

# Grace Again

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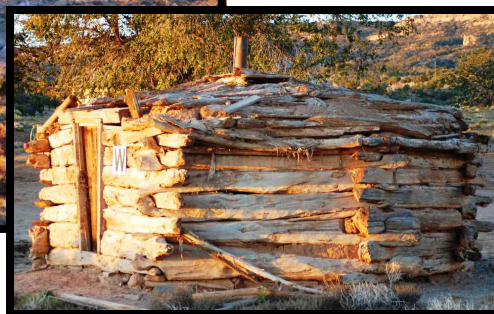
2011 has been a wonderful year of growth and change. Good times of ministry, family memories, and the satisfaction of facing challenges with new hope.

**MINISTRY:** *I Love to Tell the Story!* We really do! Sometimes we get a little weary of driving, of suitcases and a different bed each night, but each time we sing we remember again why we are doing this. It's like the song says, "... for some have never heard". We feel so privileged to be able to go into so many settings. They come out with walkers and canes while the staff busily bring other people in wheelchairs and portable beds to listen. And we have the opportunity to say again and again, "There is nothing more important than to know Jesus." It's a very simple message, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that *whosoever* believeth in Him *should not perish*, but have everlasting life."

There are also "... those who know it best". The gatherings in the nursing homes often feel like very holy places as we sing and share together—a sense of worshipping with the saints. We see the radiant faces and hear the exclamations of delight, "I like that song! I haven't heard that one in a long time." We come away feeling pumped and encouraged. There are often special connections. Last week we met several folks in a facility in Kenora who are from Grassy Narrows where we had lived in the early 70's. In Hesston, KS, a man was eager to tell us about how his family had spent many happy summers on Lake of the Woods. Folks with tears in their eyes come to ask for prayer for a family member who needs salvation or healing. It's a privilege to be able to share with them in this way, too.

## SCHEDULE:

- ✓ Feb 2-7 Indiana
- ✓ Feb 8-9 Ohio
- ✓ Feb 10-20 PA
- ✓ Feb 21-24 S. Ontario
- ✓ Feb 25—29 PA
- ✓ Mar 1-2 PA
- ✓ Mar 3-10 VA
- ✓ Mar 11 IN
- ✓ Apr WI, MI, NW ON, IL, IA
- ✓ Check the itinerary on our website:  
[www.graceagain.org](http://www.graceagain.org) for specific dates & locations.



In October we had the opportunity to visit on the Navajo nation in Arizona and New Mexico. We had not been to this area for about nine years. It's a great distance, but we are so grateful we could go. It was encouraging to share with some pastors and to see the growth in several congregations.

Over the past year we sang 132 times. 80% of the programs were in Nursing homes and Retirement communities. Our current project is a Sing-a-long DVD which is coming, but not there yet. This may take another year to complete.

**FAMILY:** We are looking forward to a visit from Tim, Sandy & Shenny over Christmas. We are eager to share winter in the north woods with these southerners and to see the wonder of Christmas a bit through the eyes of a four-year old.



Shenny & Auntie April

April spent much of Feb - July with us while on home assignment. What a treat! We haven't had that much time together since she left for college. She also spent enough time in VA to have Shenny learn to know her Auntie April. She travelled with us for much of the winter trip and we did some programs together while she was home, but the best parts were the hours to talk and share and process where we have all been and where we are going. We appreciate her wisdom and counsel. She has now returned to Bangladesh for another 3 year assignment.



**Facing New Challenges with Hope:** Aging, I guess that's the big one for us and many of our friends. We are both enjoying good health. In fact, we sense there's a new day because of the success of losing significant weight in the past year. Working more consistently at exercise has also given us new hope for good health as the inevitable continues. April was our advisor and cheerleader as we began the process.

**Thank You!** We continue to thank the Lord for your encouragement, support and interest in our music ministry. Thank you for loving us and praying for us. May God richly bless these important days in all our lives.

In Christ,  
*Willie & Rodi Longenecker*



Hello from  
Four Corners

#### **WE'VE BEEN READING:**

- The Christians, their First 2000 Years, edited by Ted Byfield, a 10 volume history of the Christian church. Fascinating, but also sobering reading.
- The Mitford Series, Jan Karon. We are "Johnny-come-lately" to this novel series which was written 15-20 yrs ago. Tender stories featuring a small town pastor. Very appropriate for folks looking at aging and retirement.