

Missionaries Supporting Missionaries



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For security reasons,
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dence to the Cedar Hill
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Groundbreaking is here!

The event we've been working toward for several months is here! As we write this newsletter, final preparations are underway for the groundbreaking on March 7. Construction on the new offices begins shortly after, with completion scheduled by the end of the year. Once Pioneer Bible Translators has moved into the building, the old offices will be moved over to the new property. Eventually there will be at least two office buildings, the modular offices and a prayer chapel that will be home to a 24/7 prayer vigil for the unreached peoples of the world.

Josi is working to schedule workgroups to come and help with the construction of the new offices. Already, churches from many areas are sending teams anxious to begin work. If you'd like to come help, please contact Josi.



Part of a world-wide team

Our work here in Dallas doesn't just stay in Dallas. Our work is part of a team that affects over 33 million people in 43 language groups. What we do here often directly influences projects in other countries.

One of Josi's projects last year was a Christmas catalog. It contained ideas for donations to help projects in the different mission fields, such as planting trees in West Africa. Why plant trees when PBT is supposed to be translating Bibles? Greg Pruett, President of PBT, tells a story of when he was in West Africa, working on Bible Translation. He saw one of the little girls crying as though her heart would break. Greg tried to comfort her, and asked her why she was crying so hard. She said that her brother took her mango, and now she had nothing to eat! Greg's heart was broken that a child could have nothing to eat but a single mango, and he determined that the situation would change in that village. These people were helping to translate the Word of God, but could not feed their own families! So Greg began a project to plant fruit trees for the nationals who were working with the translators. They could then continue to help the translation projects, without having to take time off to hunt, fish, farm or trade to feed their families. The fruit trees that were bought through the Christmas Catalogue went to this project, so that no child will need to steal another's mango ever again, and their parents can work on the translations of the Word of God without their children going hungry! When Jesus said, "When you have done this for the least of these, you have done it for me," this is the impact He was talking about. A very personal, individual, and yet worldwide impact, that each of us can be a part of, and it doesn't necessarily take a big effort. Sometimes, it just takes an \$8 fruit tree.

Richard is responsible for ordering computers and preparing them for use here in the International Service Center or by students and missionaries. He takes care of the purchase, licensing, installation and configuration of any software needed by the user. Just completed was a project for laptops for Nationals in Papua New Guinea working on Bible translation in their own language. Getting to help others so they can bring God's Word to their village in their own heart language. Richard loves this job!

In the last newsletter we introduced you to the class we are taking, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. This class is changing our outlook on many things about missions. We're currently studying the historical eras of missionary outreach. To be a

World Christian, you don't have to go out and be a missionary yourself. You can help by sending, supporting, hosting, praying, or worshipping. If you want to know more, just ask us. Ask us to your church, ask us to your Bible Study, your small group, or just a group of friends. We'll come and explain how you can be a World Christian!

Travel plans

Josi and I are wrapping up the planning for our first major trip to visit friends and family and to find additional partners who will be willing to join with us in prayer and as financial partners. In early April we will be hitting the road, traveling to Phoenix, Southern California, Las Vegas, and Albuquerque. During the trip we will be speaking to groups of people at casual get-togethers, over dessert, and at churches sharing the vision of Pioneer Bible Translators and our roles in the international team reaching the Bible-less peoples we serve. We look forward to seeing many of you on this trip!

Our next trip is already in the planning stages. While Josi was traveling in February, she shared at Morning Star Church Worldwide Ministries in Memphis. Being a fairly new church, they are setting up their Missions Outreach and would like us to come back and speak on behalf of PBT. They want PBT to be the first mission they directly partner with. So it looks like our next trip will be to the eastern part of the country. Josi and I are discussing Memphis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Erlanger (hint to you Pat & Mike!), and possibly North Carolina. If any of you in these far off places we haven't been to yet would like us to come, let us know. We'd love to come share with you.

On the home front, we've been able to have a few people over to our house to share in a monthly game night. Wow! I never knew we could get over forty people involved in at least four different games and three different conversation groups all under our roof. We had a very fun time. It's the first opportunity we've had to have new friends over to our house in a long time. We also got to host a group of students for dinner one evening. It's fun to have guests again!

Our Sunday School class is again getting ready to serve breakfast for the guests at Ronald McDonald House in Fort Worth at the end of March. The response last time was really encouraging. The folks staying there were greatly blessed with the home cooking they received. Many people at church have asked about joining us next time. We'll probably have to start taking numbers to fit them all in.



Matt, one of the recruits at PBT, hauling off a branch while clearing the "jungle."

At the beginning of this newsletter we mentioned Groundbreaking. Well, something like that doesn't go on without a lot of work beforehand. Just a couple of weekends ago, Richard helped "Clear the Jungle." He spent several hours wielding a machete, hacking and slashing at creepers, vines, and bushes, and hauling away branches and small trees. He wasn't alone—people from PBT and several local churches were on hand to help. Last year Richard helped on this project to do the initial land clearing so the surveyors could do their job. This time it was to clear a couple of acres for a retention pond.

The development of the property will change the drainage on the property. The retention pond will help to distribute the runoff and prevent erosion.

As we said before, we'd love to hear from you. You can drop us a note, email us, or call us.

In Christ's Service,

Prayer Concerns

- Wisdom and discernment as we make final plans for our trip in April. Also our finances for this trip.
- Pray for the construction of PBT's new offices in Dallas.
- Pray for workgroups who will be coming to help construct the new offices for PBT.
- Richard's sister, Sharon, is still in need of healing for her kidneys. Discussions with doctors about a transplant is still going on.
- Dave recently lost his father. Pray for peace in his family and resolution to several family relationships as a result.
- Norma's father is in the hospital for a stent to clear blockage in his arteries. He is resistant to the Word of God in his life.
- Joe and Vickie have been struggling with some tough decisions. Pray for wisdom and discernment.

Would you like to help with the construction of PBT's new offices? Contact us for information on how you can bring a workgroup to share in the task.