

kTb Ministries

Christ to the
First Nations



kTb Ministries Newsletter



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A Note from Ken...

We described our ministry as a new way of "doing" missions in one of our first publications more than eight years ago. I wondered after a while if that might have been a little presumptuous. The method we soon "discovered" though, was to find what God was doing and "get in on it."

Because we are mere mortals, it sometimes has taken a while to recognize what He's up to. Our patience in "waiting upon the Lord" has been rewarded by being able to report on His manifest works over the last years as a common and often experience, rather than as an exception. So, God has vindicated us in the work of holding up the arms of Native American Indian believers.

Both they and we are amazed. Its not about what we're doing, but to report on what our Lord is doing among the native peoples of the Sonoran Desert. For example this Summer:

- Phase 1 of a small but 60% building expansion of Praise Fellowship Church, Sacaton Flats
- Phase 1 of the 1st ever evangelical church building at Cuckleburr (a new church that God has raised up by the faithfulness of Eric and Brittany Gibbs that is so exciting to watch)
- Organizing Phase 5 and 6 of big new Mission House at Hikiwan
- New Sanctuary at 1st Papago in Sells ready for service pending completion of AC (Great work Eddie Ware in a growing and maturing congregation)
- Just found that Golden Gate Seminary has approved Eric Gibbs to establish our own "on the reservation" Bible College.
- Total of about 10,000 sq ft of Native American church building construction underway at 5 locations in the last two years. All funds have been provided by partners as the needs have occurred.

Ken oversees new construction start

This has certainly been a time of connecting the dots. A couple of days before Thurleen's stroke, Ken and Pastor Pete met with missions co-worker Rob Landry. Rob had previously told of a Mission Team that was scheduled through Praying Pelicans in July. It just seemed like they might be a fit to start a building addition at Praise Fellowship church where Pete has been helping out. But Rob had no one to lead the mission team.

Then Ken's involvement became doubly unlikely when Thurleen became ill and we had to fly her back home for stroke recovery. It was especially more unlikely as the couple settled in with Ken doing ALL the household chores, cooking, and providing 24-7 personal care for Thurleen. And if you know him at all, his mind would be running at a fast pace trying to find equipment to assist Thurleen and inventing what he couldn't buy.

But all the time doing and learning to do made it very hard to sneak outside to work on projects at all. But never quite able to forget about that new Arizona project, Ken thought he had a solution. A friend was going to Arizona and the Indian worshipers were so excited. Their little church was only 20 x 30. the thought of adding another 20 feet really encouraged them. But the timing and the scope of the job just didn't match God's specific calling for the friend.

By this time, the church of the Pennsylvania team had agreed to bring additional money for construction.

And...Thurleen's condition was gradually improving to the point that it was looking like she might pretty soon be able to handle most of her own personal care and dressing.

Ken decided to pass by the idea of him flying to AZ for 10 days. Their kids, who have been so supportive, as well as Thurleen, all said, "I think you ought to go." thanks to daughter Kendee, cousin Reita, and special friends Marian and Brittany stayed with Thurleen, whose missionary heart pushed her even further into improvement.



Working with Shepherd of the Hills Church was a joy. They were prepared to do a VBS, and they did it well. They had three separate programs from children to adults. I was so impressed as one of the young people delivered a team devotion each night. Each of them was well prepared, and demonstrated that they "got it", that is the point of the gospel of Jesus Christ in each of their scriptures. They obviously are well taught and disciplined. It is clear that good preaching has come ...**CONTINUED**

I'm in RECOVERY Thurleen Bain

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I have quoted that Scripture many times since I was afflicted, sometimes to others but mostly to myself. I don't like being at the mercy of others, even my loved ones. I am certainly outside of my comfort zone! I am very grateful for all the notes of encouragement I have received. I am very grateful for everyone who stayed with me while Ken was in Arizona.

I have to admit there was some fear that reared its ugly head. I felt trapped in the house because I knew that in an emergency I couldn't get out of the house on my own. My PT worked with me on getting out the door and walking down the ramp, so then I knew I could get out on my own.

My special sanctuary has always been the front porch. But it has been off limits to me because of lack of railing. The doors are a challenge to walk through without help. I have missed having my morning coffee in my porch swing with the songbirds singing praises to God for the new day.

My life has changed, but I'm not ready for a big pity party! Just wanted to confess that sometimes my smile may be on the surface. I thank my Father for all the blessings He has bestowed on me! I am grateful for getting me through moment by

moment. I am thankful for His faithfulness! Jesus told us that we would go through stuff, but He would go with us! He has never failed me or let me down!

I have been able to sleep through bad storms, knowing I couldn't get to the basement, but also knowing I could shelter in Jesus' arms! *I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep me until that day.*

Everyone has been very supportive, especially our family. Our kids have made many sacrifices in my behalf. Friends have set aside plans and schedules to be available to assist me. The homecare professionals have been very easy to work with in setting and meeting goals.

Its not easy to get in our big truck, but I can do it with Ken's help. It's very difficult for Ken to attach the steps that he made and then to load them in the truck along with my wheelchair and hemi walker, but he does so I can go to church and grocery stores and necessary appointments..

Its not about me. Please continue to pray for our loved ones at Hikiwan. Pastor Felix who lost his beloved Beverly. The Garcia family who have lost their means of income. The children who are attending Sunday School. Amanda and Duncan who are helping with the kids ministry. We look forward to getting back on the field! God is so good!

Condolences

Louis Perez, Sacaton AZ. Longtime faithful member of 1st Pima Baptist Church. A dear friend...I was honored to be able to assist Eric in funeral services. Louis and Verna became close personal friends of Dr James and Mary Cecil. Their relationship catalyzed current Sonoran Desert Native American Missions.

Beverly Juan, Phoenix AZ. Wife of Felix Juan, Pastor, Christ Fellowship Community Church, Hikiwan. Beverly was a very active member of 1st Indian Baptist Church in Phoenix. She was so supportive of her husband becoming a pastor, at Hikiwan...after his retirement. By happening to be in AZ that week, I was able to be there for Bro. Felix. It was such blessing to be with so many Native American friends and to be received with honor.

Our Summer 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)
- July/August, FBC Newton IL, Children's Mission Presentation
- August 2, Immanuel B C, Benton, IL, Missions Presentation
- August, FBC Harrisburg
- September, FBC Morton, IL, Missions presentation
- Oct 16, Sandy Creek B Assn, Missions Conference
- Nov 7-8 On Mission Connection, Centre Alabama, with 31 other International, North American, and State missionaries
- Nov, Mission team in Hikiwan AZ; South Fork BC, Hodgenville KY
- Dec, Mission Team in Hikiwan AZ; FBC Harrisburg IL
- ...others to be determined...some dates are tentative

New Construction Start

Continued

out of their pulpit. Both Senior pastor Dr John Brown and Associate/Youth pastor Derrick Whitmore demonstrated excellent leadership and worked very hard preparing to pour the concrete floor. By the way, that team shoveled 23 tons of fill sand in one morning in the desert heat...without complaint. (And put up with this sometimes cranky old ex-contractor)



In the spirit of co-operation... The Pennsylvania team (Formerly UCC) were housed at 1st Pima Baptist Church. Amanda and Duncan (Pastor Pete's daughter) and Garrett Garcia (studying culinary arts) all came up from Hikiwan to prepare outstanding meals. All to help the little independent Native American church at Sacaton Flats Arizona. The team also passed out flyers for Eric on Tuesday. On Wednesday they helped Eric set up a HUGE block party at 1st Pima and 300 kids showed up!!!! The Hikiwan cooks stayed to help with snacks.

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