

kTb Ministries

Christ to the
First Nations



kTb Ministries Newsletter

Ken and Thurleen Bain



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KTb Ministries, Year Eight...

Ken Bain

It doesn't seem possible that we could be in our eighth year working with Native Americans in the Arizona Sonoran desert. We have now spent 10% of our lives saturated with helping American Indian churches. If we or anyone else may have wondered if we would last, I guess time has answered that.

Thurleen and I had assumed, frankly with some hopefulness, that we could experience a bit more relaxed pace this year. We had hoped for a little rest, with some time to write. And that was even before we had a harrowing travel experience making the 1800 mile trip from Southern Illinois. After relating that experience in our last newsletter, we heard that a friend had suggested that either God was going to do something great or maybe we should check the current status of his calling.

Well, we have been busier than ever this year. And God *is* doing something great! **The short version is:**

- The 3 primary Indian churches that we work with are all involved in major building programs, totaling almost 9000 ft² of floor space.
 - None of them had scarcely any money for materials or labor.
 - One of them is completely finished. Their new fellowship hall is simply beautiful, well-equipped, and is perhaps the envy of many even larger churches.
 - The 2nd, a new sanctuary to seat 140 is about half done.
 - Good progress is being made on the 3rd project.
 - NO church loans have been necessary.
- Native American churches have become missional!
 - Ongoing mission efforts to help weaker sister churches
 - Several Native individuals have even made inter-continental (over-seas) mission trips!

I have, at least to some degree served as General Contractor/Advisor/Architect/Laborer/Volunteer-guide/and Go-fer, as well as a temporary pastor. Maybe best said is that we have been cheer-leaders. We are now looking forward to going back home for little while this summer to get some rest...Haha.

A 1st Generation Christian in Her Community

Thurleen Bain

We said our "till we meet again" to the Matriarch of the Christ Fellowship Community Church family at 4:30 pm, Saturday February 1st. It was Super-Bowl day, but the celebration in Heaven was not for the Super Bowl! What a privilege it was to gather with her family around her hospital bed during her last few days on this earth!

Our first encounter with Mrs. Vicky was at a birthday party for her under the ramada one very hot June day. I believe it was the last time she was in her beloved Hikiwan. We had returned the evening before and may have not even unhooked the truck from the rollin teepee yet. We were introduced to Mrs. Vicky, shook hands with her, but she never spoke to us, leaving the incorrect impression to us that she did not understand English. We were invited to her birthday party planning parties and birthday parties, and always went, if we weren't out of state. I always felt like Mrs. Vicky *tolerated* our presence, until her last days at the hospital when she seemed to accept us as part of the family.

In the family's long vigil day and night at the hospital, we heard stories of this wonderful lady. Her marriage to Juan Jose was arranged by their families. She was 13, he 17. As young as they were, they were committed to each other until his death. Mrs. Vicky was a very hard worker, and expected no less of all the children she raised. According to her surviving daughters, she worked in the cotton fields beside her husband after arising early to feed her family. She made tortillas every morning and made sure there was food ready for her family. She took in several other children to raise, some out of foster care. She also raised some of her own grandchildren, washing clothes on a wash board. She was very religious, a good woman, but did not have a personal relationship with Jesus until she was 61 years old. At that time, she made Jesus Lord of her life, and kept Him Lord, in spite of all the opposition she faced from

In Loving Memory Of
Victoria Jose



June 24, 1922 - February 1, 2015

her neighbors. She never turned back to her old religion. She had her son-in-law Pete Reede remove all of her religious statuary out into the desert, smash every idol with a sledge hammer and bury the broken pieces, so that they could never be used again.

Two years after we came to Hikiwan, we learned that about 20 years before she was saved, Mrs. Vicky was the person of influence who called in the tribal council to protest the building of "another kind" of church in Hikiwan. According to Velma Lewis who had served as interpreter for the Baptist missionaries, the judgment of the tribal council was that the church could not be built, and the missionaries had to remove the building supplies before the end of that week or they would be confiscated, and the missionaries were required to leave the reservation and never come back.

After Mrs. Vicky and Juan Jose made Jesus their Lord, they made it possible for a wonderful 5000 ft² church building to be built on their land assignment! (on the grounds where we are now invited to stay) But there was more persecution to follow. Just as the building was finished the tribe put an injunction on the church and padlocked the doors so that there could be no church services here. The village wanted to use the building for a dance hall. The church family hired a lawyer, took the tribe to federal court, and won the case based on Constitutionally provided *freedom of religion!*

Mrs. Lewis was able to visit Hikiwan for church one Sunday shortly before her own Homegoing. Weeping, she said, "I have prayed that someday there would be such a building as this in Hikiwan".

Mrs. Vicky knew how to *put on the breastplate of righteousness* and *stand firm*... Ephesians 6:10, 20

NJKV.

Let us follow in her example!

My Little Valentine

Thurleen Bain

We have an awesome young man who is very faithful in church attendance. This 7 year old is always ready to ride the van to church unless his family is out of the village. He loves Jesus, and doesn't seem to mind if he is the only kid in his age group who is here.

Sun, Feb 15, we were having an "old fashioned day", due to the electric being out. As we gathered for service outside under the ramada, this young man, sat near me. We shared my Bible during service. Afterward, I put my Bible on the chair that was between us. He tapped my arm and pointed down, and there was a little chocolate heart in a red wrapper on top of my Bible! As I savored the remnants of chocolate in my taste buds, I felt blessed without measure, from my little valentine!

Sacaton Ken went to Sacaton for 3 or 4 days to make a set of countertops. He and Thutleen returned for 6 more weeks, 3 to 6 days at a time to complete the kitchen. The 1st Pima Baptist Church is blessed. Their new fellowship hall with dual heat pumps, dual ranges, dual microwaves, dual refrigerators, a triple commercial sink, and 40 feet of oak cabinetry is splendid. It includes a 19 ft serving counter, beautiful tile floors, and is equipped with lifetime banquet tables and chairs. After the efforts of numerous mission teams to do the early stages of the project, enough can hardly be said about the determination of key volunteers from FBC Chandler who worked tirelessly and inspired the sacrificial giving necessary to outfit and finish it. But perhaps the thing to be most appreciated was that their leader, Ev Hardee insisted that the materials and work would be top quality!



Cockleburr But that is just one of the stories from Sacaton. The other has to do with 4 years of patience by missionaries Eric and Brittany Gibbs in the dark village of Cockleburr. People began trusting Christ, especially men. Preparations were made to baptize 2 in a horse trough when 8 more asked to be baptized also. Importantly, Eric taught them Bible rather than "how to become a church." And study their Bible they did. The result is that they have become a "New Testament church" without being hampered with preconceived notions. They got their instructions directly from the Bible. They have worship in an open ramada shelter with a dirt floor and express a lot of pride that God has allowed them to have their simple ramada with lights and outlets.

We were there when they were first recognized officially. A poster that came in the mail about missions giving. They were excited and asked if they could set a goal. We sheepishly expected maybe a goal of \$20-25. They set a goal of \$300...and exceeded it. In their own study they discovered the



principle of "tithing." They asked Eric to teach them.

They have learned Christian music on their own and have formed a choir accompanied with several instruments. Over-eager visitors have been discouraged so as not to complicate the strong new believers simple way of "doing" church. In short, God has raised up a people after his own heart.

Hikiwan. The new 3700 ft² Mission house got a real boost from the 4th return of a team from FBC Harrisburg, IL. We always look forward to them being here. Longtime friend, Joe Jackson's men's group sold an extra \$1500 of vintage barnwood. With that we were able to rent a Bobcat for a week to move and pack a massive amount of fill for floor leveling. Foundations are poured for the big shower rooms and all underground plumbing is in place!



The building will house up to 32 mission team members when it's completed. And thinking of the future, it also will provide three bedroom living quarters for a young full-time missionary family.

Neighborhood kids had been asking for weeks when Brad Vinyard and "those people" were coming back. Here, they eagerly ask questions in Brad's Gospel lesson.



Busy Year Some go on the mission field to use their experience and knowledge. The Bain's went to the mission field 8 years ago, and the discovered needs and opportunities attached themselves to the missionaries' talents. Some needs this year have been quite a stretch. Particularly auto repair. Seven different vehicles needed to be rescued. With all modern vehicles being controlled by computer that makes diy repairs very difficult, if not impossible. Ken has spent about as much time doing Google research as doing the repairs.

Ken and Thurleen hoped to slow the pace a little, but it has been the opposite. Travel has been more than double. In fact, they have lived at Hikiwan, but have done their own short term missions, and this has gone on for months.

Sells is the "capitol city" of the Tohono O'odham Nation. In 1918, the village was named for Indian Commissioner Sells. The Indian town was laid out as a white man thought an Indian town should look like. It included a Post Office, trading post, hospital, and churches. So Sells is quite cosmopolitan as compared to other sister villages. Almost all of the jobs on the huge reservation are in Sells. Many working mothers lack reliable, safe child care resources, where their babies would not constantly be exposed to alcohol and other abuse. (sometimes even relatives cannot be trusted)

1st Papago Baptist Church was established in 1943. For several decades the church has struggled. It has found new life in the very strong Bible teaching of Pastor Jay Juan with the help of missionaries Eddie and Candy Ware. The church has enthusiastically adopted his vision. Pastor Juan recognized a great need to reach the people by providing day care for the babies and children. The church was planning to build a daycare center, but the vision and strong Bible teaching has overwhelmed the size of the original sanctuary. So the "day care" building is being outfitted as a temporary new sanctuary of double the capacity of the vintage mud brick building. Pastor Jay says, "in a couple of years we will build a much larger church so we can have our day care building back." Ken is providing consultation and building design. Last week he worked with Eddie and a great mission team from Asbury UMC, Tulsa, laying out partition walls and restrooms.



That's their short term plan. Their ten year plan includes a K through 3rd grade school, up to a Jr High, then High school, and finally on-site college classes.

...Sounds like an Indian church has caught on fire, doesn't it.



Thurleen, Ken, Eddie Ware, with Dr Dean Sexton (translator & author of O'odham written language-1975) and Pastor Jay Juan



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For more immediate help to kTb Ministries:
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Sonoran Desert Regional Missions

Mission Service Corps couples who live on the reservations and work with the American Indians of the Arizona Sonoran Desert have joined together as "Sonoran Desert Regional Missions" All are fully self supported. The persistence of their faith and personal sacrifice is undergirded by that of their partners who supply the necessary funds and prayer support. Ken and Thurleen Bain were called to hold up the arms of Indian believers like Aaron and Hur did for Moses. As the additional missionaries have arrived with giftings and passion to put the work into overdrive, the Bain's hold up their arms as well.

In their quest to find critically needed innovative sources of missions funding, the participating missionaries have established a cooperative fund through the Baptist Foundation of Illinois. The foundation is prepared to receive funding, including Christian Family Estate Planning. Distributions are to be made according to the pre-established wishes of participating donors.

To learn about Sonoran Desert Regional Missions and the Baptist Foundation of Illinois, call Doug Morrow at 217-391-3102 or Ken Bain at 618-771-3318.

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