

# kTb Ministries

Christ to the  
*First* Nations



## kTb Ministries Newsletter

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### A Note from Ken...

It has been very difficult to find even a little bit of time to write during this whole year. Now, in the all important first months of Thurleen's recovery from a stroke, my attention is toward her almost 24/7. We were preparing to return to our Illinois home for sabbatical time and resource development when the stroke hit her. Thankfully, she is making good progress. Sooo many have been praying for Thurleen and I. In the following space I will do my best to share with you some of the results of that investment of prayer. At any rate, I apologize for the delay in providing an update.

### Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother

If there was any possibility of doubt that our five children loved their mom and Dad, such a thought is vaporized like a bunker-buster bomb making a direct hit on an ant hill.

Oh, how my five children love their mother. Makes me want to take care of her all the more. To them, the well commemorated Mothers Day was just another day...

Let me say, Thurleen is making good progress in her stroke recovery. Almost every day I can see measurable improvement! Thanks to our partners for praying...

Back to our five kids... When the word got to them that their mother was on the way to a Tucson hospital it wasn't more than a few hours until they began formulating plans. As soon as it was clear that several weeks of intensive therapy would follow a few days stay at University Medical Center, they started talking about how to get her home. It immediately seemed important to have her fly back to Southern Illinois. I would need to fly with her.

Our son Josh who lives in Dallas and his sister Kerry from Illinois decided to drive to Arizona to help me get the Rolling Teepee prepared for travel and to help me sort and pack up tools. Their brother Jon David would then fly out and drive our truck and 5th Wheel back to Illinois.

Kerry's husband Jeremy drove her the 670 miles to Dallas with their daughters. Josh checked his pickup out and decided to do a quick brake job on it. But he uncovered additional problems that couldn't be corrected quickly. Then it got complicated. Undeterred, their solution was, Josh would ride back to Illinois with Kerry's family and then drive Jeremy's brand new truck back to Dallas and then the two of them then drove the remaining 950 miles on to Tucson.

Josh and Kerry stayed in Tucson until Thurleen was released to fly home. (Thanks so much for the gracious hospitality of AZ MSC coordinators, Clint and Carol Smith) The young brother and sister worked through the difficult process of helping me with paying bills and then sorting through the quagmire of insurance, and meds, and treatment choices, and insurance approvals, and prudent decisions...

We prefer flying out from Tucson, but with no direct flights available, Josh and Jon David had to drive us to Phoenix Sky Harbor for our flight to St Louis. We had the extremely challenging task of getting our patient released from the hospital at 5 AM for the 2 1/2 hour trip from Tucson to Phoenix.

If our three younger kids had left no stone overturned to make sure we could get their mom safely to St Louis, our other children were working as hard back home. Donnie and Kendee and their families had gone through our house from one end to the other to prepare it for their mom's comfort. Don found a way to adjust the height of mom's bed to match a wheel chair and did some preliminary remodeling of her bathroom. Jon David built a new ramp and his wife Bev totally filled our freezer with delicious meals cooked in her kitchen.

When I wheeled Thurleen from the plane in St Louis, we were met by Kendee, Don, and our granddaughter who has experience in emergency care. Another three hours by car had us at our modest country home we call DaySpring Ranch. What a welcome sight! And one or more of the children stayed with us 24/7 until the in-home physical therapy and occupational therapy began.

### Has God UNCALLED Me (Us)?

By Thurleen Bain

I think NOT! Our calling is not over. Did Jesus not tell us that if we follow Him we will go through stuff? I learned a long time ago that you cannot have a *testimony* without a *TEST!*

The past 8 years, much of our work on the REZ has been done from our home in Illinois. Today's electronic world makes that possible. God called us to an "Aaron and Hur" Ministry, as Pastor Pete Reede resolutely confirmed in 2008.

I can't help but feel a bit let down by my experiences of late. Yet it is nothing my Jesus didn't suffer for my redemption. It has been difficult for me to need all the personal assistance that I've had to endure. But I am reminded that Jesus was stripped totally naked when he was nailed to the cross. I am grateful for all the help and prayer ...*CONTINUED*

## God's Hand Upon Us

It was predawn April 4, 2015...the occurrence of the long awaited 3rd of 4 Lunar Eclipse's of 2014-2015. I hoped to be able to see it in the clear desert sky. It was not a disappointment ...much more graphic than I anticipated. I had hoped to do some research and bible study about its possible prophetic significance. But I simply haven't had the time.



(NASA Photo)

The fact is that my beloved, my wife of 52+ years, my best friend ever since I was 17, had a stroke, apparently during this Lunar Eclipse. I am not concluding any relationship between the "Blood Moon" and the stroke, but it certainly is a prominent tab marker in my life now.

**PRAYER:** God, our God, who, to satisfy his own plans, created the moon and all the heavens, loves to hear our prayers. Our prayers are like sweet incense in his nostrils. You, who have been our prayer partners have kept Thurleen and I, and our family right in the presence of the Heart of God (see: "Missionary by Partnership"). And the work He has called us to is going on.

That for some reason she was to have the stroke does not indicate a lapse in prayer. I'm not sure what it means, but I KNOW in Whom I have believed, and able persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against *that* day. What I do know and can testify to is that within this time of strain there has been the restraining hand of God, as well as his providing hand.

1st, Thurleen *survived* a "Pretty Massive stroke". Yet her voice was barely affected. She has been able to walk some with help since the first week of therapy. And she has maintained her powerful smile! Those who know me can imagine that I would be driven to invent or modify every thing I can that could remove barriers for Thurleen. In fact, I have made dozens of improvements and modifications to our house and vehicle. My project list continues to be extensive. Stroke recovery is all about nuances...the small things. But my "problem" is that she is improving so rapidly that her recovery is mov-

ing right past some of my projects before I can get them started! PTL!

That April day when I realized that I needed to get medical help, I found myself staring at my phone, momentarily unable to concentrate on how to call Delma Garcia for healthcare recommendations from where we were on the reservation. At that very instant she called...*ME!* Delma recommended the University Medical Center in Tucson.

Thurleen was able to stay strong the whole long trip to Tucson. And a whole team of experienced doctors and nurses triaged and began treating her at the same time. She was assigned to the very same advanced nursing unit where Rep Gabby Giffords hung onto life after being shot through the head by a crazed gunman. Staff there clearly expressed their faith in Christ to us. In short, few places on earth could have been a better choice to take her. UMC gave us a list of area Rehab centers. Immediately we selected Oro Valley Rehab. It and the parent hospital serves Oro Valley and the Vistoso and Catalina Communities. It is only minutes from Clint and Carol Smith, our home away from home in Tucson. And the Vistoso Church which is our Tucson Church. and is also our strongest Partner Church.

At Oro Valley, Thurleen received very good therapy from Eric Nelson and many other gifted professionals. And the view from OVR is arguably one of the most beautiful on earth.



We were able to get Thurleen signed out of the hospital in about a half hour and get her loaded in Kerry's truck for the long trip to Phoenix. At the PHX airport, a SkyCap put her in a Wheel Chair and escorted us through all check-in steps and security checks, and a long walk to our terminal in about 20 minutes. Amazing Grace came again there. We were at the gate very early. So I asked Thurleen if she should visit a rest room.

Problem was, we found there was no "Family Rest Room". I was faced with a dilemma, and was trying to find courage...

Moments later, after exiting the men's room, A man asked me if I needed help. I guess it showed. He then said, "Would you like for me to go get my wife, to help her? He said, "my wife is a nurse." Wow! A

small, but a mountain of a blessing! Turns out they live close to our son in Dallas.

I've had to learn to cook, be a launderer, a nurse, a med tech, a psychologist, and a counselor. And thanks to family, friends and neighbors for food, help and prayer. Examples: Steve Walker who has kept our big yard mowed after working lots of overtime at his job, and Cousin Reita who stayed with Thurleen for most a week only days after her husband had died. (it was really good for both cousins)

And, we couldn't be more blessed that Felix Juan has come to Hikiwan as new pastor at this perfect time! Eric's 4+ years of labor at Cocklebur is paying off in a big way as that new church just blossoms with the Holy Spirit in all those new Christians spilling over into adjacent Indian villages. And Eddie and all those who are helping complete the new church sanctuary in Sells!

**Thurleen and I want to say a sincere "Thank You" to the churches, and to individuals who provided funds for us to get Thurleen home and to permit us to get the necessary handicap accessibility items for our home while she is recuperating and for our 5th wheel trailer so we can continue our calling to serve Native Americans. AND FOR PRAYER!**

### Our Upcoming Schedule:

- June 16, FBC Marion IL, Missions Presentation
- June 28, Whittington Church
- July 9-18 Praise Fellowship Church, Sacaton AZ, lead Church building expansion (Pennsylvania mission team)
- Late July, FBC Newton IL, Children's Mission Presentation
- August, FBC Harrisburg
- August, Immanuel B C, Benton, IL, Missions Presentation
- September, FBC Morton, IL, Missions presentation
- Oct 16, Sandy Creek B Assn, Missions Conference
- Nov, Mission team in Hikiwan AZ; South Fork BC, Hodgenville KY
- Dec, Mission Team in Hikiwan AZ; FBC Harrisburg IL
- ...others yet to be determined...

## Has God UNCALLED Me?

...CONTINUED

in my behalf, but I must confess that I felt disappointed that my delivery wasn't immediate.

Yet, this week when I got my Physical Therapy evaluation, the PT supervisor said that it is amazing that I have such good balance for one who had a "Pretty Massive" stroke...extremely rare. The report said that I had met and exceeded every therapy goal! Thank you Lord, I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T forgotten me! I know God is going to restore me, in His Time! So *hurry up Lord*. I have had the best of care, and I have been working really hard. I have an awesome family. All 5 kids have really stepped up and helped sacrificially. Guess we must have done something right bringing them up. We are very blessed even though they have all gotten *very bossy!*



Thurleen

### Be a "Missionary by Partnership"

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- Be our prayer partners
- Contribute financially

You can give through the North American Mission Board for accountability with deductible receipts.

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**DIRECT MAIL:** Ken and Thurleen Bain, kTb Ministries

In Arizona → PO Box 13143  
-OR- Casa Grande, AZ 85130  
In Illinois → PO Box 542  
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