



Kidding Chronicle



10230 E. State Rd.

Winter 2011

Nashville, MI 49073



Been There

On July 9th we were heading West to do meetings in several churches and to do a week at a camp in WY. On the way there I experienced chest pain just as we were going past Des Moines, IA. I pulled into a hospital ER but didn't go in. The pain went away and we continued on. That night we stopped in Mitchell, SD. We went to bed but I woke up about a half hour later with the same pain and this time it did not go away. I woke Vicky up and told her that she was going to have to get me to a hospital. It didn't take long to figure out that something was going on with my heart and that I needed to get to a heart hospital. The closest was 70+ miles away back to Sioux Falls. Because I do not have insurance, I elected to have Vicky take me. They advised against

that but if you are willing to sign enough papers, they will let you do what you want. While on our way there I sent a prayer request using my phone. It would really be great if everyone would have received it.

We arrived at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. They were waiting for me when I arrive around 4:30 AM and started running tests. Before long Dr. Olson was in the room making his recommendations. He explained that I had an artery that was 90-95% blocked and the two sessions of chest pain were signs that a fatal heart attack could come at any time. He suggested that we have him call the team in that was on call and that they attempt to put a stint in and if they couldn't, do open heart surgery immediately. I gave him the OK and before he left the room, he asked if he could pray with us. It was at that point that I knew for sure that I was exactly where God wanted me.

Praise the Lord, they were able to get a stint in place and said that medication should take care of another artery that has some blockage. So almost \$300 got me enough meds for 10 days. The Dr. said I would need to cancel meetings, head back to MI and get into a cardio rehab program which I did. At this time, things seem to be fine again.

Pray things will continue to go well with my heart.

Out of pocket bills have been huge.

Aug. was the most "expensive" month in 38 years.

The VA is still not willing to pay because;

- A. Treatment was not pre-approved
- B. Treatment was done in SD which is **not** in the MI district.
- C. SD VA doesn't want to pay because I'm not one of their patients.

Connected?

I have found out that there are still a few people who are not following us on Facebook, Twitter or receiving our "Prayer Group" emails. Believe me, it is a lot easier to let people know what is going on and costs a lot less than sending out newsletters. If you like, we even have things set up so that every time there is an update, you can be notified automatically. It's ideal when you can pray for us at the time things are happening instead of weeks or months later. You can add yourself to our email list by going to www.jestkidding.com/contact/signup-page-for-our-prayer-group-list or send me an email asking me to add you at srhodes@jestkidding.com Unless a missionary is in a country where they are in danger, they really want to be in contact with those interested in their ministry. Technology makes this possible but we have to do our part to connect with them. I have learned that kids and grandkids are great at setting these things up for those of us who don't know or understand these things.



Vicky's Parents

On Mother's Day, Vicky's Dad had a stroke and was in the hospital most of the Summer. He is back home now and we are taking him to therapy sessions twice a week. Thanks for your prayers.

Part of this letter is being written at the hospital where Vicky's Mom is at for her heart. Her heart stopped at least 3 times that we know of and they did CPR to get her going again. They put a pacemaker in and that seems to be keeping things going on the right track. She is not out of the woods yet but we praise the Lord for skilled medical professionals who have responded quickly. Mom and Dad Carr recently celebrated 60 years together as one.

Smaller Wheels

Without a doubt, the majority of the driving we do would NOT require the use of a van. It takes a van to transport everything we need for a week of meetings, camps, Bible schools, FUN (Families United Nightly) series, etc. However, for just one or two programs, a smaller vehicle would be adequate and would result in quite a savings in gas. It is estimated that we could be saving \$250-300 per month in gas with a vehicle that gets 28 mpg verses what we are getting now. If you know of someone looking to sell a smaller type car, please let us know. Ideally something with 4 cylinders, front wheel drive, 5 speed automatic and low mileage would be nice. If you have any suggestions we would sure consider them. If you are looking to trade something in, perhaps we could give you the trade in value and that could end up being a blessing to us both.

Ways To Help

With more and more people out of work and running out of benefits, it is increasingly difficult for ministries to continue. I wish I had started taking pictures when I first noticed a local church building for sale. That number is now up to 26 churches all in less than 50 miles from us. You may have heard that this summer two well known mission agencies closed their doors leaving their missionaries hanging. Last week we learned of a long time supporter who is now with the Lord. There have been several promoted to Glory in the past few years. Yet we see God continue to meet our needs. We are excited about some ways that you can support us without taking any extra money out of your pocket.

Search the web—Do you realize that every time you search for something on the web you could be sending a penny our way? Just go to www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/jest-kidding We have a guy who tries to give us at least .25 a day just by searching. Thanks Dale.

Shop the web—Amazon, Apple and Staples are just 3 of over 1,000 places you can shop and each one will give us a percentage of your total. All you need to do is have the Jest Kidding / GoodSearch toolbar installed on your computer. The toolbar will know when you are at a participating site and automatically give us the credit. It will also let you know if there are any discount coupons available at that site. It's that easy, so far this year we are over \$700, that's huge. If you do any of your Christmas shopping on the web, that could easily push us over \$1,000 for the year and it doesn't cost you a cent.

Staples—Speaking of Staples, yes, shopping online from them with the toolbar installed helps us but what if you shop in the store? Do you realize that Staples will give you \$.20 for each empty ink cartridge that you turn in? It comes as an in store credit that you can email or mail to us. This year we have received over \$200 of office supplies at no cost. To get the most bang for your buck, Staples will price match any product even their own online prices. So price match your ink cartridges, buy them online with the toolbar installed and then turn in the empty cartridges at one of their stores. Why not ask your Sunday school class to bring in their empty cartridges so that you can turn them in. It cost us about \$500 to do one newsletter mailing like this. We could be getting all of the paper, ink and envelopes free with your help.



Books—There are now almost 150 different ebooks available on our web site. There are books on gospel magic, juggling, puppets, chalk art and all kinds of "fun" things to be used to minister to people of all ages. I sure wish there would have been something like this when I was getting started. As you are thinking about Christmas gifts for your kids, youth pastor, etc., why not consider giving them one of our books? You have no idea how that book could spark the interest in someone to become the next Christian David Copperfield or Sheldon Rhodes. www.jestkidding.com/store



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Love In Every Stitch



Grandma Lucille Rhodes (88) has been on the evening TV news, on the radio and in the local paper recently because of hats. Yes, hats. She has been making hats for newborn babies and giving them to Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo for the past four years. She is just stitches away from finishing hat #1,000. That many hats represent a lot of time, yarn and love. Family and friends donate a lot of the yarn but she provides the time and love that goes into each one. Every newborn baby at Bronson gets a handmade hat. She can make 3-4 hats a day but there is no way that Mom can make that many herself so there are others who do the same thing. She plans to keep doing this as long as the Lord gives her the strength. Proud of you Mom.