

God is Good! God has created beauty all around us, which includes beauty in people and in our world.

We just returned from spending a few days in the Midwest, to spend time with our children. We were privileged to spend time with other family members and close friends. We drove all around Iowa, Kansas and Missouri so we could watch our daughter, Rachel, play volleyball for Graceland. Family and friends from nearby areas met us at the gyms, being able to share time together.

We stayed in Des Moines, with our son, Matt. Even though his life is very busy, he was able to take some time out of his schedule for 'family time'. That included going to the Iowa State Capitol. We were all amazed at that building and the beauty within it.



Driving around Des Moines was nostalgic for me. Memories from my living there for 5 years in the 1980's kept emerging. It amazes me now to realize the heritage I have in Des Moines. My paternal grandmother was raised there, in the early 1900's. I moved to Des Moines for my first job upon getting my college degree. I enjoyed my time in Des Moines and now Matt has settled in Des Moines as he pursues this chapter of his life.

Seeing the lush, green land in the Midwest was very refreshing. John and I drove through rural Missouri for one of Rachel's volleyball tourneys. Driving through the rolling hills and curvy roads brought back memories for me while it was a new experience for John. What beautiful country side we drove through, with the early morning sun raising as we drove!



As we enjoyed our time there, we were surrounded by our Enduring Principles. Sacredness of Creation was evident around us, in the beauty of the communities and country side. Blessing of Community was abundant, with the sharing and caring that we experiences with the family and friends (and the new acquaintances we met). Grace and Generosity was demonstrated in the offerings and sacrifices that were shared with our family.

Throughout this trip, we recognized the numerous blessings that God has bestowed on us. I arrived home, refreshed and with a positive outlook for whatever upcoming opportunities we will be facing.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."* Numbers 6:24-26

Barb Bear