



Missionary Letters

May 2011

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Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are in South Carolina now. Originally, we planned on returning here the first part of May and stay here until we started our trip back to Papua New Guinea, but since then we purchased a house in Perry, Michigan and extended our time there to get the house fixed up a bit. Now, the plan is to move Margie and her 3 kids up Michigan about the middle of June.

Margie's son, Jonathan, will be having surgery on June 3rd, to remove a small flap in his urinary track. When he is cleared to travel, we will pack up a moving van and drive up to Michigan. It is a huge change for her and the children. Please pray for a good transition. Also pray that she will be able to find a good job.

Praise God with us for the printing project completed. The printer in N Ireland said they will be shipping the 25,000 books to PNG in the next week or so. Pray they will arrive safely and that the government will not charge import duty on them. These lessons have the potential to impact many individuals, families, small groups and churches.

When we get settled in Michigan again, we will continue translating a manual to give direction to nationals who want to learn another language and culture in a systematic way. It could be a tool to see many new tribes reached with the Gospel, not through foreigners, but through Papua New Guineans.

The Elimbari Church honored Diau Wiom, one of the first believers who went on to be a great Bible teacher, shepherd, and leader. He has been a huge encouragement to us personally and a great example to many through the years. He is now in his 80's and almost blind, so the church wanted to recognize him while he was still alive. He was also the man who did the most to teach me the Elimbari language and culture in the 1970's. What a challenge to all of us! Are we making a difference in life?

Thanks for your financial gifts and prayers.

Love, Jim & Kathy Tanner

Upon this rock I will build My church...

Bridge Builders Bulletin, with love from Doug & Linda (please note: the website is under a new update, so the reformatted BBB design with photos will be sent as soon as the web guy gets it out!)

God bless you, precious friends, prayer partners, family members, colleagues, and great Bridge Builder front line support team – with warmest greetings and regards, we truly thank God for each of you, who are so vital to this ministry.

What a Great God we serve! Our hearts are revved-up and deeply humbled, ever so grateful for your prayerful support and encouragement, and joyful to see God wonderfully at work through this faith ministry at home and abroad. It is amazing. You pray and God works. You give and the Lord moves in mighty ways. Please take a few minutes with us now to share this update about the ministry and travel and people we have met (...then let's get on our knees together!)

COSTA RICA! It was a thrill to go serve in this very needy country this month, preaching and singing in churches there as well as meeting as many national pastors, church planters, and US missionaries as possible. There was even a homeless rehab centre outreach I got in on upon arrival May 3rd! The pace was brisk, and what a warm reception – really wonderful. Yes, there were loads of beans and rice to eat! The primary goal for this faith venture now during our deputation was to start NOW assessing the spiritual landscape, see where they have been and where they need to go, and understand the efforts being made there and by whom. It is thrilling to see the great opportunities for the Gospel and to begin building a network for equipping the indigenous servants alongside those missionaries at work amongst them. And we are always desiring... delighted to be a help, encouragement, and, when asked – to lend thoughtful advice and suggestions in church planting and bridge building to ones we meet along the way.

The camp facility *El Jardín Sagrado*, located in Orosi, was headquarters for this trip, and it was wonderful to work with Ken and Sherri Dundon and their family who manage the ministry there. The five acre campus is alive with potential, and now further construction is adding overnight accommodations that will bring the housing capacity to around 100. The "Celebration Center" seats as many as 200 people for day events, and support personnel are available for food service and medical needs. I believe that training conferences and seminars can be held here, along with church bridge building and outreach events!

The trip also overlapped with colleague Len Lane who was visiting there to work on administrative matters, and to meet a missionary candidate family (the Bucks) who are

seeking God's will for ministry there. It became clear that everyone believes there is a tremendous need for training and counsel, both remedial/compensatory, and doctrinal/practical. It seems that a seminary level approach would have to wait until a more basic institute level training was in place and producing results, so this is the focus. (Ever tried to get a drink of water out of a full-throttle fire hose? OUCH!) Many very sincere and dedicated Costa Rican workers are doing their best but are mostly self-taught... we admire their willingness, and realise they are thirsty plants in need of scriptural nourishing and nurture along with accountability and guidance.

One amazing thing that God allowed was that, amongst the missionaries we met, the Lord brought together meetings and discussions with some ABWE church planters who were within a few months of returning stateside after completing their latest ministry (the church still needs a national pastor, but they have trained 4 deacons to carry on through these last steps before fully graduating). They are now further at work on doctrinally proper, level-appropriate materials we believe will be of tremendous benefit for training, and have offered partnership to aid and assist our efforts to get this put together in CR. This will not only potentially provide Spanish-speaking materials for group teaching, but also eventually have extended web resources that may be used over the internet. And here is the kicker as to the perfect timing God made happen: IF WE HAD WAITED EVEN A FEW MORE MONTHS TO GO, THEY WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN GONE! So we join with you to offer a loud and hearty shout of Praise to God for this validating connection, showing God's fingerprints all over this thing!

(Photos included of some of my meetings with ministry in churches, with Costa Rican Pastors Mario Montenegro Rojas, Jeffrey Chinchillo, and Hugo Prietro Moya. And in regions with Noily Artavia, a lady serving in 3 rural sectors of the Cartago area. US missionaries Dave Graef and Cameron Woolford, and ex-pat Pastor Randy Sievers. and translator Arturo)

So please pray. 1. We believe the best way forward is to meet there in December at the Annual Conference and have a large collective forum with up to 100 of the national pastors and missionaries. This will further the network process, and should greatly help when we are launching the framework for training. 2. Pray for the needed funds in our deputation as well as project funds so we can make these trips required to keep building on this exciting progress. 3. Pray as we continually work on the relationships started, that we may network this into a cohesive and unified structure that will build for a long-range impact there.

STATESIDE DEPUTATION: Thanks so much for your prayers for our travels over the hundreds and thousands of miles driving (or flying), going through Ohio and Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut, and then through the Carolinas on continuing deputation. God has wonderfully allowed my much-better-half Linda to travel and minister with me on a recent loop! These are challenging economic times, and we praise God for our faithful

supporters and those that may be joining our team in the coming months. We welcomed a new supporter just this week, so this is a great encouragement! Please pray as we seek to raise the needed support to fully engage the ministry. Currently we nearly reached the 70% mark, and would ask you to prayerfully become a part of our monthly support team, or with a one-time gift to help on expenses for the planned trips ahead.(GOM, P.O. Box 2010, Buffalo, NY 14231) Pray the Lord will open the doors to churches and saints who will join with us in this exciting ministry.

Let's prayerfully claim those rock-solid prayer promises from God's heart revealed in the scriptures, and look together for the Lord to do great and mighty things beyond our comprehension! Looking forward to seeing some of you out there on the trail in the churches, and to enjoy the glowing fellowship and care of our sacred bond together in service for the Lord. God is the Mighty Vine and we are the branches – let us be fruitful and abound in the work of the Gospel every day 'til Jesus really does come again!

with such love and deep thanks in Christ,

Doug & Linda Wilson

Pastor Doug & Linda Wilson

“Building Bridges on Bedrock” Matthew 16:18

your partners in international church planting

Director of Church Planting and Ministry

Global Outreach Mission: PO Box 2010, Buffalo, NY 14231-2010.