

Jim & Jenny Hodgson – Ministry Update

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www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries

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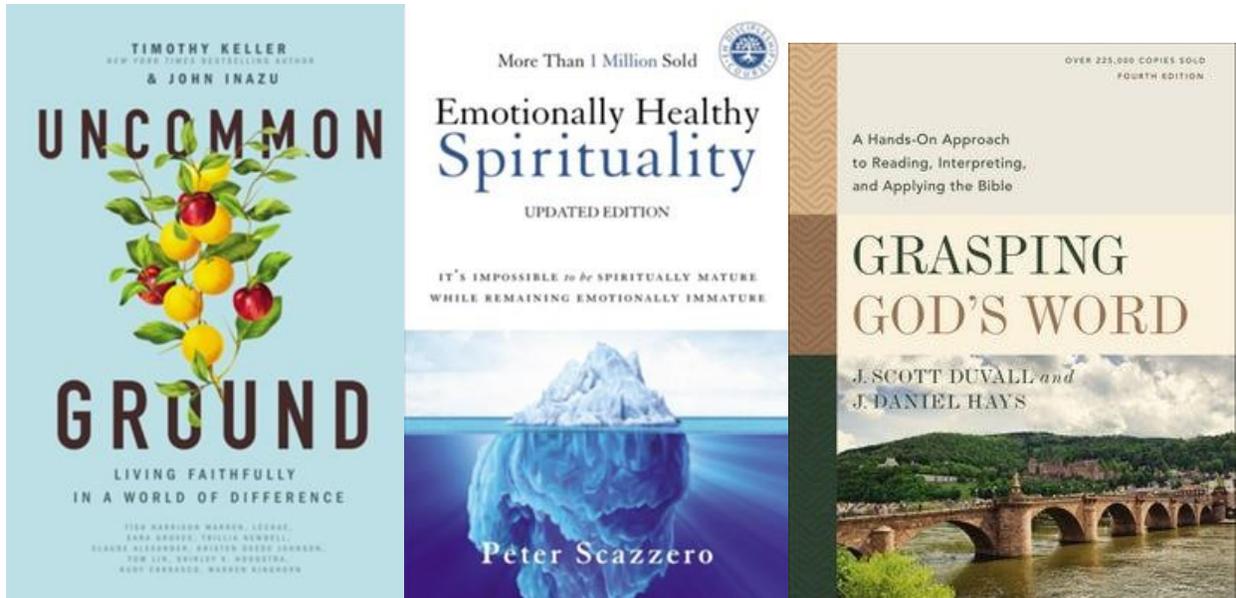
Dear Family & Friends,

Jenny & I hope that each of you are doing well this summer & enjoying seeing the good signs of life our Lord gives us in this growing season! We're doing well after a long winter & delayed spring, & have been able to make a couple weekend trips up to our ND farmstead already, including to the International Peace Gardens on my birthday. Having grown up near the Manitoba border, I'm amazed at the beauty of this remote place & the commitment between the U.S. & Canada back in 1932 to never take up arms against one another (www.peacegarden.com). This reminded me of Jesus' instruction that "blessed are the peacemakers..." (Matt 5:7), & of our continued need to be a blessing to our communities (Jeremiah 29:7).

The Lord has given us multiple reasons to be thankful to Him & to be a blessing to others through our ministry, including opening wider doors of opportunity. We celebrated the Commencement of our first 5 Rural Certificate graduates in May, & in June were able to gather together at Emily's Barn in rural Verndale, MN – a church planted by one of our grads & his wife on their farmstead. We are very excited for how the Lord is continuing to guide these graduates in their own rural ministry callings!



Our 2nd cohort in this program began in January, has completed their first semester, & we've added 3 new students for our new semester starting this month. The Lord seems to be growing this unique online pastoral training effort, & we want to share with you some of the resources used in our classes. Please check out these resources, continue praying for this effort, & consider who might need to know about this opportunity (www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/rural-certificate).



Our OHF team highly values ministry collaboration & was able to be part of several ministry conferences this last spring, especially with the Evangelical Free Church districts in our region & with the Evangelical Covenant NW Conference on rural ministry (www.ruralimpact.church). (See our staff/student team below at Rural Impact conference in Alexandria).



Our Camp Oak Hills ministry (www.campoakhills.edu) is very busy with campers & we were able to host our Women's Breakaway conference on campus in June, with their session videos available online (www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/conferences). Coming up yet this summer will be Craig & LaDonna Smith's "Indigenous Faith" conference (www.tribalrescue.com), "The Global Leadership Summit" (www.globalleadership.org), & my Cavalier friends' "Off the Charts Music Festival" (www.offthechartsnd.com).

My community engagement continues with Ruby's Pantry (www.rubyspantry.org), our Bemidji Rotary Club (www.bemidjirotary.org), Support Within Reach board (www.supportwithinreach.org), & Headwaters Alliance Against Sex Trafficking & Exploitation (HAASTE). At a recent meeting I shared a telecommunication company's article for parents on apps kids are using, including those being used to exploit children. Several of my fellow community leaders appreciated this preventive info that they could share through their county attorney's office, children & family agency, business, & with other leaders through Rotary. This was a good reminder to me that being a blessing to our communities can come through even simple things.

Our family is doing very well & enjoying this summer. We're looking forward to visiting our son's family in Rapid City this month & then all gathering in Oklahoma for the 60th wedding anniversary of Jenny's parents. Jenny continues serving as our College Registrar & volunteering as co-leader of the local Grief Share group (www.griefshare.org). My brother & sister-in-law's home church in Fargo with their Congolese refugee friends stays on our hearts (www.gracecovenantfm.org), & we look forward to being there again at the end of July to preach & be led by our niece's team in worship.

We thank the Lord for His provision of my missionary support in this last college year & are trusting Him for the future. Thank you so much for your encouragement, prayers, & support! We hope some of these ministry resources will be a help to you, & have attached my Regional Ministry Events Calendar & our Rural Certificate program flier.

In Christ,

Jim & Jenny Hodgson

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