

kTb Ministries

Christ to the
First Nations



kTb Ministries Newsletter



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A Note from Ken...

Thurleen continues to improve in her recovery from the stroke. Saturday, she climbed out of the van, and walked all the way back to the Walmart battery-powered cart that I had placed there for her...and that was without using her walker at all. She has always been eager to be able to go back to see her Indian friends and to thank them for their prayers.

Usually we try very hard to leave the rapidly cooling Midwest as soon after Thanksgiving as possible. It is important to leave before bad weather sets in. We have been snowed in and mudded in when we have waited too long.

It is always hard work to make all the needed preparations to travel. Sometimes I think it's a little more like preparing to live in the space station than it would be to prepare to go on vacation. Some of you who live in an RV for a few months might say that "we know what you mean." But there is a large difference in doing that and sorting through all the tools and supplies that I think I MIGHT need on the desert. Not to mention all of the records and ministry supplies that we might need. It takes a lot of different clothing, for work, casual and "Sunday Clothes" We have to have cold weather clothing for when we leave. Hot weather clothing for the sunny Arizona desert. And medium clothing for the cold desert nights.

We thought we were ready to cram the final week of hard loading work into a couple of the warm December days last week...

Another "way, when there is no way..."

I was able to design and manufacture a set of self storing steps for our big truck that we pull our house with. Since it was the only vehicle that we had, the steps were necessary so that Thurleen could get into the truck and go for her therapy sessions. With that, half of the special needs for Thurleen's travel was accomplished. Before I could get a lift built to get her up into the 5th wheel, she decided that she could climb up the 4 steps. While she could do that, it was not without considerable difficulty and some danger, even with my help. And we would have to make those transitions out of the truck and into the trailer dozens of times during the 1800 mile trek to the Arizona reservation. Yet we were willing to do it. Then there was a collective sense of caution that settled over all 5 of our children. Perhaps there is an alternative plan. Could we fly to Arizona? Yes, but how about our TON of clothes, tools, and supplies? And, more importantly, how about a place for us to stay?

A motorhome would be ideal. It would allow Thurleen to have only one floor level to deal with inside the coach. The problem was the last time I checked, it looked like it

would take 60,000 to \$100,000 to buy one in good condition, and large enough to serve our needs.

Well, God does make a way when there is no way. I opened the Internet and right away found a 36 foot Pace Arrow for \$10,000. It was reduced because of some water damage in the bathroom. Guess what...I would need to remodel a bathroom



anyway for easier access.

With a few weeks to repair, upgrade, and outfit the motorhome, we will be ready to go. It will be much easier for Thurleen to navigate. Theoretically, she could ride all the way to Arizona without having to get out. Even the stairs up into it are much easier to deal with. And we can pull a car...

Merry Christmas

Thurleen Bain

Our dilemma, God's solution

When our five kids realized we were getting close to starting our trip to the rez, all of them agreed that they were uncomfortable with me getting in and out of our 5th wheel. Someone suggested that we think about flying. That left...what to do with all our stuff and dad's tools. That could be shipped. But that would leave us without transportation or a place to stay. We talked and prayed about it. We also knew God had a plan.

My stroke recovery is continuing even though my therapy is done for this year. It's much more difficult for me to do anything when it's cold outside. Climbing in and out of the big truck and then up the stairs to get in the 5th wheel is a huge challenge. The stairs up to the bathroom and another step up to the bedroom added to the challenge. I have always had more difficulty coming down steps than going up.

A motorhome could solve about all of the issues. A way to haul tools, etc...A comfortable way to travel and we could tow the little car that we were able to acquire recently.

Ken started checking craigslist. He 1st found the towbar. Then he found a motorhome we might afford, but when we checked it out it wasn't the right one. Its steps were laid out in a way that I could not climb.

The next day there was another one listed. It was half the cost of the 1st one. Part of it steps are inside and part outside making it easier for me to get in. It's a bit old and needs some cleaning and repair work in the bathroom. But it will fit our needs for now. It's on one level. I can walk almost the length of it without my walker. We will have some adjustments to make. However it's a wonderful solution after the stroke. God's provision is always "just-in-time!"

I know I won't be able to do some of the things I have done before but I will have new ways to be part of this ministry. God equips us with what we need. A wonderful thing about our delay in leaving is that we will get to have another family dinner gathering at Christmas after all! Our oldest granddaughter and her family are coming home for Christmas as is our Army grandson. How cool is that! God is in the little details of our lives!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

Thank you for continuing to be our partners. We appreciate you and thank God for you.

Mission Teams

We really like it when mission teams and their home churches want to establish continuing long term relationships with the people who they come to help. Such is the case with FBC Harrisburg and South Fork BC in Hodgenville KY. Harrisburg has been to Hikiwan four times and Hodgenville returned the 2nd time a couple of weeks ago. They immediately bonded with the people in the local church the 1st time they came last year.

I flew to meet them in Tucson, traveled on out to Hikiwan. We made final connections and adjustments to the underground plumbing for the shower rooms of the new mission house and prepared to pour the concrete floor. That's when it got interesting. The village is so far out that its very difficult to get redi-mix delivered. I had started making calls immediately. After 2 days our KY contractor and I drove to find a company who would serve our project. Finally Paloma Concrete from Gila Bend agreed to make the 85 mile delivery.



The village kids couldn't wait to get home from school so they could go over to the church to see what "those guys" from Kentucky had for them tonight.

Welcome:
FBC Vienna IL
mission team
to Hikiwan in
February!



Merry Christmas



Allen and Delma Garcia

If you have visited Hikiwan you will remember Allen and Delma Garcia. Unfortunately Delma lost her election under dubious circumstances as District Chairperson and is now unemployed.

She has been a servant of her people almost all of her adult life. She was in a position to help so many people with their needs for decades. Now that she has needs, that favor is not being returned to her.

Any financial help that you would be led to extend to them would be greatly appreciated. You may call me at 618-771-3318 for directions on how to get money to them immediately for Christmas for the grandchildren who live with them.

This has been a "WOW" Summer!

(For Thurleen's 1st outing), our dear friends at FBC Marion IL invited us to speak to their missions group. I think it set the stage for Thurleen's recovery.

We visited our supporting churches at Whittington and Harrisburg.

We were invited to Jacksonville to participate in Sandy Creek Association's ON MISSION CONNECTION. More than a dozen missionaries/couples presented in a missions fair. Then on Sunday each spoke in at least two churches.

Our Missionary by Partnership church in Morton, IL graciously received us to share again this year.

Like Sandy Creek in IL, Cherokee and Lookout Mountain associations in Northeastern Alabama, had us along with 32 state, local, US and International missionaries for their ON MISSIONS CONNECTION. After their big missions fair, each was able to speak in a couple of churches. It was awesome to connect with missionaries from around the world. It was a special blessing to get to know Author, Rosalie Hall Hunt, who knew our mentor-James Cecil when she and her husband worked in China.

Be a "Missionary by Partnership"

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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