

# kTb Ministries

Christ to the  
*First Nations*



## kTb Ministries Newsletter



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### Christmas in the Villages



This is how Eric and Brittany Gibbs do missions. 20 to 30 Indian kids and their mothers were able to "shop" from hundreds of toys, games, dolls, clothes, coats, slippers, and other free gifts supplied by faithful partners from locations far and near. Each child was able to choose 3 to 5 gifts sometimes totaling 50 to 75 dollars per child. Gift wrapping was available.

Lights were by ministry generator. Space in their yard was provided by a young Indian father

and mother who have chosen Jesus. He has struggled to find the money to live on. Fighting to find food since abandoning dealing drugs, his only income source, there is no money to pay for electricity. (They may be the only believers for miles).

Our hosts graciously made coffee for us. They boiled water outside in a big pan over the hot coals of a mesquite fire, ironically on TOP of an old electric range. (in foreground of picture on right)

The Gibbs' have no formula to reach the villages but to just show unconditional love, then come back and do it again, and again, and again... For instance, after four years of tireless efforts almost every week, there is now a vibrant New Testament church in the village of Cockelburr. Even so, it was not easy.

Early on it became possible to get a used mobile home for a single mom and her kids to replace an unlivable old crumbling adobe traditional home. She agreed to host Bible studies. Several adults attended and lots of children listened to Bible stories. But when a couple of the moms had to leave the reservation, it all seemed to fall apart. Yet God knew it wasn't over.

I remember Eric getting a call from someone in the Sells headquarters. He expected the worst. Were they calling to tell him to stop "preaching", or to leave the reservation? I doubt if either would have been a surprise. Amazingly, the caller said, "we know that you do work in the villages—in Cockelburr." "Would you and your people (mission teams) be able to partner with the Tribe to do a major clean up in Cockelburr?" It just happened that he had a good mission team on the way!

The Tribe sent in workers and big demolition dumpsters. Loaders were brought in. Eric assigned one missionary to work with each small team of one or more Tribal worker and/or residents. It was a great day! Broken glass, trash, and even collapsed old houses got loaded into dumpsters.

Scores of hours of conversation in each little work team was simply phenomenal. Out of it a young mother accepted Christ, leading in short order to dozens of believers.

What we had referred to as the darkest village has turned into a lighthouse for lost souls. The solid little church which still meets outside under its Ramada, is by its own choice, missional. They are reaching out to other villages where the gospel is unknown. And they are regularly called on to encourage other churches, singing and telling their story. But in the two years the whole complexion of those families has

**CONTINUED**



changed. The moms and dads who had been living together have begun to ask Eric to marry them. They are discovering beautiful, cohesive, and Godly family structures. And now we are seeing gainful employment in the households.

Where Eric had patiently taught them the Word and Brittany had taught the children, now they are gradually picking up those duties themselves.

This is the 5th village so visited this season. As we drove our 3 vehicles about 20 miles back to the edge of the reservation in almost total darkness (without seeing a single car), our hearts are filled with wonder about how the **Light of the World will now impact this part of a dark, dark world.**

**Permanent Markers**

There are profound things that happen in life, that because of their prominence, become permanent markers. We then recognize events as having happened either before or after such a "marker." Of course, the best example was the birth of Jesus. The world's calendar is based on the birth of the son of God. Even atheists find themselves using this "Gregorian calendar."

The Bain family thinks in terms of events that are before or after Thurleen's stroke which occurred on the reservation on April 4, 2015. That date is also when the 1st of two blood moons occurred that year. As phenomenal as the big red moon was, our "marker" is her stroke.

Well, a few weeks before the stroke, I noticed a change in my body. Because it was personal, I hadn't yet made my family aware of it. But I think I will share it now. It may help someone else.

Both Thurleen and I were blessed with excellent health. But I began to be alarmed when an apparent growth appeared to be developing rapidly. I knew that I needed to get it checked out... And the quicker the better. Though it was expanding fast I still hoped to wait until we returned home to Southern Illinois.

By the time April 4 had turned to night, and we had a stroke diagnosis for Thurleen, I was really threatened with panic. It looked like it was going to be about another month before we could fly her back home. By this time my "growth" had externalized and was already advancing to the point that it had become quite restrictive. With Thurleen in the hospital in Arizona, I just couldn't end up hospitalized also!

My mind raced with all sorts of possibilities and probabilities. I knew right away that she was going to need me to wait on her hand and foot (no pun intended). I also knew that if I was incapacitated, even for a while, she would have to go to nursing home. Our kids were very supportive, but for one reason or another, none of them had the ability to take care of their mom as I could. We had no savings. What little financial cushion we had was long before absorbed in our mission work. We would probably lose our home and everything we had. Worse, our mission work would likely be over.

I had been praying about my condition even before I mentioned it to Thurleen. I thought about it almost constantly. My prayers eventually became concentrated as if they were reduced to bullet points. They finally settled to be, "Lord, you can if you will." By the time of the stroke I was repeating "Lord, you can if you will" scores of times a day.

My wife, my high school sweetheart, lay in the Tucson hospital, in the same rooms where U S Representative Gabrielle Giffords was treated for a bullet through her head, treated by the same staff and one of the same doctors. We couldn't have expected to go anywhere on earth for better help.

So I could get some sleep, Thurleen finally talked me into staying with Clint and Carol Smith, our Arizona mission service Corps coordinators. The second morning there, I awoke, and in my mind started to repeat "Lord, you can if you will."

**But what came out was backwards, "Lord, you will if you can."** Suddenly, I was wide awake. I immediately started to "apologize" for "putting God on the spot." But in my spirit I heard, "you don't need to apologize, in fact you have finally come to the point to take me at my word, that it is by my stripes you are healed."

Three days later, I noticed that the growth had begun to recede. By the middle of May it was all but gone. Now all that remains is a tiny little bump as a reminder, **"Lord, you will if you can."** Over the next year and a half, duplicate tests failed to detect any form of cancer, or any anomaly. PTL!

**Welcome!**

We are overjoyed to welcome Rick and Chrissy Downing to join



Eric and Brittany Gibbs, Josh and Deidra Hodges, and Ken and Thurleen Bain on the Native American Mission Field in the Sonoran Desert! Can't help but believe that God is up to something!

**I thank my God in all my remembrance of you**

Pastor Ed Hollis taught from Philippians 1 on a recent Sunday evening. Stuck in my mind is verse 3, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you." Thurleen and I have so many Christian friends in so many churches, and we do thank God for you. But it would be an over simplification...and perhaps a disservice to speak only of "Supporters" of KTB Ministries.

Our ministry to American native peoples is assisted in two ways: By Mission teams who sacrifice to travel many miles to help, and by those who send us money. Both are necessary. Over the years, hundreds of people in mission teams help us reach out to Indian people with the gospel as well as provide project funding for building and repairs. By and large it is churches who organize and send mission teams.

Other churches, families, and Christian groups give funds so we can travel to and about the mission field, purchase supplies and equipment, provide benevolence, and pay our bills. These key partners provide crucial monthly donations to keep us going. Some make periodic point of need donations.

But it is important to know that Paul's letter to the Philippians was a message from his gracious heart. It was not just a polite compliment. He said with deep conviction, "Always in every prayer... for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." I once heard fellowship described as, "Two Fellers in the same ship"

It is those who are in the same ship with us who give us great joy and make us thank God in every remembrance. The key is the Gospel, good news.

If the news that Jesus is your Lord and that God has raised him from the dead is indeed Good News to you, then it is only natural that you want to share it.

And share it you do in the fertile ground of the mission field! Thank God for you!

**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.

- Be our prayer partners
- Contribute financially

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

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Atlanta, Georgia 30368-6543

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[CLICK](http://ktbministries.org) or copy <http://ktbministries.org> to your web browser  
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