



River of God

“for the healing of the nations.”

Issue #6 • February 2009

River of God, Inc.
P.O. Box 406
Zionsville, IN 46077

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

NEW HORIZONS

By David Jones

This year brought an unexpected shift, a favor of picking up people in our truck changed the course of our life and ministry for the rest of our lives.

One Sunday in February, I was driving home through a rural area and picked up, as usual, some people walking down the road.

They didn't respond to the local greeting, but said in Spanish that they were from "the other side." It turns out they were Guaymi folk, which is a huge tribe compared to the Cabécar and Bribri that are largely in Panama and the south Pacific side of this country.

I asked them how to say something in their language, it didn't seem too hard and I asked another phrase, then another... Fortunately I didn't get hit with hard stuff at that point! Before long I

was trying to put together the phrase-"the true lord/god name is Jesus". Andrew and Levi were with me and they started getting into it also. I stopped to buy the boys a snack and pulled out a note book in order to jot down, the best I could, the phrases that I had just learned. As we got to the entrance of our house I suddenly remembered a phrase in their language that I had once heard somewhere, so I turned to my passengers in the back and I shot them my phrase- "let's go drink coffee". I took them

to our house and learned more words as we visited. In order to find out where they were staying, because I wanted to stay in contact, I later drove these new friends back to their destination while they worked in banana fields about 6 miles from our house.

Thousands from this tribe come into this country each year as migrant workers. In



David looks over the land with anticipation of how the LORD will use it.

the cities they can be easily spotted because the ladies wear colorful traditional dresses. Because Cabécar also migrate to pick coffee, some are intermarrying.

Two of my brothers, Philip and Timothy, who also work with the people in the mountains here, have become interested in the Guaymi partly due

to the ones they meet who have married Cabécar women. Over the last couple of years my brothers have been talking about them and studying the language and even visited some far off lands where Guaymi live. I could see that my brothers vision had passed much farther than the Cabécar. I, on the other hand, wasn't excited and struggled internally over this. There was seemingly so much to do here yet, so much more we want to see done. How would it be possible to cover more territory then ever and start new things?

I'm not sure how to explain it but God did something deep in me that Sunday back in February which completely shifted my thinking and got us

(Continued on page 3)

A WORD FROM THE RIVER OF GOD BOARD

Beautiful Things

An eventful 2008 has given birth to what looks to be a very interesting 2009. In the midst of uncertainty, God graciously reminds us that He is still on the throne. He is on the throne when our roads are completely eroded from life's storms. From His throne he orchestrates simple invitations to, "go drink coffee," opening up new relationships and ministries. When we weary of bone-jarring journeys and giving all we have to give, He pours on us extravagantly from His throne of grace.

We are thankful to God, for the beautiful things we see happening in Costa Rica, in the lives of the Jones', and in our very own lives. Renewed joy in being poured out. Glorious moments in everyday serving. Rest from trusting our own efforts.

We invite you to join us in praying for God's Spirit to draw many to Him and for strength and protection for the Jones. We also invite you to join us in serving the Jones however the Lord leads you in 2009.

Rejoicing in His beauty,

River of God Board-

Lisa Beihn

Chris McMichen

Jay Shultz

Randel Stringer

POURING IT ALL OUT

By Philip Jones

It hadn't been easy, but here we were at the "Shake the Nations" conference hosted by Bethany World Prayer Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Joining some 2000 people in the opening worship time on October 8,

2008, visions of the previous months flashed through my mind: Two months of back-hoes and dump trucks building a road . . . five months of commuting on that road 7 miles to my brother's office, 45 bone-jarring minutes each way, beat-

ing up the truck in my hurry to get to the office or get home to Sao, tired of waiting for me . . . "Lifting my hands, up in the House of God," the song jerked me back, "never gonna stop no, never gonna stop no . . ." Suddenly the tears began to flow...

Later in the opening session a well-known Korean pastor shared his testimony: Raised a Buddhist, he was dying of tuberculosis at age 17. Someone gave him a Bible and he gave his life to Jesus after reading through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Now, at 72, he leads the largest church in the world. His message that day was about faith, but I couldn't help thinking that we had been giving ourselves for those very same Gospels. Our struggle was not about roads, broken down vehicles or long hours in the office or at home with the kids, but against principalities and powers as we slowly hammer out in a precise and meaningful way the only Truth that can change these people. Without a Bible, how can one come to true faith? If one person here reads these Gospels and his life is transformed like this elderly Korean man and God raises him up to change his people, it will be worth all the effort.

Jesus knows when we need a break, a trip to the other side of the lake by ourselves. We are grateful for our friends at Bethany Christian School who paid for our family

to go to this conference, as well as for all the inspiring messages which challenged us to believe God for more than we have yet received. We are grateful for the minivan close family members lent us to drive. We are grateful for the two nights a friend gave us at his condo on the beach in Gulf



"...it is a blessing to be close to Sao and the kids."

Shores, Alabama. I now realize how much our Lord loves us and loves to pour out his love on us when we need it most.

All too soon it was over and here we are again trusting Jesus to take the few loaves and fish we have to offer and multiply them to feed more than 5,000 people in these mountains. Some things have changed since our return: I no longer commute to my brother's office; instead, I work at our place with another worker or two who are in training. While I miss the regular input of my former co-worker, I am enjoying my own office that was remodeled last year by our friends from Indiana. Our vehicles are getting some needed rest, and it is a blessing to be close to Sao and the kids.

Our kids continue to grow and change and bring us much joy. Emily is 8 and full of life, aspiring to be an artist and learning to play piano. Christy is six and learning to read; she likes to sing even without two front teeth! On our second day traveling to Louisiana on U.S. highways, she asked, "Daddy, why are we going only straight?" When we got back to Costa Rican roads, her first statement was, "This car is bumpy!" Jacob turned four while we were at the beach; he loves his trucks and cars. And we are

all in love with Annie, almost two, who makes us laugh with all her funny things.

Our vision for 2009 is to continue what we do in the same spirit of faith, only with more joy in the Lord. We anticipate completing our part of checking the revised New Testament, hosting a team or two from the U.S. and pulling our family through another year of home school and training. We also continue to believe for the School of the Prophets. Thank you for your gifts and prayers that allow us to live where we live and do what we do.

A few days ago in the office we came across the passage about a woman who comes to Jesus while he is eating in Bethany and pours a jar of expensive perfume on his head. The guests are shocked at this waste of a year's income, but Jesus said, "She has done a beautiful thing to me . . . She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." Mark 14:6,8. So much of the time it feels like all we do is pour out everything we are and have for Jesus in this place. It may seem like a waste of time, effort and money, but Jesus

calls it "a beautiful thing."

This woman did "what she could." Are we doing what we can for Him? Are we giving out of our abundance or are we giving all we have to live on? Because just when we are scraping bottom, He comes and pours it all back on us in a display of affirmation that leaves us feeling like we've done nothing to deserve such love.



The kids enjoy a sign with their brother's name on the roadside.

affirmation that leaves us feeling like we've done nothing to deserve such love.

MY MOST GLORIOUS MOMENT?

By Saukeen Jones

So often in 2008 the Lord spoke to us in simple ways reminding us that He is here with us closer than we think. One way He spoke to me was through a book I read about Corrie Ten Boom, who was God's faithful servant all her life, especially during the time she spent in concentration camps in World War II.

I was shocked to know the Lord let his child go through such terrible trials for protecting Jews. I was moved to know that yes, Jesus may let us go exactly where people are suffering and suffer with them so we can speak his love to others. And Corrie sure did. Not even the most evil prison camp could stop her from talking about heaven. As I read the story I kept thinking about a song, "For this hour I have come, for this time I was born..." I wondered, if there in prison, Corrie ever thought she was living her

most glorious moment. Without a doubt she was; for that time she was born.

Then, shaken back to my reality I wondered if I was hoping for a better time to "serve" or be "used" by the Lord. Or if I was rejoicing in my small sufferings and sharing Jesus with all my strength. We live very simple lives around here most of the time, especially these days when Philip is dedicating most of his time to the revision of the New Testament. Our days are filled with home tasks, routines, home schooling, housework, translation, church, devotions, etc. But I am learning that if Jesus' light can shine through somebody in prison, He can also let His light shine through me here where I live. I don't have to wait for "doors" to open for me to minister to others, or for a different time or a different circumstance to bless others. He can use my most ordinary day of cooking or teaching to reveal Himself to somebody.

When in the power of Jesus I can be patient to teach my girls, take care of little ones, take care of my house and people with needs at my door, forgive big hurts and little hurts, and still smile when Philip comes home from work, then I know that heaven is closer than we think. Then I have hope that a door to heaven will be open for others too.

I never thought of this time in my life as being "my most glorious moment." But maybe it is. Maybe just cooking or opening the door to somebody can do more than I ever dreamed of. Maybe this is the hour Jesus has chosen to bring glory to His Name in my life. Someone very dear to us recently told me "...You know all of heaven is with you." At first I thought, "What kind of words are these?" But as I see Jesus in me in a fresh new way, I am starting to believe so...

New Horizons... from Page 1

involved with the Guaymi. I began that day to learn the language and have been studying it ever since, whenever I find time. We have met more migrant workers that are working in this area, some seem to be permanent residents. It seems that wherever Lucy and I go now we run across more from this tribe.

We have made some trips this year over the border, which is near where we live, into Panama and traditional Guaymi territory. I felt drawn to a particular area and thought of having a place there for a base while visiting and for future ministry in that region. In July we spent a couple weeks there as a family. While there we made a five day trip up 2 rivers into more remote areas. We spent hours traveling by dugout and hiking muddy trails, pursuing and building relationships with some we've met.

During our July visit to Panama we purchased a plot of land in the area that I'd felt drawn toward. It's in Guaymi country yet easy to access. It's relatively close to the tiny port town of Chiriqui Grande,

which is a strategic place for access into remote regions. Our home here is only less than a mile from the river that divides Costa Rica and Panama, but the highway border crossing is about 40 minutes from our house. From there it's a two and half hour scenic drive to the land we acquired.

Our next step on this project is to develop this land for use as a temporary base when we visit Panama and we are praying for resources, time, and direction for this. We also want God to lead us to the right people and places and to lead the right people to us for lasting, long term ministry among this large, needy, people group.

"Without faith it is impossible..."

Our main focus presently continues to be helping finish the revision of the Cabécar translation. This priority will continue into next year. I'm so anxious to make Guaymi learning my priority and spend as much time as I can on this that it's been tough to stick with the translation project, but

we are trying to be faithful with each thing God leads us to do.

On the other hand it's a great blessing and privilege to spend hours pouring over the Word as I carefully study the Cabécar text. I'm presently inching through Romans, picking it apart, studying it like I've never before. Though Paul had grounds to boast he considered it all garbage that he might know Christ Jesus and the power of His resurrection. The call in Paul's writings to the walk of faith verses works is clear, not just for salvation but for all that follow, including our sanctification. In ministry this walk of faith should lead us away from striving, away from trusting in our own effort to make it happen. Galatians speaks of the struggle between works and faith and tells us to throw out the spirit of slavery. The author of Hebrews calls us to enter the rest, which exists for those who believe. I would like to be one who believes, whose faith leads to life in that rest, and thereby to please God.

May you each be strengthened today in your walk of faith. — David

By Timothy Jones

2008 was a year of many struggles and few breakthroughs. But at the end of it all we realized that a lot had been accomplished.

On Dec. 31st I was in line to a booth at a grocery store where with about 200 other people trying to pay their annual vehicle tax on time. Starting January 1st a 10% PER DAY late fee would be added to the cost of the tax. But the banks were all closed and this was the only place left in Turrialba to pay. I was determined to avoid losing another \$100 of our money, even if in the light of how much loss we had already endured this year it didn't seem to make a lot of difference. I had not paid the taxes sooner because we had not had the funds to do so till that very morning.

I was standing at the back of the line reading my Bible, when the man in front of me looked back at what I was reading. Then he asked, "Is that English?" "Si," I replied. "Is that the Bible?" he queried. "Si," I again replied. Then I asked him, "Do YOU like to read the Bible?" It was his turn to respond, "Si." I was a little surprised as regular Bible reading is very uncommon among people here. "Since I became a Christian I have always read the Bible." But I pressed further, "But even most Christians here don't read the Bible. Why you?" "I have three Bibles, one of which I keep in the bathroom where I always read it," he quietly answered. "Reading the Bible is absolutely essential for me to keep my faith."

I told him that I translate the Bible for the indigenous people of the mountains and that I have found the story of Casiodoro de Reina, the original translator of the Bible into Spanish, a continued source of inspiration. For one reason, he had to go into exile to be able to do his work safely. For another, he decided to go against the Jewish community and use the name

"Jehova" to reflect the awesome name Yaweh that set the God of the Bible apart from all other gods and their respective names. He decided that even though a Jew would never mention that name, they nevertheless pronounced it in their mental process when they saw it written. By using this name, Reina accurately reflected the powerful message of the Old Testament about this god, and his image, Jesus Christ. And we have seen his name and person transform many people who read the Bible we are translating.



"The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him." Pr 20:7

Our upright, conservative fellow citizens all had the same resolve to pay their tax on time as I did. So the line never thinned for the six hours I was in it, no matter how tired everyone was. Keiry joined me for the last three hours. She said,

"When we get through this line I am going to shout "Aleluya." When my new Bible reading friend in front of us at last had his turn to pay, he turned back and quietly said, "Aleluya!"

He was late for New Years eve dinner with his family, but he had been used to remind me that Jesus will use this Bible we are making in many peoples lives. We don't yet see the fruit of what our lives are producing. But just as Casiodoro de Reina's work lives on even in the man I met in the line, so the translated Word of God will bear fruit in the lives of those we serve. They may never know what we did for them, or the price we paid. But we did it for our Master, and He will use it as he sees fit.

Family News This year our big news is that on December 19th Hannah graduated from High School! She was consistently at the top of her class. She and her class-

mates diligently raised the money for their graduation dinner and graduation. She also graduated into the advanced level at the music program she is in. She has been accepted into to the Business Administration program at the University of Costa Rica where she will begin in March.

Rebekah completed her second year in the Dentistry program at the University of Costa Rica. She struggled with Biochemistry especially, but she has been very diligent carrying her course load and still coming home most weekends. Though she has many friends, she spends most of her time buckled down to the books. Now on vacation she has moved up to being lead driver. She and her grandfather and whatever other hands they have, shovel sand and rock into a trailer and she hauls it up here for patching the roads and for use in the construction projects.

Mark proved himself this year when he went from milking two cows in March to milking four in September. He drags himself out of bed around 4:30 every morning to begin his chores. This involves bringing the cows in, rain or shine, mud or what not, milking them, and then taking the milk down to the sell to the local milk coop. During the day Mark did 8th grade in English in my office, with a good nap sandwiched in between! At the same time

in the afternoon, he organizes his help to milk for him. About once a week he takes the days milk and makes 15 pounds of cheese. My translation staff did a lot of the processing for him here and there during the day, since the building is right next to our office. I graded his tests and gave him some direction, but he learned a lot about managing his time.

Ruth graduated from grade school (6th grade) on Dec.19 (a few hours before Hannah.) She is always a sweetheart. She is now able to deliver the milk to town on the four-wheeler when Mark is unable to.

John has finished 1st grade in Spanish and most of 1st grade with me in English. His asthma is much better, praise Jesus. He is

"I HAVE FOUND THE STORY OF CASIODORO DE REINA, THE ORIGINAL TRANSLATOR OF THE BIBLE INTO SPANISH, A CONTINUED SOURCE OF INSPIRATION."

(Continued on page 5)

getting very strong and becoming a good little worker.

Abigail delights us by doing errands, cleaning, and coming to drink coffee with me in the office. She never stops moving.

Keiry is thankful that she was not voted back in for office as town president. She has been much less stressed since then and has had more time to take care of her house and the farm.

She also carried the burden of making sure that everyone got paid every two weeks. She is also the one who has kept up with all of you by writing our emails.

The schedule on this page may give you an idea of our lives this past year.

Translation Around April, we finished our work on the Gospel of John. The Four Square Mission Press graciously printed 10,000 copies with a beautiful full color cover. Thank you Wyce Ghiacy for your layout work, and Joe Friberg for consulting support and securing permissions to use the illustrations. We are training our friends in the mountains that love to read the Bible to do distribution. I am

thankful that the books arrived just before the beginning of the dry season when travel is easier and people are out a lot anyway. This makes it an ideal time to stage a big push to get many new people reading the Bible. There are many children and teenagers that are learning to read now in the schools. Never have we had such an opportunity to get people reading and listening to the Bible being read.

Last week, Rebekah and Hannah both accompanied me on a trip to distribute the gospel of John in another area. They used their skills to quickly reach out to people in their homes, to see if they were able to

read and then coach them in reading the Cabecar translation.

Israel became one of our disciples around 1985. He was a passionate young man who tirelessly shared the gospel. He later became a government health worker. In June 2007 he took a leave from the Health System to come help us get the New Testament together. His conceptual skills along with David's editorial skills were

our time with them discussing changes and incorporating them. Then the last months of the year we will read through the text numerous times, polishing and proofreading. Once we turn the text over to Wyce Ghiacy for formatting, there will be additional proof reading.

We have decided not to include Genesis and Exodus, and our abridged Psalms and Proverbs in this edition, since there is not

enough time to get them to the same quality as the New Testament. Instead, when we begin our Old Testament translation project in 2010, we will revise these books first.

Please pray for the Lord's mercy on us during this process.

Building Several years ago we were approached about starting a coffee business in this area. The idea was to buy and process coffee from this area for export. Though we had no experience in processing coffee or in business, we agreed. And by the grace of God, a coffee processor has been built, a company formed, and now the permits are being secured to commercially process the coffee.

When we first lived here, Keiry would put bonnets on the girls, give them a basket, and tell them to pick the coffee that grew wild around the house. Each year we would process a little more coffee for use around the place.

This year, since we did not have the permits yet, we processed and dried all our own coffee right here at the house. The kids still do everything along with our friends and workers that live with us. This is all part of the kingdom discipleship that we give ourselves to day and night.

Through all we do we try to teach our people how to live productive lives, not only so they can adequately care for their families, but also to be able to share with others and have the means to spread the kingdom further. We have worked to implant these ideas for years. It is easier to

Time	Monday to Friday	Sat	Sunday
4:30 AM	Milking (Mark and high schoolers)		
6:00 AM	Farm workers begin		
6:30 AM	Jones family breakfast		
7:00 AM	Construction/carpentry crew begins Translation begins Spanish grade and high school starts Jones children/farm children/ Cabecar HS boarders	Jones Breakfast	
6:30 AM	Turn milk in		
8:00 AM	Farm workers coffee break in the field	Volunteer labor/ clean up / main- tenance by all who live or stay on farm	Jones Breakfast
10:00 AM	Translation staff coffee		Church
11:00 AM	Farm workers lunch		
1:00 PM	Translation staff lunch break Farm workers off (unless overtime till 4:00 P.M)		
4:00 PM	Construction crew off High school out Milking		
4:00-9:00	Visitors start showing up for lodging and pasture for pack horses.		
5:00 PM	Translation staff off (unless overtime) If the weather is dry there may be a soccer game for all		
5:30 PM	Turn milk in		
5:30-6:00	Jones evening coffee		
6:00-9:00 PM	Jones kids Spanish school or English home school homework / Cabecar students study hall Jones family devotions		
Mon-Fri or Sat-Sun once or twice a month one or several on staff will travel to various communities in the mountains to share in the Word and hard work.			

what it took for us to get the main phase of the translation done. He left us January 5th after 19 wonderful months together. Not once did he fail me in his work. He always came to work on time, worked extra, worked lunch break, and never lost his passion for his work. He and we both hope he can come back soon.

March 1, David and Vinicio will be returning with their families to live on our farm and complete our work on the New Testament. My brothers David and Philip will continue reviewing the translation through August. David and I will spend most of

preach to people, baptized them, and then hope for the best. It is a slow process to help them change fatalistic, irresponsible, selfish ways of thinking, and coach them into becoming faithful in a full kingdom life.

Partners We are very thankful for our partners, Josiah and Cyntia Hubbard, and Alekcey and Judith Murillo. Both of these couples ended up in this area independently of us or each other. They have each been in this area several years now learning the language and bringing in the kingdom of God in unique ways. We meet regularly for prayer and sharing, as well as language study.



We never dreamed other people outside of the Jones families would ever want to really live here and learn the language of the people. We never thought others would want to have the patience to humbly lead the people of the mountains into an abundant life. We have been privileged to have people like them help build up our faith.

We are also very thankful for the part that all those in River of God have done for us, especially during this last year, meeting to pray for us, coming to help, raising money for the translation, and getting that money to us. We could not be here without their help, and we want to bless them in their entire endeavor through the grace of God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

This past year we learned about being more efficient in our work. We saw much improvement in every area, and we pray that we will grow in wisdom during this year. Thank you to each

who had a part in that last year and will take part this year.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Timothy and Keiry Jones

A Note from Rebekah...

Hey everybody,

I just wanted to share my trip back to school, after the weekend.



It has been raining a lot and here is some evidence. You see what happened is that Hannah and I were in the Galloper going home, my parents had the other car. On the way home, we got to a bad spot...some people were passing, but we called Dad and he said to leave the car on this side....so we did.

Thank the Lord because it rained all weekend, and today Dad took a friend and me to the bad spot on the road and to our surprise...there was no road whatsoever!!! Fortunately, we have one car on each side. I thank the Holy Spirit for his guidance and wisdom!!!

Some of my friends at school saw the pictures and were amazed!!! They don't know about mountain life!!! Well, I had a good time, and thank the Lord we are all doing fine.

Love you all!
Rebe

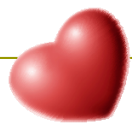


Do you have email?

If you 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.

www.RiverofGod.net

On Lucy's heart...



"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

—Ephesians 3:16,17a

YOU SHOP WE GIVE

Goodshop.com is an online shopping website that benefits not for profit organizations. Just by doing your online shopping via goodshop.com you can support River of God, Inc. with up to 37% of your purchase being donated to our organization. Please visit Goodshop.com whenever you shop online and select "River of God Zionsville" to help support our ministry.

