

Yesterday shortly after the sun had set Raquel, Tim and I made it safely back to our farm near Clarissa, Minnesota.

Again we are soooo appreciative of our Lord for giving us safe travels. Thank you Lord.

Since July 2 we've traveled from Portland, Oregon to Minnesota, then on to Philadelphia (to our daughters wedding), then to our JAARS center in the Carolinas, and finally back to Minnesota. It was great seeing dozens of our old friends along the way, and for the most part they all seem to be doing well, being blessed by our loving Father. Yesterday though on our way up Minnesota, we visited our Aunt Agnes (actually she's dad's cousin, but we are very close to her and so we call her our aunt). She's been dealing with cancer for the past few years, but is now on hospice and shared with me that she now just wants Jesus to take her home to heaven. I'm sure she and her husband (Uncle Leonard) would appreciate your prayers that the two of them and their children and grandkids will be comforted by our loving Lord. Thanks. And thank you Lord for giving Aunt Agnes such a beautiful husband and a loving family and the faith she has in you.

Back on the farm, as we approached our mobile home we were greeted by a herd of black and white lawn mowers along with the aroma they produce, reminding me I'm back on the farm. Lovely, at least from the perspective of this writer. As I wrote the above, the sun began to shine its face above the trees on the other side of the hill facing our bay window. A little towards the south I can see what looks like two rows of fog hugging the ground in the meadow. I wonder if there is anyone who loves the countryside and the variety of His creation more than me. Lord, thanks so much for your handiwork and for the eyes you give us to behold it all. And even though I and my brothers are apparently colored blind, you have allowed me to see enough color to enjoy to the max the beauty of your creation and all the shades of green one sees in the fields, the meadows and the woods.

Also as I was writing this, Tim was behind me drinking coffee and listening to his music with the chorus that goes: "Shout for joy O heaven, rejoice here on earth." May we, His children, indeed rejoice here on earth along with the heavenly beings.

"Again I say rejoice."

Yours, Kermit, Raquel and Tim