

Missionaries Supporting Missionaries



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Greetings to all our family, friends and partners. We apologize for the two-month lapse between newsletters.

Housing Update

We are still waiting for God to send the people He has prepared to buy our house here in Globe. We spent three weeks on the road (more on that later) and our house sitter blessed us by working on the house while we were gone. He repainted the outside, did a lot of work on the utility room, cleaned up around the yard, repaired cracks, and fixed up a few things. We have done a few more things—putting vinyl tile in the front bath, and some more painting. Soon it will be a whole new house—when the right person comes along they should love it. It sure is in better shape than the house we bought.

Our family is back together. We recently brought the dogs home. Cymar was getting in trouble tearing up fences at “Christine’s K-9 Bed & Breakfast.” It is good to have them home, and they are acting like they were never gone. They have settled right back into their old routines. They show up for an ice cube when we use the ice dispenser like always. Liking ice cubes sure helps out with the budget—no dog treat expenses.

More Training Under Our Belt

We spent most of the month of June on the road. We thank everyone for their prayers for our safety. By the time we reached Dallas we had replaced all four tires on the van. However, God protected us. Both times, a tire was seen to be separating while we were stopped for something else, and we could get the pair replaced without any trouble. Before we left on the trip He had provided us with some extra funds to cover them all, too. We praise Him for His care of us.

We spent a week in Albuquerque that included celebrating our 31st anniversary, and we attended a commissioning ceremony at New Life City (Richard’s sister & brother-in-law’s church) for a group taking a mission trip to Alaska. We were pleased to be able to be there for the evening. They and their church are very special to us.

Then we went on to Dallas for two weeks. We had the second week of general training for Pioneer Bible Translators (we did the first week in Joplin, MO, in January), then a 3-day session on Partnership Development. Our brains feel like they are going to explode after all that. We spent 7 days in the classroom learning things from an overview of field medics to how to write support letters. We also met the Board of Directors, a whole bunch of the overseas missionaries who were home on various furloughs, and a number of new recruits like us. It was an amazing time, we learned, laughed, renewed friendships and made new ones. The time we spent there really increased our desire to be living and working in Dallas, soon.

We also took the opportunity to go to church where Rusty Howard is preaching. He was Richard’s youth minister, and he and his wife, Carol, were dorm parents when we were at Pacific Christian College. He also married us. We showed up the first Sunday we were there—without letting them know we would be there—and were quite pleased with the resulting surprise. We got to go to lunch, then went back the next Sunday. We got to spend a little more time before we left the Dallas area, but not nearly long enough. It is wonderful to have a place to go to church already, and to have friends waiting for us. Actually, they are in Fort Worth, but they said we can still be friends.

Another thing we did while we were in Dallas was look at houses. There are quite a few that will do nicely for us, but we found one we are just crazy about. We are praying that it will still be available when this house sells. Whatever happens, it is obvious that we won’t have trouble finding a house there.

The Big Picture

We learned so much more about what PBT does around the world. There are a number of organizations working to translate the Bible around the world, but there are 6912 languages on the earth and only six percent of them have the *whole Bible* translated into them. **Only six percent of the languages of the world.** It is obviously going to take all of the organizations and all of us growing a lot to take the Word of God to “every tongue and tribe and nation”.

One trend we find when we reach these people, is that other “world religions” have often already been there. They have no compunctions about forcing their beliefs on people, so whole countries may be forced into a belief system that they have not chosen. Only by bringing them the Word of God can they come to “Know the truth, and the truth shall set (them) free.” They have been put in bondage and, only through God’s word and His love for them will they know freedom again.

We wish you could hear the stories the missionaries tell from the field. We laugh, and cry, and sit in awe of God’s work, and are humbled that He would call us to be a small part of it.

Our Financial Situation

The following is a summary of our missionary recruit budget for 2008. Through PBT’s system of deputized fund-raising, we will be responsible for raising the amount of money needed to cover our work funds and salary. We would be glad to provide a further breakdown of our expense categories upon request.

	Monthly	Annual
Professional Development	36	432
Basic Monthly Amount (Living Expenses)	1715	20,580
Housing	900	10,800
Retirement	100	1,200
Taxes	830	9,960
Work Funds	620	2,400
Total Amount	4,201	45,372

Due to PBT’s specialized ministry of Bible translation, all missionaries must receive advanced training for their particular roles within PBT’s ministry. God has called us to support roles in the PBT organization. While these roles do not require the advanced linguistic and biblical language studies that the translators require, we will be involved in areas requiring continual professional training. We will also be traveling extensively and will need to set aside funds for that. Again, we would be glad to discuss these plans with you and answer any questions you may have.

Prayer Concerns

There are several things we would like you to pray about. Our two top concerns are, of course, the sale of our house here in Globe, and the funds we need to raise for Pioneer Bible Translators.

Specifically, we ask you to pray for the people the Lord has lined up to buy and live in this house. We ask for blessings on them, and for His perfect timing. We also ask for our continued patience as we wait on Him.

- Our fundraising is at the halfway mark of what is needed. We ask for your prayers for God to work on the hearts of those He would send to partner with us, to give us favor as we talk to the ministers and missions committees of churches, and to give us wisdom and leading on who to contact, and how to go about it. This is the hardest part of our mission work, but it is necessary for us to live. Our entire “paycheck” is dependent on the pledges and offerings we receive from our partners. We constantly need your prayers lifting us up as we seek further financial partnership.

Help us save on postage! We spend over \$120 to mail this newsletter. Please let us know if you would like to receive this by email. Send us an email to us at richard.ingram@pbt.org with the subject “subscribe” and we will start sending you an email version of this newsletter. (If you really don’t want to receive anything from us, you can tell us, but we will be saddened.)

We are praying for an opportunity to house-sit over the next couple of months in Dallas. This will give us a chance to move while our house in Globe is being sold. Of course, our dogs would go with us; they need to adjust to the new climate.

God put a burden on our hearts to reach out and help fulfill the Great Commission. Even though we do not have a calling to go out and translate God's Word, we are helping to fulfill that Commission.

We are part of a team at Pioneer Bible Translators. Even though we are not working in Dallas, we are working to share PBT's vision and outreach. PBT is a bridge between the church and the Bible-less, unreached peoples of the world.

Would you join our team by praying for us and by financially supporting our ministry with Pioneer Bible Translators?

- Increased fuel costs are having a major impact on our budget for this year. Please keep our travel expenses in your prayers.
- A few of our partners are having financial difficulties and have had to cut back. Please pray for them, and pray for the general economic situation in our country. It is affecting everyone adversely, and churches and missions are especially hard-hit.
- We have several family members with serious medical conditions. We ask you to lift them up in prayer. Most recently Becky, who has been diagnosed with Horner's Syndrome. Also Diane has been struggling to recover after a bad time in the hospital.
- We have no insurance at this time, and are having many problems with allergies this spring. Fortunately, God has been protecting us from more serious maladies.
- Keep Pioneer Bible Translators in your prayers. They are growing fast, there is so much to do, and they seek to keep their eyes on the Lord at all times.
- Keep our old mission, Arizona Reservation Ministries, in your prayers. They have so much to do on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, and they need your constant prayers.

New Name, Same Need

We discovered in our classes in Dallas that we have our terminology mixed for dealing with PBT. Support describes what we will be doing for the people in the field, while Partnership Development is the term used for those who donate to help us, are on our prayer teams and receive our newsletters. We will be changing our terminology to match with that of Pioneer Bible Translators, so expect to see those changes in our paperwork in the near future.

As always, you can make a monthly commitment or a single, special gift. All gifts are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt within a couple of weeks. All checks must be made out to Pioneer Bible Translators and, for tax reasons, cannot have our name on them anywhere. They must be sent to us, however, and we forward them on. Also, if you don't want to send a check in the mail, you can now make direct electronic funds transfers or credit card payments for ongoing monthly gifts. Ask us for more information.

Thank you all for your faithfulness in prayers and partnership. I know the waiting for us to begin our work in Dallas must seem long to some of you. The Bible says, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." We are using this as a time of renewing our strength. We know that there will be a lot of walking and running when we get to PBT, and we will need the renewed energy to keep us going. As we said earlier, we are learning a lot about faith, patience, and forgiveness, and are thankful for the lessons God is teaching us during this time. Please lift us up in prayer as we continue to wait on the Lord.

We pray our Lord's richest blessings on you and yours

In service to Him,



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