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By the Name of Jesus

How do we reach out to the Mexicans who are so out of place as they pass through the Tohono O'odham reservation? Desperate to transport their contraband to the "Northside" where the drugs meet the money...lest the Cartel enforcers butcher their families back in Mexico. These "Illegal Aliens" try to glean water, food, and if possible Northbound transportation from Indian villages like Hikiwan.

Like fugitives on the run, they rarely "hold still" long enough for anyone to minister the Gospel to them. Yet, just the first morning after we arrived at Hikiwan while Ken was unloading tools from the truck, two Mexicans approached him. Their broken English was not much better than Ken's less than two-handed Spanish vocabulary. Finally he thought he understood that one of them was saying "Mexico...Policia...call"...and moving his hands like he was turning a steering wheel. Ken asked, "you want me to call Border Patrol"? A mixture of fear and perplexity showed on their faces. Yet the young Mexican repeated about the same words. Sensing that they were pleading for help on their way back home, Ken took them to shade and water and somehow convinced them to wait. He went to the trailer to tell Thurleen that he had called the Border Patrol. Thurleen suggested that we might be able to get one of our Spanish New Testaments into the hands of our visitors.

Ken took a Spanish New Testament and a little Spanish Tract out to them. As he handed the Word to them, Ken searched for a way to communicate. His knowledge of sign language was

even worse than his Spanish. With all ten finger tips, Ken repeatedly tapped his chest as he said, "Hay-soos Christo" [Jesus Christ]. Surprisingly, a reaction came quickly as Mexican #1 pointed to his chest with both hands and said, "Hay-soos Christo" with a big smile on his face. The other young man sat in bewilderment.

Ken smiled and went back to his tasks. About twenty minutes later, Mexican #2 approached Ken and tapped *his chest and said, "Hay-soos Christo"!* With the little paperback Spanish New Testament, **Mexican #1 had led Mexican #2 to faith in Christ!!!** . The *NAME* of JESUS was sufficient to save a soul!

A Border Patrol Agent arrived. He had limited Spanish and talked with them for a long time before taking them to his vehicle. He found from them that there were five more of their group in the desert who were exhausted and out of water and could not go on. On the way the men both went to Ken and said, "**Gracias, gracias. Me Christian too!**". They left, Bible in hand! May God help them take the Word with them when they go back home to Mexico!!



Since then A drug cartel chief who admits ordering 1,500 killings during a campaign of terror has been captured in northern Mexico. Jose Antonio Acosta Hernandez, nicknamed El Diego, has been identified as the head of La Linea - a gang of hit men and corrupt officers who act as enforcers.

Gila River Churches

Thurleen and Ken had the simple but distinct feeling that they should visit Casa Blanca Baptist Church, and that they should do it Sunday the 28th of August. The little Indian church had played a couple of important roles in their mission. In 2008 they graciously allowed the Bain's to park their camper at the church while funds were being raised to restore electrical service ninety-eight miles away at the Hikiwan church.

The Casa Blanca Church was the "Requesting Church" when Ken and Thurleen applied to become Mission Service Corps missionaries (North American Mission Board). CBC then officially "sent" the Bain's to work on the neighboring Tohono O'odham reservation at Hikiwan.



Ken and Thurleen both felt like it was time to share with the little church how God has multiplied their actions and commitments. That Sunday, it almost had the feel of a continuation of the "Acts". Ken encouraged the resolute native believers how that just a few years ago he and Thurleen were the first missionaries to live full time for several months at a time on the west side of

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the normally closed Tohono O'odham reservation. They had prayed that God would send more workers to the Tribes of the southern Arizona desert. Not just any Christian workers, but workers who would be devoted to similar ministry goals.

Such goals were confirmed in July of 2008. Ken asked Pastor Pete Reede, "Assuming that the Lord lets us return to Hikiwan, what would you see as our best role to help the Indian Church?" Pastor Pete said without hesitation, "*Ken, once in the Bible there was a man, who as long as he held his arms up, the Armies of Israel prevailed. But when his arms grew tired, the enemy prevailed.*"

"So then two people rolled up a rock for him to sit upon and held up his arms, and Israel was able to defeat the enemy." Ken told Casa Blanca how he and Thurleen had stood by Hikiwan and other Indian churches much like Pastor Pete had told of Aaron and Hur in the Bible story. Not to do the work of ministry for the churches, but to help them as *they* minister to their own people.

In 2007-2010 there were two. Then in 2011 came Eric and Brittany Gibbs and Eddie and Candy Ware. Bill Watkins came to

work for the Tribe and is helping Hikiwan and 1st Pima at Sells. Autumn Busby is called to come to AZ. Two more couples will be at Casa Grande. And we don't want to forget "Doctor Missions," Dr. James and Mary Cecil who planted the seeds. God is multiplying His work. Casa Blanca Church was blessed to hear of it.

The timing of our visit coincided with the beginning of the pastorate of Everett Rivers. Eric Gibbs had served for several months as a transitional pastor while Bro. Rivers was in preparation for his new role as under-shepherd of the church.

Twelve miles away to the East, the oldest Indian Baptist Church in Arizona is located in Sacaton, the capitol of the Gila River reservation. 1st Pima Baptist Church has experienced times of great strength. But having overcome some obstacles, she is experiencing renewal under her 1st native pastor, Aaron Johns. Thurleen and Ken visited the special service Sunday night. Almost like coming home, they are treated like family, especially with the fellowship that accompanied the pot luck meal after the service.



The Big Apple comes to Hikiwan!

We arrived at Hikiwan Friday, July 15, set-up the Rollin Tee Pee and hit the ground running. Saturday we made an eighty mile run to Casa Grande for VBS supplies.

Sunday afternoon Eddie and Candy Ware along with a small mission team from First Papago Baptist Church in Sells arrived at Christ Fellowship Community Church for the VBS kick-off and cook out. They set up a large inflatable hazard course, turned the church sanctuary into New York City, and gathered up church kids to go out into the community to invite their friends to VBS.

At the same time, the *ramada* was also being used for a Tribal Community meeting.

Eric and Brittany Gibbs brought West Kentucky missionaries Donnie & Carla Houston down for a visit too. We all ate hot dogs and hamburgers, and most of the people from the community meeting shared in the food. It was a great day.

VBS week was awesome. We had a total enrollment of 35. A midweek monsoon that



left washes running kept some of the kids away that day. Overall, the kids liked the music, were attentive to the Bible lessons, made neat crafts, ate great snacks provided by 1st Papago,

and enjoyed game time.

Most exciting to us that one Indian church on the REZ was willing to send workers to another Indian church on the REZ in partnership to share Jesus! We look forward to a continuing relationship with First Papago!



Answered Prayer

Last issue we encouraged our prayer partners to ask the Lord to provide "transportation" for Pastor Pete and Nora Reede. Well He DID! And it's a wonderful little reliable and efficient sedan, free and clear.

A young Indian family had an extra car and were led to pass it on to the Reede's. May God bless them a hundredfold.



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

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BY MAIL

Ken and Thurleen Bain, *kTb Ministries*

In Illinois: PO Box 542
Vienna, IL 62995

In Arizona: PO Box 13143
Casa Grande, AZ 85230

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