

The Lowedown

An update on the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe



Nacho Libre and Stones of Remembrance

I have a love-hate relationship with Facebook. If you're like me, it's easy to get sucked into scrolling through your Facebook feed to see what's happening with everyone you know (and everyone you DON'T know). But sometimes, I end up spending way too much time perusing when I really should be doing something else.

One thing that is fun about Facebook though, is the "Memory" feature. Occasionally, Facebook will show you a photo that you posted several years ago to remind you of a memory. Often, it's something trivial, but sometimes, it brings to mind a special event or activity that has long been buried in the recesses of your brain.

May was a crazy month for us, with track finals, Mother's Day and the twins' birthday (on the same day), the boys' driving test and our anniversary (also on the same day) as well as our nephew's graduation in Fresno. It was a perfect opportunity to create more "memories."

One of the things I love about Jen is that she takes great care to preserve the memories in our family. Whether it's scrapbooking or making sure to get cards for special events and occasions, she does an amazing job of helping us "remember" the things that are important in our family.

In particular, Jen always tries to make sure Jacob and

Joshua feel special on their birthday. She often does this by decorating the house with confetti, banners, balloons and other Happy birthday paraphernalia on their special day.

This year, Jen got a banner that had a clothespin attached to each letter of the phrase "Happy 16th birthday!" Since I'm the photographer in the family, Jen tasked me with the job of finding photos from the past year to attach to each clothespin on the banner.

The idea was to celebrate memorable moments of the past year while looking forward to the next year.

It was interesting to look back through photos from the past year because I realized how easy it is to forget about things that happened even such a short time ago.

I think God knows that we tend to be forgetful, which is why He commanded the Israelites so many times in the Old Testament to "Remember." (The word "remember" occurs more than 130 times in the Old Testament alone)

In Joshua 4, right after the Israelites had crossed the Jordan River to enter the promised land, the Lord told Joshua to have representatives from each of the 12 tribes to take a stone from the middle of the Jordan River and to stack it in the place where they lodged that first night in the Promised Land.

This simple mound of rocks was to serve as a reminder to the Israelites for generations to come that the Lord had stopped the flow of the Jordan River long enough to allow the people to cross into the Promised Land. It

was a **Stone of Remembrance**.

If you think about it, the many Jewish feasts and festivals scattered throughout the year served a similar purpose. Each was initiated as a way to remember something special the Lord had done to deliver or preserve His chosen people. Celebrating the feasts on an annual basis ensured a greater probability of remembering God and His extreme goodness and lovingkindness.

I find that I forget all kinds of things these days. I sometimes forget about appointments I scheduled. Sometimes I forget things that Jen has told me (she might say this is a frequent occurrence). And just like the Israelites, I can forget the many ways in which God has worked in my life and how He's blessed our family.

I want to create more tangible ways of helping me remember what God has done in our lives and ministry. One way I have done that is occasionally taking time to look back through our old newsletters, which is a history (of sorts) of what God has done.

How about you? What have you done to help yourself remember how the Lord has blessed you? Perhaps you keep a journal that you thumb through regularly, or maybe you keep a detailed list of answered prayers.

Please share with us your ideas. Perhaps we'll adopt some of them for ourselves!

Thank you for being a part of our story and our journey. We are extremely grateful for you!

*Love,
Dave & Jen*



Jen poses for a photo with Jacob (left) and Joshua in front of their 16th birthday banner



Facebook reminded us of a Halloween shopping trip where Jacob donned this Nacho Libre mask.