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Well...I'll Pray for you...

by Ken Bain

Christians often say that, but do we always get around to praying? I am trying to learn to pray...NOW...

As I started to write this the cell phone rang, or it did what ever phones do. Our dear friend, a Navajo Christian grandfather called to report that his daughter had just successfully delivered a little girl - not so little, she weighed in at over 10 pounds. He thanked us for praying for her.

Some months ago he came by our trailer with a crushing burden on his heart for her. She was having a difficult pregnancy and was told that they would probably have to take the baby early...too early. We put our arms around him and prayed for him and his daughter. He called just a few days later and said, "my daughter saw a different doctor and was told that the problem is gone!" She should be able to carry the baby until term. And she did.

Soon afterwards, one of our most dedi-

cated supporters called. Her young adult son was diagnosed with a very suspicious mass inside his chest wall. Worse, it would be several weeks before he could be scheduled for needed scans. She was devastated.

I said, "let's pray NOW!" Knowing she and her husband to be prayer warriors, I asked God to give her the courage to put aside the natural motherly fears for her son, and trust in the Lord. The *next day* the doctors called to see if they could be in Nashville the following day to do the tests. The doctors repeatedly expressed surprise that the mass was not cancerous. Praise God!

A couple of years ago Thurleen and I were at a missions conference seated at a table with three missionary couples. One missionary who does a marvelous work at the Texas border with Mexico, said, "I just got a call that a pastor friend was just abducted by the Cartel in Mexico." NEVER good news! I said, "let's pray, NOW. It was two days later when I saw the missionary again.

He said, "YES, he was released at **the very time we prayed.**"

My Indian pastor friend Stanley Rios has escorted brave Christians to pray all up and down the Mexican border...for years now! I have no doubt that their prayer has pried openings in the stranglehold of the Cartels in the area. Their prayers have resulted now in thousands who have received Christ in the eruption of salvation below the border in the last year.

Now I have a request of you as you read these words. Would you please pray for us, and for the missionaries who work with the O'odham Indians...**NOW?**

Pray that evil forces would be broken. *Pray* for our safety and health. *Pray* that the needs and opportunities of our ministry would not be thwarted by the lack of funds. *Pray* that the people we love would open their hearts to Jesus.

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Ministry Needs / Hikiwan needs

VAN We have needed a 15 passenger van for a long time. But the urgency of that need has suddenly become a very high priority. A van will allow us to gather up and transport Indian kids and some of their families to bring them to the church for services and various events. That has jumped to the forefront as our dream of developing a "DayTrip Mission" program has taken on life in some perimeter churches. DayTrip missions will bring children's ministry to Hikiwan. We can have 30 to 40 kids in a continuing gospel program. DayTrip missions will provide the workers, But we need a van.

Likewise when we have visiting mission teams we have to have a van to pick up the team at the airport. It takes as much as \$1,200 in rental fees and deposits to rent a van for 7 to 10 days. That would go a long way toward buying an older used van. A church that is planning to send a team to Hikiwan is considering helping raise the money. But it appears that it will take \$2,500 to \$4,000 to purchase a serviceable 15 passenger van. I recently located a dandy 1997 van for \$2,000, but I couldn't pull all the

needs together before it sold.

Another option is that a church might wish to repurpose a surplus church van to this promising little Indian church. Anyone have any ideas?

10' STEP LADDER After installing new Evaporative coolers in the church walls last year, it was clear that the old ceiling vents needed to be replaced. What I didn't think about is that in the winter, much of the precious electric heat is escaping right up through the ceiling. And now, one of the ventilators has broken loose and is hanging by one screw. I need a ladder soon! (\$190). New vents with gravity louvers are about \$200.

ELECTRIC HEATER REPAIRS Three of the four vintage heaters in the church need new thermostats and wiring/terminals to make them work. If similar heaters were available today they would cost over \$1,000 each. I can repair them all for \$150. The folks have had to wear heavy coats to keep warm.

LADIES REST ROOM The sink broke away from the wall and had to be disconnected. A new lavatory, sink and faucet (\$140) One commode flooded and has to be rebuilt (\$40).

WATER HEATER Must have before mission team (\$290)

NEWS:

[January 17] What a weekend! We finally were able to get moved down to Hikiwan. Not that we wanted to leave our friends at Sacaton...it's always hard to leave one reservation to go to another.

. On the way, got arrangements to get warranty work done on the truck...

. Eric had an absolutely amazing meeting with the tribe to discuss their request to partner with him...

. Six MSC-NAMB missionaries and four World Gospel Mission folks met for fellowship, food, and worship at Hikiwan, wow! A kool conference of Tohono O'odham missionaries! Five years ago we were alone as MSC missionaries out here.

. Lord willing, we're going to be able to build a new home for an Indian family in distress.

. Lord willing, a long time dream for a multipurpose center for Christian work may be moving toward reality. a really big and important project.

[February] After a refreshing Mission Service Corps retreat in the beautiful Superstition (mountain) Foothills, Several are still talking about Dennis Wood's question, "Are you CALLED, or are you DRIVEN?" That is a profoundly important question for all who are in ministry. *Knowing* that you are called is simply a doubt destroyer. It is also empowering. ...Because, "Faithful is He who CALLS you who also will do it..." [1 Thess 5:24] I am sorry to say it, but there have been numerous times in my life that I not only allowed myself to be driven, I did my best to infect others with the malady. I may have experienced some level of success, but it often ended in a "Crash and Burn" in some fashion. ...Thank you Dennis!

The 50 yr old BIF (Baptist Indian Fellowship) has recently discovered their calling to be, themselves, missional. Eight Indian churches (now including Hikiwan) are in the BIF. They are planning to reach out to the West side of the Tohono O'odham Nation with Indian to Indian outreach on an ongoing basis. This probably is the most exciting and promising development in all of our time as missionaries. It has the potential to be a major breakthrough. Please pray in unified intercession that hindrances will be shattered so that the lost may be saved. (2 Thess 3:1 *KJV*)

The BIF came to Hikiwan for their monthly planning meeting on Feb 16, 2013.

50 Years, how can it be?

The last six years of ministry to Native Americans has presented very little in the way of options for personal getaways. We had made plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary the same day of our family's consolidated Christmas/Thanksgiving gathering last November so we could get back on the mission field in December.

All year I had thought about what Thurleen and I might have as something special for our 50th anniversary on December 29. I wasn't able to provide a fancy honeymoon in 1962. (but can old people actually have honeymoons 50 years later, anyway?) A long trip and expensive accommoda-



tions was out of the question, but God apparently had spoken to some of our friends who tucked in a little bit in our anniversary cards.

As a result, my bride and I were able to take three days and make the short trip from Arizona to the California



Coast. I found a special deal at a vintage sea-coast resort in Carlsbad, CA just 2 blocks from where we lived for part of 1966. It had been forty-six years since we lived there. The quiet little west coast town is now a surfers haven.

That Sunday, on the way back to Arizona we were guest worshipers in San Diego at Dr. David Jeremiah's Shadow Mountain Church. What a blessing!

We even experienced rare snow storm in the Southern California mountains that afternoon. God is good!

"If God has called you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king."

Charles Spurgeon