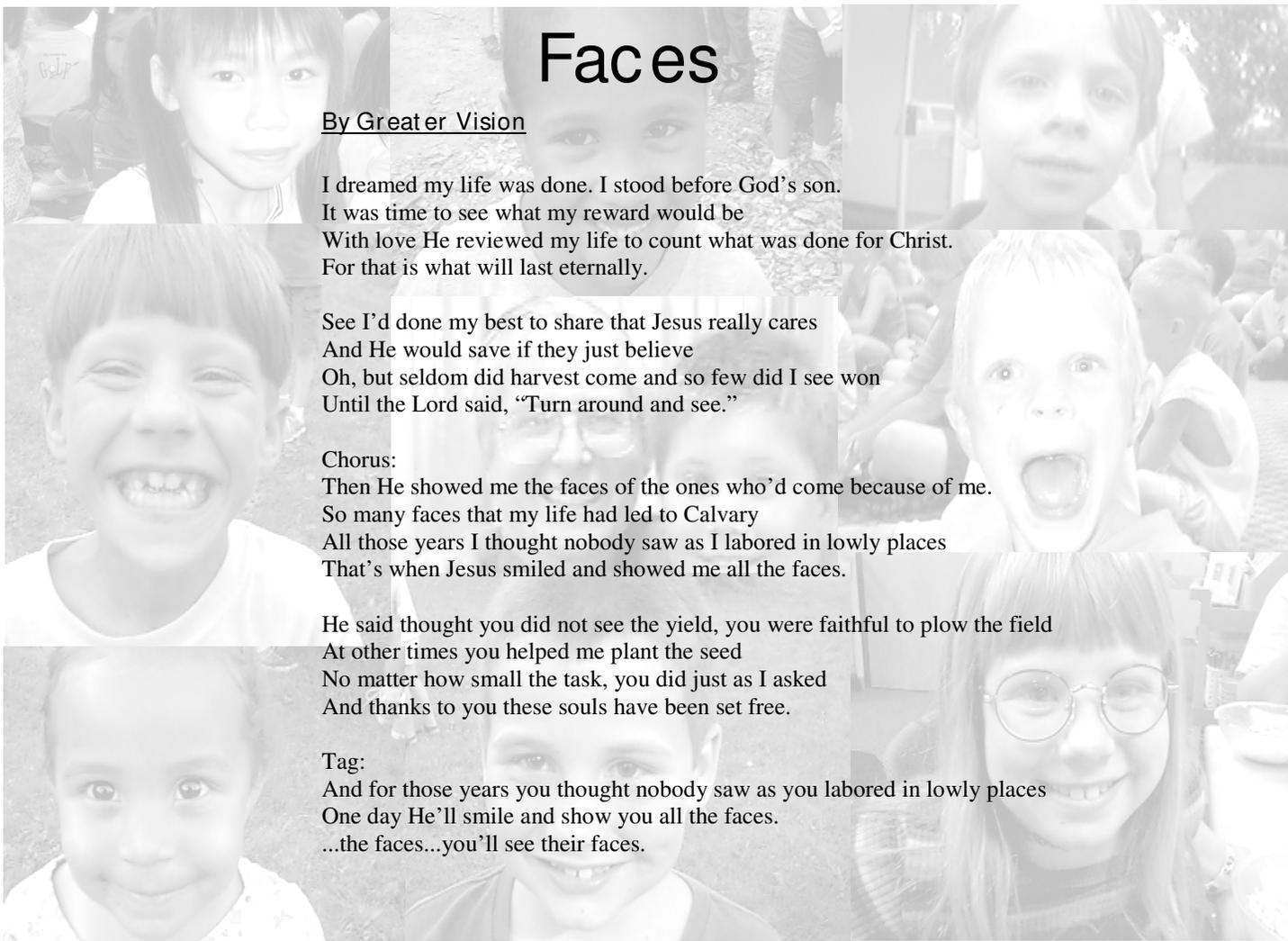
I dreamed my life was done. I stood before God's son.
It was time to see what my reward would be
With love He reviewed my life to count what was done for Christ.
For that is what will last eternally.

See I'd done my best to share that Jesus really cares
And He would save if they just believe
Oh, but seldom did harvest come and so few did I see won
Until the Lord said, "Turn around and see."

Chorus:
Then He showed me the faces of the ones who'd come because of me.
So many faces that my life had led to Calvary
All those years I thought nobody saw as I labored in lowly places
That's when Jesus smiled and showed me all the faces.

He said thought you did not see the yield, you were faithful to plow the field
At other times you helped me plant the seed
No matter how small the task, you did just as I asked
And thanks to you these souls have been set free.

Tag:
And for those years you thought nobody saw as you labored in lowly places
One day He'll smile and show you all the faces.
...the faces...you'll see their faces.



Following Dr. Orders

In our last letter we mentioned that Vicky had seen a Dr. and they had run a series of tests. We praise the Lord that all came back fine but surgery was necessary. They did have some challenges during the surgery which caused it to take an hour longer than they expected. However, she did fine. After a few days in the hospital she was able to come home. She is doing great now and gaining strength every day.

The hospital and Dr. bills have come in now. We know that none of this could have been prevented and it certainly was necessary. We didn't expect it but we also know that it didn't take God by surprise. In order to keep monthly insurance payments as low as possible, we have a very high deductible of \$2,500. The expenses exceeded that from Oct. to Dec. On Jan. 1st it started all over again and as you can imagine, the bills since then are many times that amount. So we are looking at \$5,000 worth of deductibles in less than five months and then still have our 20% portion to pay beyond that. This is where faith really gets put to the test.

I can't wait to report to you that God has provided the funds for this major procedure. How is it going to happen? That I don't know at this time. I do know that God has a plan and He will prompt those to help that He knows can. Keep in mind that your gifts are tax-deductible.

Tool Time



In the last letter I mentioned that there were a few tools that would help making the building of the props I use much easier. Little did I know what the Lord had in mind.

In January I received a phone call from a man that I met about 30 years ago. He and his wife live in WA. For many years he owned and operated a commercial wood shop making custom furniture. About four years ago the Lord made it very clear to him that he was no longer to be in the shop. He asked if God and I could use the equipment.

Within a short time we were able to schedule two weeks of meetings in several churches and two public schools in the area where they live. Vicky and I flew out together and enjoyed renewing old friendships. Meetings started the following day and it was non stop from that

point on. Vicky flew back early in order to be with Kedron and Amelia at the dedication of our granddaughter, Ilana on Mother's Day.

I rented a truck to bring the equipment back to MI and stopped in Rapid City, SD to do a program at the church I grew up in.

A great crew of men were waiting to help unload the equipment when I pulled in at the office. Who would have ever thought that we would be blessed with a shop like this? What an awesome God we serve.

Beam Me Up



Thanks to a very generous donation, we are finally connected with high speed internet. This allows us to do some things that otherwise were not possible. I am really happy to be able to tell you that you can now see Shampoo (our rabbit) on our web site. This added feature has been a real attraction to kids.

Every time we can get a boy or girl to go to our web site it gives us one more opportunity to impact that child for Christ. The web is here to stay and like it or not, kids are going to be spending more and more time on it. God is using the web and we are a part of it.

We also praise the Lord for a new laptop computer. This was a surprise as well. God is blessing our ministry in so many ways.

More Power To YA



When we first became aware that we would be getting the woodworking equipment, Sheldon set up an appointment with an electrical contractor. He recommended that our service be upgraded to 200 amps. Within the following week he had a crew of men out to make those changes. The work was done and DONATED.

That was a huge blessing and we certainly praise the Lord for it. However, there is this little situation with the power company. Because we are considered a "commercial" building, they had to come out and inspect their service to the building. They determined that the transformer that now services our building and the house across the street is not adequate to handle the new power. They say it is our responsibility to pay for a new pole, transformer and lines that will service us alone. At first they said the cost would be \$1,400 but have since revised that to \$914.

We do have power to the office now but it is more or less on a temporary basis. Nothing will be "approved" until the new pole is set. Please pray that the funds will soon be available so that we can have this work done. Based on all we have been seeing God do, we are excited about the future.