

# River of God

*"for the healing of the nations."*

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River of God, Inc.  
P.O. Box 406  
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[www.TheRiverofGod.net](http://www.TheRiverofGod.net)

*On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. — Revelations 22:2*

## Why Did I Go to Costa Rica?

By Tommy Thompson

Why did I go to Costa Rica, I asked rhetorically at a presentation recently at my home church. I went because a friend asked me. I have been familiar with the work that Bob & Lisa Beihn have done in Costa Rica for many years. Bob would occasionally stop by my metal fabrication shop, bringing a backpack frame to be modified, and we would discuss his latest trip to Costa Rica.

Early 2006 Bob brought a picture of a cable trolley car and asked if I could build one. We discussed possible designs and the picture laid in my office for a few weeks. Bob came back by my office later that month, talking again about the Cabécar Indians and their need for this car to cross the Chirripo River. He then popped the question, "Why don't you come and help me install it." My reply was, "Well, that would be an adventure," and it was.

We constructed the trolley car then disassembled it, so it could be carried on the flight down as luggage. We were met in Costa Rica by Timothy and Keiry and after a few stops for shopping and business we started toward their home arriving well after dark. It had been a long day traveling but I was looking forward to starting the hike to the river in the morning.

Friday morning was clear and beautiful. We had breakfast and I met all of Timothy and Keiry's children. Mark, their oldest son, about 12, would be making the hike in with us. We unpacked the trolley, separated the pieces, and started out with Timothy offering a prayer for our journey. The trolley was being carried in by horses and 5 to 7 different Indians traveling two separate trails, all supposed to arrive at our destination with all parts and tools to reassemble. It was truly a journey of faith.



Young Cabécar men use the new cage to cross the river with ease.

**"WHAT DID I TAKE HOME FROM MY TRIP TO COSTA RICA? SEEING THE CHOICES MADE BY OTHER CHRISTIANS TO DEDICATE THEIR LIFE TO BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO DISCOVER JESUS."**

We arrived at our destination at dusk in a light rain shower. I had aching knees and wet sore feet and wondered what in the world am I doing in the jungles of Costa Rica. The next morning the camp took the atmosphere of a county fair as most of the Indians in the area gathered to watch us install the trolley. The bearings on the wheels of the existing trolley had frozen so it had to be dragged on the cable across the river. This made crossing the river difficult, especially since the next crossing was a four hour hike down river. I am happy to report all parts and pieces made it to the river and we were able to assemble and install the trolley in just two hours.

That night Timothy held a worship service in the hut where we were staying. Light was provided by two bare bulbs strung from a generator. Even though I could not under-

*(Continued on page 6)*

### A WORD FROM THE RIVER OF GOD BOARD

*Dear River of God Family,*

*Three beautiful ladies share both the vision and the sacrifice of ministering to the mountain people in Costa Rica. We want to take this opportunity to introduce to you the hearts of Lucy, Keiry and Saukeen. We asked them to share with you a picture of their daily lives in the mountains and how the Lord is working in their families.*

*With joy, we acknowledge that twelve children are being raised, joining their parents in ministry. Another generation is being planted, perhaps to stay, in the mountains. Prayerfully we support Lucy, Keiry, Saukeen and their children. Although their daily lives differ from ours, their concerns and desires for their families do not. We all share in the blessings and burdens of family life... discipling and disciplining, teaching and training, rebuking and rejoicing.*

*Your brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Robert and Lisa Beihn,  
Blane and Chris McMichen,  
Jay and Amy Shultz*

### Mission Trip Opportunity!

Sep 29th to Oct 7th

More details on page 6 or visit the website ...



[www.TheRiverofGod.net](http://www.TheRiverofGod.net)

## A WORD FROM SAUKEEN... MY INHERITANCE

Most couples, when they get married, find a new place to live and start their new adventure together. Not so for me! When Philip and I got married, I came to live at his family's old homestead, at the end of a muddy road, to join an established work, with old disciples and all! I am not by any means complaining about these things. It is true, all these things turn to trials many times. But along with them I have inherited many great blessings.

This year Jesus has given us the opportunity to fix the house where we live, which is the house where Philip grew up, the house that his father built more than 40 years ago. Being made of wood, we have had to change many termite-eaten boards, ceilings, window frames, etc. With help from the Indians and friends from Louisiana, the house is getting painted and fixed, outside and inside; yes, renewed . . . restored. As we enjoy new screens on the windows, soffit that the house never had before, or new gutters and many other things that make it look so nice, I have thought a lot of what God's purposes are for me here.

How could it be that the Lord had thought of me more than 50 years ago when He brought Philip's parents to my country? Could it be that way back then He had already thought of Philip and me and our kids to live in this place and keep the light of his Truth shining here?

Yes, more than a house, more than a beautiful piece of land, the Lord has blessed me with a Godly line for me to follow. He has traced for me a path and welcomed me to follow it. He has me here in this place at this time to raise my kids and to be his instrument to carry on His plan He already had from a long, long time ago. Amazing!

So we will continue restoring the old house, believing God will still use this place to mold our kids, to bless others and to move here in new ways we cannot even understand now.

And so it is that our kids keep sitting in the same high chair where Philip and all his siblings sat as they were starting to eat. And I keep rocking my babies in my mother-in-law's old rocking chair. The

work and the trials continue. The kids keep growing up hearing stories of faith, learning to love Jesus, serving the Indians and finding God's answers for their little challenges. And the Godly line continues...

These are the little ones the Lord has given us in this place:

Emily Joy with emphasis on the "Joy." She will be 7 this July. I teach her at home and she is almost done with first grade. She is a bright girl, full of energy and ideas. She always has in mind something fun or great that she wants to do. She can ride her bike, climb mountains, do her school, run and play and still go to bed, do math in her head and not be able to put herself to sleep because of her many thoughts and desires. I am sure that at night, just like in the day time, she dreams of all the things she wants to accomplish in life. May the Lord who brought her

"IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO LIVE OUT HERE ... BUT I KNOW HE HAS HIS PLANS FOR ME AND MY

"mother of many nations" and kids who bring much joy to others like she does to us.

Christine Faith, who is 5, was born to us in a time of many tests of our faith. Around the time she was born, many times we saw the Lord providing for us just in time, neither early or late. And I remember Christy's sweet smiles . . . like telling me: "Don't worry mommy, Jesus is with us, all is fine." And that is Christy today, a little girl in God's Kingdom, full of a little kid's faith. She will believe anything you tell her, she won't question, she will follow you, she will hold on to you with all her little strength. She will still give you a great smile and make you believe with her pretty face that the world is a wonderful place to be and that it couldn't be better. Jesus, bless our Christy, use her voice to sing and proclaim your Word!

Jacob Emmanuel fought his way into this world more than two and a half years ago. After many hours of labor, his heart,



Philip and Saukeen with their children Emily (back), Christine (middle), Jacob (front-left), and Anna (front-right).

being monitored every little while, never slowed down one little bit. Jakey is any mother's dream baby. In the mornings he would sit in his crib quietly waiting for his mommy to wake up. He has always played well by himself and has never been a demanding child. Everyday he wakes up and calls from his bed: "Daaad!" reminding me that is a good way to start the day. I should call on my heavenly Father with that passion too. May the Lord help us teach Jacob to work hard and may He teach him to fight for His blessing like Jacob in the Bible.

Anna Hope, almost six months old, came at a time when the other kids are old enough to enjoy her. And she seems to know that very well. She can melt anybody with her smiles and delights all of us with her charming personality. You would think rightly that she came to overflow our cup of blessings and fill our hearts with hope. Sometimes I like to think that she came straight from heaven and that even her beautiful eyes are full of light from our heavenly home. May she always have in her the blessed hope of Jesus' glorious appearing.

As for me, I am very blessed. It is not always easy to live out here, and raising the kids can become an overwhelming job, but I know He has His plans for me and my kids. Like the Lord Himself often reminds me . . . "I know the plans I have for you, plans to bless you and not to harm you . . . plans to give you a hope and a future." Jer. 29:11

## A WORD FROM KEIRY... EACH DAY, SO DIFFERENT

Each day in my life can be so different but I will give you my best.

I am Keiry Jones, Timothy's wife. Timothy and I have been married for 19 years this July 4th – till July 23rd. Why this? Well, we had three weddings starting on the 4th with a legal one and then later on the 16th a Cabécar wedding with the Indians. Later, we finally had our church wedding at our town in Heredia where we lived then. In our last wedding we had about 500 guests that came to rejoice with us and our wedding lasted a total of 5 to 6 hours since we stayed until the last people left. All these people that came were there because they wanted to be there with us; we didn't send invitations but called them or just told them to spread the word. As you see we started very unusual and have been ever since.

I get up around 6:15 am at the call of our daughter Hannah telling all of us that it is time for breakfast. She gets up at 5:30 am and gets ready for High school and makes the breakfast every morning. She puts on the music early so we get up with praises and worship to our Lord. Timothy reads the Bible and prays for all of us. I get up and give John his medicine every morning especially if he has a cold. We eat and get John and sometimes Abby ready for Kindergarten. They either walk to school or we give them a ride.

We have 6 wonderful children. Rebekah, our oldest is 18 years old. She can vote now and even has a driver's license. She is studying at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose, the capital. She wants to be a dentist. Rebekah and I are very close. She loves weekends because she can come and be here with us. Her siblings love her and miss her.

Hannah is 15 years old and she has become a great help here at home. She is the first in her class and most likely the first in her high school. She and I are getting to be better friends and we love and understand each other better now. She is our musician and is doing great in her piano lessons. She is also our big help with computers, taking pic-

tures and organizing them in the computer. She inherited a parrot and she takes care of her.

Mark, my first son and third child, he is 13 and he is getting more handsome by the day. He just got his first ID and he looked so cute. He is my right hand especially when Timothy is not here and yet he can be a little rascal sometimes. He has become a big help to Timothy in the Translation. He is learning right along with his father at the office. He is learning a lot of Cabécar. Mark loves to read and thanks to our good friends from Ohio, the Kibbys, he is reading a lot of missionaries' biographies, the only problem is that he stays up too late at night and has a hard time getting up at 6:00 in the morning. He is a big fan of soccer and he gets very sad when we lose which is often.

Ruth was my youngest for the longest time and she is #4. She fought her way into this world when she was born. In the hospital where I had her they almost killed her and me when I went to deliver her. She was born purple but soon cried and has cried ever since. She is very sweet and a lot of people love her because of her kindness. She was the favorite of our dear friend that has just passed away, dona Flora. When she was very little we moved here to Grano de Oro and because our hard times she suffered the most. She

eventually learned to read on her own and ride the bicycle on her own and many other things. We are focusing a lot on her now. She is our soccer player this year and her team has just won again and is going to play in Turrialba. Her daddy told her that she needs to do more on her part if she wanted to keep on playing so she is memorizing better her multiplication tables; she brings a lot of joy to us.

John is our second son and our # 5 kid. He is also the most like his father. God is teaching me a lot because of



Timothy and Keiry with their children Rebekah, Hannah, Mark (back), Ruth, John, and Abigail (front)

him. He developed asthma since a little kid and was a very big challenge for me. There were times when I felt I could not take it any longer but God has also taught me a lot from this and I am now treating kids here at home that are sick and all because I had to learn from hard times with my own son. We have saved at least one Indian baby because of this. He is also a very happy kid and everyone loves him. He is a left handed but he can also use his right hand. He is into learning Cabécar from a CD that his daddy made for him, he is doing very well actually. He goes and plays soccer with all the kids from our living quarters but he shows them the red card even before they play.

Abigail she is our fourth daughter and our #6 child. She is a joy to all and loves everyone in our family especially. She has problems with fear so God has a lot of work to do with her. She is strong like me and her daddy. She and John get along good, they love each other and defend each other.

My work is so big that I don't know where to start. Yes I am a mom and wife but not only a mom to my kids but to all the kids that live here on our property. Right now I have three main families here. There are 12 extra kids that I worry about. If they are sick I lose sleep over them, especially the baby ones. I find clothes and food for them even though their husbands work for us and make money. Most of the money is for food and the kids need notebooks and uniforms to go to the school and medicine for colds or just normal clothes to dress their kids. The ladies help by tak-

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"HANNAH... PUTS ON THE MUSIC EARLY SO WE GET UP WITH PRAISES AND WORSHIP TO OUR LORD."

## A WORD FROM LUCY... OUR AUTHORITY

I'm Lucy, David's wife and mother of two children. Nowadays I don't hike the mountains much with David like I used to, yet I continue to support him so that his work will be effective.

A commentary that I read in my study Bible says: "At times the ministry of those who are on the front lines is supported by those who play a less visible yet equally important role. Render your resources to God, whether or not you are in the middle of the scene."



Lucy with their boys Andrew (right) and Levi (left)

### Am I ever bored?

Besides home schooling and doing the housework, I help take care of business and I do all kinds of errands- from buying chain saws to hardware runs to getting materials photocopied for friends in the jungle. I keep the house stocked with groceries and I help take care of the needs of those who come to stay with us from the jungle. Sometimes take them to the doctor or to the local Registration office to get birth certificates or ID cards.

Often I take David to the end of the roads when he hikes to the mountains. I'll pick him up again on the day we agree upon. Sometimes this is quite a challenge- fording rivers and driving on isolated, not so good roads. But I've never gotten stuck! The boys take advantage of these trips to jump in any river that we can find. Teaching school to two active boys that love the outdoors has been by far my biggest challenge.

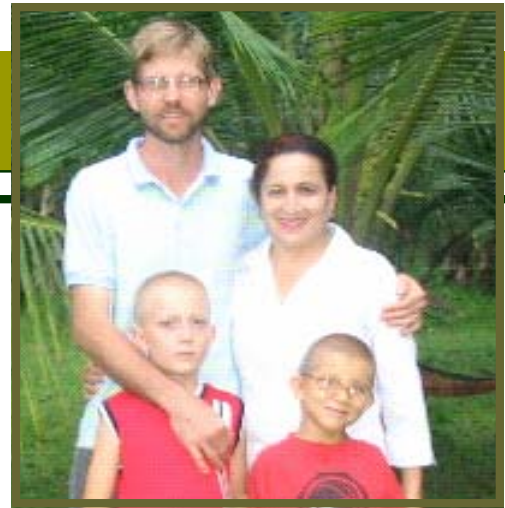
### My two blessings

Andrew, now 8, loves to work with his machete and has his own tiny plantain patch. Levi, age 6, loves dogs especially puppies. When friends from the jungle are here the boys like to spend time with them in the shed where they cook. The boys like to play there with the cooking fire and roast and eat ripe bananas. They like to teach kids from the jungle to ride bikes. The boys help take care of Mamoshi, their sow. In August she should have piglets which the boys are waiting to sell so that they can buy new, bigger bikes with gears.

Recently, while David was in the jungle, Andrew was getting a fresh coconut off one of our small coconut trees by our house and he almost touched a snake. Immediately, he began to yell to Levi to move, saying that there was a bad snake. I quickly went to look and I recognized that the small snake in the coconut leaves was poisonous. Between Andrew and me and with lots of screams, we killed it!



David and Lucy's boys (Andrew and Levi) playing with Cabécar boys in an



David and Lucy with their boys Andrew (left) and Levi (right)

### Our authority

Several times over the years we have seen God's protection on us while David was away. One of the things that the Lord has taught me is that even though I'm not on the front lines with David, I can pray and I can exercise the authority that we have in Jesus over everything in and around our house, including wild animals around the property that He has given us. One of the verses that David is teaching the boys these days is John 3: 34-35. The first part says that the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hands. I have peace to know that we are in His hands.

Thank you, Jesus



Andrew and Levi sleeping in the jungle with a Bribri family. People are touched by Christ through relationships. Spending time with them and sharing ourselves with them...in their

## KEIRY...CONTINUED

ing care of the chickens and pigs so we can later kill them and divide them among all of us. That is just one small part of me the other thing is that I take care of the farm if the workers need anything for the crops or the animals need feed. I am the one that worries when the time comes to pay everyone and there is no money or little money. God is faithful.

I am the town president so I take care of all the letters that we need to write for the government and other places to find money to fix the road or the main bridge. We need to have at least two meetings a month and make sure that things get done and some times talk to people from the government that come our way. I carry a big load. I know that I can choose not to but we need godly people to help this community that we call home.

I take care of sick or well people that come our way. Some people like to talk to me for advice. I got a call this morning at 6:00 am from a girl here in town that wants to see me this afternoon so we can talk. Oh and I forgot that I am trying to home school Mark, Ruth, John and Abigail.

We also have a little food store at Grano de Oro that serves the High School kids and Elementary kids especially, but we also serve a lot of government workers and anyone that is hungry. This has been a blessing not just because we have a little extra cash but our own kids are learning to work there and be responsible. It is also a testimony to many who pass that way since it is a nice, clean, peaceful place.

When I came here 19 years ago I was a very young girl, very inexperienced in every way, but I had a heart for Jesus. I loved Him more than anything. As today I am not so young anymore. I have grown some, but my love for Him is still the same. In a way I love Him more and I know Him more yet, my relationship with Him is deeper. Yes I get lonely and scared a lot of times, but I know He is there with me. What we do is not easy or lovely, it is hard. Our lives are exposed to everyone, there is little privacy or none, but it is OK, if we are not guilty of any thing we should not be worried. Maybe one of our faults is to love and to love greatly. I know that most of you know me as a strong person and I am some but I am also a little insecure. One of my great

fears is to not be loved, so as you can see I am growing with my God. When I die I want to leave a footprint in the lives of many. I would like people to remember me and smile. I want to live for my God.

Thank you all for your faithfulness to us all these years you all are more than just supporters, you are part of what the Lord is doing here among us. You are family to us. ■

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

The River of God ministry team would be happy to share more about the work that is being done in Costa Rica. We would be happy to arrange for more information for your church or church group. What is truly special about our team is that we have been there. We have labored and loved these special brothers and sisters in Christ. We believe that our calling to support the work being done in these mountains was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

Since we have personally served the Lord with them we can tell you first hand about the work. We understand the glory and the trials that the Jones family endures and we surround them in prayer. We invite you to be part of this ministry and are available to tell all about it.



To arrange for a presentation, appointment or to get more information; call or write:

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(317) 769-7266  
info@theriverofgod.net  
Or visit online at:  
www.TheRiverofGod.net



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

— John 15:5

"TO PRAY IS MY  
RESPONSIBILITY.  
RESPONDING IS  
GOD'S JOB.  
LEAVE IT IN HIS  
HANDS."

— STORMIE  
ORMARTIAN

## Do you have email?

We would like to start sending newsletters and other news by email. If you use email and would like to be included on our email list, sign-up on the website. We will not share your email with others, it is just another way for us to keep in touch with you. Visit the website to sign-up...  
www.TheRiverofGod.net



## Why Did I Go....

stand any of the language, I could understand the relationship Timothy has with the Indians and his love for the Lord's work.

The next morning we started the hike out. Eight hours later we were back to the top of the mountain and on the way back to Timothy's.

What did I take home from my trip to Costa Rica? Seeing the choices made by other Christians to dedicate their life to bringing the gospel to people who have never had the chance to discover Jesus. As Timothy, David & Philip stated in a previous newsletter, they have given up an easy life style to minister and witness to the Indians. Seeing the work of Bob & Lisa and the River of God Board in directing and focusing the efforts of Christians in America to support the effort in Costa Rica, not only financially, but with work trips to Costa Rica.

It was a great experience for me to be a part of helping fellow Christians. By installing this trolley we were able to witness to the Cabécar Indians, to show them Christians are concerned about their physical and their spiritual well being.

Jesus said as you do to one of the least of these you do for me and the Book of James states what good is it to pray for ones needs if you are unwilling to do anything to physically help someone in need! There is need for Christians to work and witness all over the world. It doesn't require special training or knowledge, just a willingness to go. I look forward to another trip to Costa Rica, or some other place, to put my faith to work. ■

### Do you have something to share?

*We welcome your comments and testimony. If you have been touched by the lives of the Jones family or by this ministry, we would love to hear from you. If you have a story to share in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us at:*

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## For the healing of the nations

*You might have wondered why we use the phrase "River of God" and "for the healing of the nations" as the name of this ministry. Quite simply it comes from the Revelation of Jesus Christ...*

*"The angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every*

*month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." — Revelations 22:1-2*

*"River of God" is the ministry and inspiration of the Jones brothers and as we began to organize it became apparent to us that this is our inspiration, also. The Word of God is life that flows from His throne. As we serve*



*Him, we can do no greater deed than to bring the gospel message and hope of salvation to the nations. The written Word translated into the languages of the mountain people of Central America is the most effective way to lead people to Christ.*

*Put yourself in the shoes of a missionary on the front lines for Christ. What do you say to someone? "Hey, I have*

*an important message for you and if you could just learn my language I would tell you!" You could imagine how ineffective that would be. Therefore,*

*the River of God ministry supports the effort to translate the Bible into Cabécar and the distribution of the Bribri translation. It is our desire to help reach the people in remote mountain regions for our Lord.*

*We invite you to join us in prayer and in support of the translation effort.*

## Mission Trip Opportunity!

*Trip Dates: 9/29 to 10/7*

*We are currently planning a trip for work projects. We need to complete some building work that has been started at Phillip's home that will improve the office for translation work and also the home that they have built for visiting*



*missionaries.*

*We are looking for people with building trade skills, such as finish carpentry, electrician, and drywall finishing skills. Please prayerfully consider joining us on this trip. Call us if you are considering the trip and we would be happy to give your more details.*

*(317) 769-7266*

