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There and back again—"Tails" of our travels

A funny thing happened to us on the last day of our trip—we discovered that we were glad to be heading home. Yes, home. We have made Texas our home now, and home is where we belong. We're still adjusting to the weather (Who knew there could be this much rain, except in Oregon?), but it's good to be home now.

We left Dallas on April 9 and came home on the 27th. We covered almost 4000 miles, across 4 states and 3 time zones, stayed in 4 homes and 2 motels (1 home twice) and had 2 different people house- and dog-sitting for us! And we each only had 1 small suitcase and shared a garment bag!

Phoenix

While meeting with the Mission Committee at Cactus Christian Fellowship, Josi proposed that they host a banquet for PBT in the Spring of 2010. This was enthusiastically received and Josi has begun the planning. She spoke with Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory about holding the banquet in their facilities, which are adjacent to CCF. Everyone there is excited about working on this!

We worshipped at Cactus on Easter Sunday and shared the ministry of PBT and our part in the vision of transformed lives through God's Word in every language. We presented the church with a copy of a full Bible in the language of a people group in West Africa and the book of Acts in another from Papua New Guinea.

One of the Sunday school classes asked us to visit them after we shared during the first service. They had several questions that just had to be asked, including one stumper, "What do you eat?" During class, the teacher mentioned that we had dogs and the class resolved to adopt them as their missionary project. They will save up money to periodically send to us for dog food. They've joined with the second-hour class in this project so now we'll be sending them a quarterly newsletter from Pippin and Cymar.

We got to visit with Josi's family after church on Easter, spending several hours chatting, playing cards, and just having a good time together. During the several days in Phoenix, we got to spend time with friends, catching up and sharing about our work.

California

In California we shared the vision of Pioneer Bible Translators with the Los Angeles Area Ministerial Brotherhood. Following our presentation, they prayed over us and our work. Such blessings they prayed! After lunch we talked and visited with several of the pastors.

Following our meeting with LAAMB we spent time with some friends from college, and before. Michael in Riverside, Linda in Fullerton, Walter and Diana in Duarte, and Gary and Betty in Rosemead. It was great getting to see everyone, some of them for the first time in many, many years (to tell would incriminate all of us, since we can't really be that far along in life!) It was a special treat to visit with Walter and Diana after he was released from the hospital and spend one night at Gary and Betty's home. We look forward to getting back together again.



Back: Gary, Richard, Walter
Front: Betty, Josi, Diana

Richard's sister, Sharon, hosted our one Dessert Night in California. Her house was packed! We made several new friends and shared our ministry and PBT with them. The next morning, we worshipped at Westside Christian Church in Long Beach. This church has been a long-time prayer partner with us. We spoke in the morning Adult class and manned a display table between services. The class was composed of members of all three of the churches that meet on Sunday mornings, Spanish, Philippine, and English language congregations. It was great to speak before them, because most of them really related to the need for translating the Bible into the heart-languages of people.

After church, we headed south to San Diego, where we took a day off from our travels. We spent a morning at Flower Fields in Carlsbad, CA, enjoying the view and taking a few pictures. This is a farm where they raise Ranunculus to sell the bulbs, and the cut flowers to nurseries all over the country. They also have a Rose test garden with over 200 roses, and a greenhouse with the history of the development of poinsettias in living examples. It was a beautiful break for us. We also had the opportunity to spend some time at Seaport Village, in San Diego, and eat dinner at our favorite Greek restaurant! What a treat! Then we headed east, toward our final stop.



Albuquerque

On the way to Albuquerque, we spent the night in Phoenix. When we pulled into Phoenix, we stopped at a grocery store, came back out, and the car would not start! AAA came and diagnosed a completely dead battery. God was gracious and kept the car running through the desert, while we made two rest stops and a lunch stop in Yuma, and didn't let the battery die until we could just walk across the street to buy a new battery. We were very grateful! The next day we woke up to the first 100 degree day of the year in Phoenix. Time to head out of town!

In Albuquerque, we did three Dessert Nights, and got to see a number of friends. Each event had separate blessings for us and for those who came. We had a chance to go to Old Town Albuquerque for an afternoon just to wander. It was a nice quiet time for the two of us, we got a chance to talk, and to stretch our legs a little after all the driving!

On Monday morning, we headed for home. And this time, the road to Dallas was really the road home.

Home

All in all, it was a very good trip. It was a long time to be away, but we accomplished a lot. We saw a lot of people, met a lot of new people, spoke to several new groups, make new AND old contacts that we are very excited about, and added some new partners! We thank all of you who prayed for us, who gave us extra support for the trip, who welcomed us while we travelled, and who welcomed us home.

What's next? Keep watching this newsletter—we are already planning the next trip!

Looking forward to the end,

In Christ's Service,



Prayer and Praises

- Praise—Jennifer Collins was taken to the hospital in Salt Lake City with septic pneumonia. She and her mother, Roberta, are back home in Green River, WY. Jennifer is now undergoing treatment for sleep apnea and is looking forward to a full recovery.
- Kaylee, Josi's grand niece, broke her arm on the playground. Pray for quick healing and adjustment to her and Andrea's new apartment and Andrea's new job.
- Joe, Bernie, Becky, and several others we know who are seeking other working opportunities.
- Carlie, Richard's great niece, has a case of pneumonia. Samantha, her sister, has got a bad cough.
- Shannon is making a couple of big decisions regarding school and other important things Pray for wisdom, discernment and release from fear over making decisions.
- Praise for keeping us safe on our trip. Praise also for the new partners that have chosen to stand beside us financially and those who will support us in prayer. May the blessings they bring to us be returned to them many times over.
- Praise for Walter's healing and prayers for his recovery from subcutaneous T-cell lymphoma.
- Praise for getting to see old friends on this trip. Especially Walter & Diana, Gary & Betty, Linda & Ernest, and Michael & Jennifer.
- Pray for wisdom, finances and discernment as we plan our next trip in the Fall. We are making initial plans to visit churches and partners in Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Nebraska, Kansas, and Tennessee.
- Pray for the people and missionaries attending Pioneer Bible Translators training in June. Pray also for PBT staff (including Richard and Josi) who will be working on the sessions.