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## Plans...?

***A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.***  
**Proverbs 16:9 NKJV**

Our plans...need I say more...were to move directly this fall to our beloved Hikiwan, Arizona on the Tohono O'odham reservation. Then we got a call, a phone call that is... "Ken can you help us"? "...Well...sure". "Eric & Brittany Gibbs have sold their home in Kentucky and are coming as Mission Service Corps missionaries to the South Arizona Native Americans in January".



Eric led a Kentucky mission team to Hikiwan last year. In Hikiwan, He and Ken were able to perform the first baptism there in many years. We were delighted to know that God was sending others to help the Native American Christian brethren reach out to their own people.

**To support Eric and Brittany, open:** <http://www.ktbministries.org>  
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First Pima Baptist Church in Sacaton, AZ, on the Gila River Indian reservation, offered their currently unneeded parsonage as a home for Eric and his young family. A mission team from Kentucky was expected come to Sacaton to update, paint, and install new laminate flooring. As it happened they could not make the trip, and Ken was asked to lead local Arizona volunteers in doing the work. October 23, Ken and Thurleen moved their faithful old "Rollin Teepee" to Sacaton. The Bain's have completed re-plumbing the house, removed carpeting, and painted a portion of the interior.



A retired contractor brought volunteers from Sun City Baptist Church this week and they have almost completed the interior painting and a lot of improvements. A group of volunteer workers from Buckeye Baptist Church are scheduled to install the flooring next month.

Volunteer workers are visibly touched and energized when they look at the Gibbs family picture that is posted on the fridge in the kitchen. One of the most cherished blessings of a missionary is to witness their countenance blossom when the volunteers realize how God is working through them. Their energy and abilities are expanded and they are often surprised at God's provision of materials and supplies.

## 1st Pima Baptist Church



1st Pima, organized in 1925, was the first Indian Baptist church in Arizona. Out of this church have been birthed many of the Arizona Indian churches. They are preparing for their 85th anniversary in a few days.

Faithful 1st Pima member Woody Silver is pictured on a ladder, lovingly painting the stately old adobe church. Read about Woody Silver elsewhere in this publication.



Recently Pastor Aaron Johns was talking about the impact of the old missionary, C.F. Frazier. In WW1 He was a "messenger". Many messengers had a lifespan of a few hours. He promised God that he would serve Him. He & Mrs. Frazier came from Texas to the O'odham's and gave the rest of their lives here. After 1st Pima, most all of the Indian Baptist churches in Southern Arizona came from their tireless work of love.

## Preparing for the HARVEST

by Thurleen Bain

My dad was a Southern Illinois farmer, a very good farmer who took care of his soil. Each spring, he prepared the soil, then planted the seed, believing that it would sprout and grow in due time. The seedlings would emerge from the ground and Daddy would begin his season of cultivation. He was especially particular with his cultivation, continually making adjustments to his cultivator even to his last pass through the field...always making sure that the row was clean of weeds and the plants protected and invigorated. He would cultivate until the plants grew too large to get his cultivator through the rows. Daddy would spend the rest of the summer preparing for the harvest.

Traditional farming was done very differently on the Papago Reservation (now Tohono O'odham) in the Sonoran Desert in Southern Arizona. The native farmers

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would plant their seed very deep in the ground next to a dry wash, and then move their families up close to the mountains to wait for the rains of monsoon. The seed would remain dormant, often for long periods of time. Whenever the monsoons came, the seed would sprout and grow. Farmers would return to their "fields" to harvest their crops.

Obviously sowing seed in the Midwest like it was done in the Desert would not work...the seed planted six inches deep would rot and not take root. And, seed planted in the Desert as in the Midwest, would blow away, or be eaten by desert critters.

Likewise, ministry on the Rez is different from the Bible Belt. The methods and seasons are different, but one thing remains the same, HARVEST IS COMING!

We may not be able to see a lot of people inside a

church building, or be able to "count decisions". We may have never personally seen the harvest on the Rez, but perhaps along the way, we have scratched some soil, planted some seed, and, oh yes, *we are continually praying for Rain.* HARVEST IS COMING!  
...Thurleen

**The Parable of the Growing Seed**

He (Jesus) said, "This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Mark: 26-29 NIV

**Pastor Pete Reede**

Like many families who serve in ministry, the Reede's struggle to provide for their family's needs. Pete has been working on a little house in his native San Carlos to save it from complete ruin and to keep it from being "reassigned" by the tribe. His wish is to preserve it as a home for his daughter(s). Pete and Nora are close to being able to return full time to Hikiwan (on the Tohono O'odham rez) soon.



The house is now "closed in" so that it provides shelter, but being at a much higher elevation it can get cold. We were able to repurpose some used carpeting (from one Rez to another!) to keep the floors warmer. Three of their daughters and three little grandsons are now living there. The one who was employed, recently lost her job. But her sister has just completed the application process for a good position. We trust that the pending opportunity will be available real soon.

To compound their difficulty, the family is down to one vehicle, Pete's little truck. Last week it conked out on a trip back to Hikiwan. Ken tried to find it's problem but had to tow it by chain and pipe from Casa Grande to Sacaton so that they could work on it the next day. The Reede's were able to spend the night in the parsonage.



The next day was Pastor Pete's birthday. Thurleen enjoyed making his favorite biscuit and gravy breakfast, and followed up with roast beef for lunch.

Fixing a cable problem with the right tools and a new battery got the truck going. But

after the 3 1/2 hour trip back to San Carlos from Hikiwan, it quit again. Saturday the Bain's loaded up tools and drove up to San Carlos. After fixing several electrical glitches, they ended up having to take the truck bed off to replace the fuel pump. We are thankful for partners who make these blessings possible.

**Thanksgiving...**

Find REST, O my soul in God alone; my HOPE comes from Him. He is my fortress; I will not be shaken. *Psalms 62:1-2*



*The best way I know to embody this Godward orientation is thankfulness. Thankfulness is a secret passageway into a room you can't find any other way. It allows us to discover the rest of God—those dimensions of God's world, God's presence, God's character that are hidden always from the thankless. Ingratitude is an eye disease as much as a heart disease. It sees only flaws, scars, scarcity. Likewise, the god of the thankless is wary, stingy, grudging, bumbling, nitpicky.*

*Inherent in a life of thanksgiving is the discovery of God's sufficiency, his generosity, his fatherly affection and warrior protection. "To the faithful," David said of God, "You show yourself faithful" (2 Samuel 22:26)*

From "The REST of GOD" Mark Buchanan

**Woody Silver...Navajo Man  
On the Gila River Reservation**

One of the extraordinary things that accompanies the experiences of missionaries is getting to know some heroes of faith. They are ordinary people, not the sort that one might expect.

They often have to struggle as much as anyone. In common, they cling to bedrock belief that God is sufficient in all circumstances.

Woody Silver is one of the faithful members of 1st Pima Baptist Church in Sacaton, AZ. When we pulled our trailer into the church lot a couple of weeks ago, there were people all over the place cleaning and making preparations for the churches 85th anniversary. Of course Woody was there. He just moves faster than most, even some who are much younger. Well into his 7th decade, he retired not so long ago as a 2 event rodeo bull rider. When we first met Woody he was a widower who was driving the church bus. In addition to his work, he was raising two grandbabies with the help of his other daughter.

We just learned that our friend Woody is the son in law of Velma Lewis, a Pima lady we met 3 yrs ago in Ajo. Velma was the interpreter for the missionaries in the 1960's. They were preparing to build a new Hikiwan church. All the materials had been delivered to the site. Some of the local elders didn't want one of those "other churches" in their village. The Tribal Council called a meeting at Hikiwan. Velma told us that she knew there would be trouble...she thought they might be shot. The young mother made arrangements with a pastor off the reservation to raise her children if she didn't come back.

The decision of the Council came down. The missionaries could not build the church. If the materials weren't removed by the end of the week, they would be confiscated. And the missionaries were told to leave the rez and don't come back. We continue to be astonished at God's sense of irony. The very land where we are invited to live on the Tohono O'odham rez is owned by the lady (now a Christian) who contributed to the ruckus. That is where the Christ Fellowship Community Church now stands.

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