

# kTb Ministries

Christ to the  
*First* Nations



## kTb Ministries Newsletter

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## Kaka Village, [pronounced Gaka]

It is one of the hardest parts of the Tohono O'odham reservation. Only mere yards into Maricopa County Arizona, if there is a Northwest corner of the irregular boundary the T. O. Nation, this is it. A proud village just above a great flat fertile desert valley where a brittle dead looking "tobosa grass" grows, from a distance looking like a field of so much sand. In winter the nutritious grass draws great herds of horses, donkeys, and white-faced cattle.

"Hard" because of its stalwart convictions, including unholy mixtures of Ancient I'toi [E-e-toy] mythology and iconic Catholicism. In Kaka are both a traditional "roundhouse" made of ocotillo and mesquite branches to form a domelike roof, and one of the latest Catholic church buildings on the rez. The latter with its walls of seemingly endless curves soaring ever skyward probably indicate architectural styles of the 1960's or 70's.



Yet, in Kaka a mere handful of Christ followers are greatly outnumbered and have no church building of their own.

By the fact of geography, Kaka sits on a crossroads of illegal drug and human trafficking. On the dead end of BIA-23 (Bureau of Indian Affairs highway) where it intersects with the gas pipeline "road", thousands of Illegals have made their way through the village. They work their way up the trail that follows the gas line and then North across the desert two more days to "civilization" where the drugs turn into money.

Not too surprisingly, the Kaka families feel like they have lost their children to drugs and alcohol. Recently while under the influence, a group of juveniles destroyed many of the crosses and monuments in the village cemetery. Such an act would produce outrage in any community, but here it was almost nuclear.

Traditionally, in response to such a tragedy, the village elders would meet and arrange to call in medicine men that would perform ritualistic "cleansing" ceremonies. But this time...the elders voted to bring in Christian singers and speakers. That's right, they **voted** to hold a Christian "Singspiration" ...in the Catholic church!

Group after group sang hymns and gospel songs and testified and preached, in their native tongue as well as English. Each told how *they* had been redeemed to new life, free from addiction and a life of sin by faith in Christ. All the elders and their families were there, and they

stayed all day and late into the night. Others came into Kaka from "all over".

Pastor Pete and Nora Reede were invited to participate in song and message. Well into the affair, he discovered that actually he was to be the featured speaker. The Reede's are favorites at Singspirations. God's presence at Kaka was obvious. The people were desperate for help. Pastor Pete reminded them that it would have cost them \$500 to \$1,000 if they had engaged the services of medicine men and the futility of their "old ways", "And these Christians are bringing you the real help from God...and its free." "Follow Christ and He will help you as you deal with your problems," he told the listeners. The Christians, and even the traditionalists, left Kaka saying, "we need to take this message to other villages and communities." God help them do just that.

## Quick Links...

The Quick Links box on the lower left of this page may look the same. But finally we have found a way to make the embedded "LINKS" live. If you are reading this update as a PDF file on your computer, try following these links.

## "Cuckelbur" Village

Yes, that's really the name of an impoverished but proud little Native American community on the Northern edge of the Tohono O'odham Nation. And a nearby village is named "Chuichu" [Choo-choo]. No kidding! We're not sure of the meaning of the names, but are reasonably sure that they have little to nothing to do with their well known counterpart meanings, a train engine from Chattanooga, and a pesky weed seed that we used to try to convince city cousins were "porcupine eggs."

MSC missionaries Eric & Brittany Gibbs have developed partnership with 1st Indian Church in Phoenix to work in Cuckelbur. Together they have arranged for a used mobile home for a family. It replaces a terribly deficient traditional mud home. Ken and Thurleen Bain visited with the family and the Gibbs'. Ken worked up an estimate of \$850 to connect electrical and water utilities. Eric and Ken put together a bunk bed for the four children. The lady and her neighbors spent hours cooking a delicious traditional meal on an open fire on the ground. After learning even a little bit of the culture, one must consider it a singular honor to share a meal in the home of natives. Arrangements are being made for a new home to be built for a neighboring family.

The much needed new housing has opened doors for church services in the village, a first

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## New Roof and Coolers

A very special group of friends from Scottsboro, Alabama raised a large amount of money to buy roofing materials and then flew to Arizona for a week and replaced 6,200 square feet of roofing in three days. The church roof was original when the building was constructed in 1985, so the old "20-year roof" had long passed its integrity in the desert heat and monsoon rains. The little group of Tohono O'odham believers were helpless otherwise to make the needed repairs.



Ken told the Alabama group, "the new '30-year' roof may well last until Jesus Comes." The building is now stabilized for decades to come.

The old roof was ultimately ruined by leaking rooftop evaporative coolers. Friends and mission partners purchased new coolers that Ken installed in the brick walls with the help of visiting Mission Service Corps missionary Gilbert Garcia.

One of the contributing Partners wrote,

**"We would like to contribute \$XXX" (to buy one of the new coolers). "I was planning to be a part of a East Asia trip and when I was diagnosed with cancer, I had to drop out so we have give all I would have used but this portion to different mission needs. My husband will still get to go, praise God." J. D.**

Please wrap this precious sister in your prayers.

### Cuckelbur village (continued)

after many decades of efforts in Cuckelbur. Eric put up a small tent. Doug Jones preached an awesome message. Shawn Whitey played guitar and sang and Mrs. Whitey and Brittany played games with 25 children and taught them Bible stories.

Please pray that resistance from village elders will not succeed in stopping the Gospel from being taught in Cuckelbur.

## Why?

Why do we keep spending all we have to try to help the struggling Indian Christians? Why do you, our partners keep sending us money to keep us on the mission field?

Why, today, at our age, would we consider going into debt to buy a larger trailer to live in on the Reservation so that we can better serve the Lord by having a mobile small group meeting place? This morning, sleep was broken at the crack of dawn with the answer.

This age is so pregnant with change, even volatile change with our precious American Freedoms being stripped from us while good people do nothing. Almost daily, judges are making decisions that dramatically limit Christians from practicing their faith. Freedom OF religion is interpreted "Freedom FROM religion (Christianity)". Texas Governor Rick Perry is

eaten by the media for calling for prayer for rain and for a day of prayer for our country. Students are blocked from even mentioning the name of God or saying Amen. The growing godless hoard gets victory after victory in court.

It is easy to believe that we are very close to the Coming of Christ when the age of Grace will be over. Any day now the Eastern sky will split and Jesus, our Redeemer King will call believers up to himself.

Why do we keep on? Because it just may be that the next precious person we see come to faith in Christ may be the last one before the trumpet sounds signaling the end of the age.

This current 1,800 mile trip back to the reservation marks our fifteenth by land plus one round trip by air.

## Gilbert Garcia

A new Mission Service Corps missionary, Gilbert Garcia is a Yaqui Indian from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Gilbert's village, Old Pascua, is now surrounded by Tucson, AZ. He spent two weeks with us as support for the Alabama mission team while the workmen were removing and reinstalling the church roof.



Truly, Gilbert has a servants heart...and he loves to cook and clean. We were treated like royalty while he was here! He cooked lunch and dinner for us each day and thoroughly cleaned the church. He was here just at the right time to help Ken install the new coolers through the block walls. Gilbert's sweet spirit and willingness to assist in any way is surely missed by everyone at Hikiwan!!! We know that our loss is a wonderful blessing to the women's & children's shelter in Washington State, where Gilbert will be assigned.

Gilbert is a longtime volunteer at Caring Ministries near his home in Tucson. Caring Ministries Inc. (CMI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ministering to hurting families and individuals in Tucson and along the AZ/Mexican border. The organization collects food from major chain stores and restaurants and currently distributes 300,000 pounds per month to needy people through churches and other ministries. [www.caringministries.us](http://www.caringministries.us)

Gilbert has played as an extra in numerous movies, including "The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean". According to Gilbert, "I always played an Indian".

Four of his associates and co-workers came to Hikiwan to pick him up after his stay with us. I'm sure they will miss him as well when he leaves for Washington..



### Be a "Missionary by Partnership"

At home, you can help fulfill the Great Commission. Join us in taking the Good News of Christ to Native Americans.

- Be our prayer partners
- Contribute financially

### BY MAIL

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*In Illinois:* PO Box 542  
Vienna, IL 62995

*In Arizona:* PO Box 13143  
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