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Catalina Baptist Association receives Christ Fellowship Com- munity Church

In their annual meeting in Tucson on October 16, the Catalina Baptist Association received its second member church on the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation. In its *Desert News*, the association announced:

"The Christ Fellowship Community Church located in Hikiwan petitioned to join the association. The association voted to take them under watch care for a year and then if the partnership is mutually agreed upon at the time, the church will become a member of the association"

The relationship provides CFCC with all the rights and privileges of member churches throughout the Tucson area.

CFCC joins 1st Papago Baptist Church in Sells as the second Native American Church in the Catalina Association. 1st Papago has been a member almost since its inception in 1941. The two churches have already begun working together with 1st Papago facilitating a VBS last July at CFCC 62 miles away in Hikiwan and a wonderful Christmas program there this month.

Allen Garcia Walks Again!

In the more than four years that we, by invita-

tion have stayed in our camper at the red brick church in the village of Hikiwan, one of the things that we have come to expect is seeing Allen Garcia walking. His almost daily treks on the two-thousand foot loop around the church has been an inspiration. Usually two or more laps... sometimes twice a day... and then back to he and Delma's home. His gait was slow but tenacious as he would trudge along to keep his painful joints loosened up.

Last September we noticed that we hadn't seen Allen walking. Then we heard that he was in the Tribal hospital at Sells with a major infection from a minor injury to his foot. The raging infection got worse and he was transferred to a hospital in Tucson.

Treatments were progressing but then he went into kidney failure! kTb Ministries put out a prayer bulletin. We, along with many of you..our partners, prayed for Allen. Here's a text message from him a few days ago:

"Well my friend, I'm back walking. Took my walk yesterday once around the church. PRAISE THE LORD! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS"

Thankfully we serve a living God who hears our prayers.



Bain Family Christmas/Thanksgiving

We had planned to stay on the REZ until after the Arizona Baptist State Convention, then hurry home for Thanksgiving/Christmas. That changed when our Daughter Kendee had to have surgery. We headed east with a stopover in Dallas, Texas to get caught up on hugs from our three grandkids there. Then we would travel on to Southern Illinois to Ken's parents old homeplace where Kendee and her family live. We parked the 5th wheel in their yard to be available to help during her convalescence. The surgery went well and there was no cancer. Thank the Lord for hearing the pleadings of our prayer partners!

Our time in the "old stomping grounds" has been very busy. Son-in-law Mark works swing shift, Katie is a freshman in Junior College, Matthew is a sophomore and on the high school football team, Eli and Caleb are in the 7th and 6th grade and both play basketball, and Jacob will be one in January! We even got to enjoy some time with cousins and former neighbors.



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Since we have been on the mission field, it has become our tradition to combine our family Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration to one day during the Thanksgiving holidays. This year the family decided to rent a fellowship hall for our gathering. That turned out to be a good idea as we are blessed with five children, and there were twenty-eight of our family there even though our Texas 5 couldn't make it this year.



It was a day of eating, activities that all turned into fun, eating, kids gift exchange, adults "gifting" nice things, gag things, and some family heirlooms of questionable appreciation (which will likely reappear under the tree next year). ...and did I say eating?

2012...

At this writing there are only a few days left until Christmas and we are fast approaching a new year. The "end of the year" is always a hectic time with much more to do than it seems that there is time to accomplish. Maybe it is good that Christmas falls so near the end of each year. That way the Spirit of Giving offsets the frenzy.

Of course for Believers, much more important than exchanging gifts, Christmas is the celebration of "God With Us"...Immanuel, the Christ who was born of a virgin...the Son of God. The One who died that that we might live. God came to us.

Its not that He lived just to be an example for us. A high and lofty example indeed. But that would suppose that our highest goal should be that we try and emulate Him. Not a bad idea, but mankind has a terrible track record. From the beginning...rather from the fall...we have failed (100% of the time) to reach the goal of being God-like. We have missed the mark...that is we have sinned. Except a miracle happens, mankind is hopelessly lost!

The flip side of that hopelessness is that it is *in* Jesus himself that we have hope. Our Hope is built on nothing less...than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness! But how then do we attain to His lofty state? Not by what we can do, but by what He did. The mystery is that "He lifts us up out of miry clay...He sets our feet on rock to stay!" He died while perfect that we might have eternal life though imperfect!

What will the new year bring? That I don't know. But what I do know is that 2012 brings us one year closer to the return of Jesus. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Ken



Merry Christmas +++ Happy New Year

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

BY MAIL

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