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Like a Bolo Sling

by Ken Bain

In the Christian world, pastors, members of their flock, and missionaries are like the weights attached to the ends of the chords of a bolo sling. Together, when hurled by the hands of an expert (the Holy Spirit), a hunt of great reward can be accomplished. Even giant beasts can be taken down.

A bolo-sling was a thrown weapon made from lengths of cord or leather strap tied together on one end with a heavy ball on the other end of each.

The user would twirl the bolo overhead like the blades of a helicopter and 'sling' it at the target. When thrown, it would wrap itself around a target, tripping it up or otherwise impairing it. Many tribes used some form of a bolo. Eskimos are even known to hunt low flying ducks with bolo slings.

When God's people come together in his team-plan, the good news Gospel goes around the world making disciples. The risen Christ gave believers last parting instructions before his ascension:

"but ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

My interpretation is to go, "Here, There, and Yonder." You might ask, where and when? The answer is, where you go...as you go. That covers all the earth. "You shall be my witnesses" means simply that you will tell about your personal relationship with Christ when you are given an opportunity. As if you are testifying before a court, tell what you **know** and **have experienced**.

The remaining...and most important... portion of Jesus' instructions is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. When the Witness tells his/her story of redemption power by the blood of Christ, it leaves the realm of humanity and goes into hyper-drive by the Holy Spirit. Like a laser guided missile, the



Word strikes hearts with pinpoint effectiveness. So, don't be concerned about your ability, or your lack thereof. All God is asking for is your *availability*.

The relationship of pastors/churches to missionaries is crucial. Not every Christian is called or is able to personally respond to the "yonder" calling. Yet every Spirit-inspired believer can be a Witness of Jesus in Jerusalem (home) and in all of Judea (your near neighbors), and Samaria (the next county over). And every Christian can pray. Not every Christian can go but most all can support a missionary financially. Some a little and some a lot.

The Moravians; one in 58 answered the call to foreign fields. They sometimes carried their meager belongings in a casket as they *walked* deep into countries that had never heard of Jesus. They didn't expect to return alive. The other 57 gave sacrificially so each missionary could go.

You can be a Missionary by Partnership. That's how a bolo-sling works. Each partner held in orbit by the others. Spinning in amplified energy by their partnership. Each enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit ...the One who sends.

Hikiwan News

We hear that significant rainfall has occurred on the Sonoran desert this summer. Allen Garcia sends text messages often. We shared joy about the rain, the most in a number of years. We have been lightly teased that in Illinois, we had some higher temperatures than they did on the desert.

Allen and Delma Garcia have been able to get some repairs and remodeling done on their house. They have moved into the old double-wide at the church for the duration of the work. This remarkable Christian Indian couple deserves every blessing. They have been so generous to many who have needed a place to stay. Over time, forty people have lived in their house.

What a blessing it is to have Gary Ramer as transitional pastor at the church. Gary has engaged Indian preachers Felix Juan and George Martinez as well as Missionary Eddie Ware to preach at times.

Christ Fellowship Community Church in Hikiwan and 1st Papago Church at Sells share in a remarkable Kingdom moment in time. They may not even realize it. The two churches have prayed for their O'odham-speaking cousins in Northwestern Mexico. In previous News-Letters we have told of a Great Desert Awakening in that area. We are pleased to report that the last we have heard, since February there have been 979 people who have given their hearts to 'Christ in the little churches in a 200 mile band across Mexico. PRAISE GOD!!!

Summer Back Home in Illinois

We both felt like we should spend more time at home this summer. We didn't know why until we realized that since this is our 50th year, maybe we should spend some time with our 33 grands, great grands, and their parents. It has been a great joy.

We have made numerous missions presentations, with more planned. We trust that needed additional support will result. Mostly because of the feature article about us in the WMU magazine 'Missions Mosaic' a number of churches where we have served in, and with, have contacted us. It is wonderful to restore old contacts and fellowship.

When we pulled our trailer up our tree lined driveway, the 45 year-old creek bridge gave away. It had been clear for a while that a major rebuild was needed, but the cost remained too great. How great is God's timing! Right next to the bridge, an 80 ft oak tree was in need of harvesting.

After a wreck 11 months before (resulting in four leg fractures, a four-week coma and a stroke) our neighbor Travis Walker, 19, cut down the tree, loaded its three big logs, hauled it to the sawmill, and helped mill massive timbers to rebuild the bridge. The Max Hutchenson family invested considerable time and expense to make bridge timbers out of the great oak tree. Thanks, Travis and Max for your sacrifice. It is as unto the Lord. Now the missionaries can get out of the driveway.



Perspective...

The following is an excerpt from the beginning of the book, 'Papago Woman'. It is the definitive early study of the Tohono O'odham people by anthropologist Ruth Underhill in 1937, published by Waveland Press, Inc. 'Chona' was in her 90's, giving a view of very olden Indian times.

"I was born there," breathed Chona reverently. "on the Land." I wish I had some magical, some almost holy translation for the Indian word she used. Land, to me, was a possession to be claimed and fought over by farmers, builders, explorers...yes...and patriots. For this old Papago woman and her kin, I was to learn, it is the land that possesses the people. Its influence, in times, shapes their

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bodies, their language, even, a little, their religion.

Our volunteer interpreter spoke softly, "She mean reservation."

He sat smoking on the floor of the one-room dwelling. In fact, we were all on the floor, though Chona and I shared a rough old sheet of the kind the Papago used to weave from their own cotton.

If this had been New York, I would have thought I was seeing dire poverty, for the room appeared to be an unfurnished cellar. But this was Tucson, Arizona, where the most important element of furniture was the sunshine. It glowed on the earthen floor where a few pots and bits of metal could be assembled into a cooking apparatus. It picked out the color in some cotton garments hung on pegs in the windowless wall. It lighted Chona's face, polished bronze between the wrinkles.

Chona was making a basket. She sat on the floor as proper Indian women sit, with legs bent to the side.

"Lessa-vaion!" [Reservation] snorted Chona...

"Lessa-vaion! That how Vasindone [Washington people] say. But did Vasindone make our land? No! That was Earthmaker. In the Beginning. He make it for us...Papago, Desert People! Bean People!" (Ruth Underhill)

Well, this revealing narrative discloses the deep and inseparable connection with the desert land that has provided for and protected O'odham people for over 2,000 years.

You will agree that "Earthmaker" might equate in native minds with the Christian "God" who we know. And there are other uncanny stories/personages that are as intriguing as well. But just remember that mere belief in a creator does not establish eternal salvation. And their religion is based on an admixture of ancient I'toi Mythology and iconic Catholicism. That conceals the simplicity of salvation by Grace through faith in Jesus Christ. **Ken Bain**