

River of God

"for the healing of the nations."

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River of God, Inc.
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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

A YEAR END LETTER...

By Timothy & Keiry Jones

Dear Friends and family,

When we finished the revision of the New Testament on December 20th of last year, our hearts were thankful, but dry and weary. Israel who had worked so hard with us for the previous year and a half almost cried as he faced going back to his position as a health worker.

We thought that we would reopen the office on March 1 and David and Vinicio would soon be back in stride. During that time we got our coffee picked and dried and did our dry season travelling.

But David was delayed in coming back with his family on March 1, and on March 2 his beloved Tachi (grandfather) died. Tachi had raised him as a son, and David had become his primary caregiver.

David did not feel up to coming back to translate for several months, so while we waited, we gave our attention to other things.

In April, Dale and Joan Kibbey, our dear friends from Ohio, were with us for several weeks. While Joan helped us with the kids schooling, Dale and I made a trip to Cabagra, a distant Bribri community, to leave off Vinicio and Silverio for a week. During the 8 hour drive there Dale noticed that Silverio was nervous. But at

the end of the hair-raising road, Silverio jumped out of the truck very confidently. Though he and Vinicio do not speak Bribri, Vinicio had said, "We are People (Indians) and others of our kind will trust us and let us into their homes."

"WE ARE PEOPLE (INDIANS) AND OTHERS OF OUR KIND WILL TRUST US AND LET US INTO THEIR HOMES."

At the end of the week they returned with a letter from our contact there. He wrote asking not for money or labor, but for more Bribri New Testaments. He said that he had no other source to get this book that was so valuable to his people. He and his mother had appreciated Vinicio so much and he had taken Vinicio to tour their area showing people the New Testament in their language.

In early May, I was able to visit my mother for Mothers day in South Carolina. The night before I returned, I asked them to lay hands on me and pray for me.



My Mother, Marian Jones

"Lord," Daddy prayed, "if there is anything else I haven't understood to ask, or if there is vision I've failed to see, do that for Timothy." I also remembered how my mother had taught me just as Eunice and Lois taught Timothy.

There was a beginning of renewal after that point. Keiry had said for several years that we needed to take a time away to be refreshed. I didn't realize how tired and weary I was. I was so discouraged that I

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A WORD FROM THE RIVER OF GOD BOARD

Rejoicing, Prayer, and Peace

Dear Friends and Family,

Join us in rejoicing with the Jones families over how the Lord has moved in their lives and in their ministries this year: new cabins, times to rest, family support, devoted friends and co-workers, hydro plant power, high school students, unexpected provision, cousins, big warm rocks, children, baptisms, teams, trips to the U.S., opened doors, realized dreams, His power when we feel faint, and the way the Spirit links us with others for purposes beyond our wildest dreams.

We also invite you to join us in prayer for the Jones' families and ministries, for: final touches of the revision of the new Cabécar New Testament and beginning of the Old Testament revision, financial provision, health and safety, wisdom in parenting, strong marriages, abiding relationships with Jesus, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:4-7

River of God Board-

Jay Shultz
Jack Folden
Chris McMichen
Randel Stringer
Lisa Beihn

SPIRIT LINKS

By Philip Jones

All my life I have lived with the sound of a diesel generator running at night. The green Lister is almost as old as I am, and as a boy the great excitement each afternoon was to help crank it. It was a sign of manhood, I guess, to graduate from flipping the switch to actually cranking it up alone. Even

though it has been overhauled a number of times, the 3.5 KW generator faithfully lit up our house and powered washing machines for more than 35 years. In recent years, we ran it many noisy daytime hours to run power tools to build the new house. Our weekly trips to town always included a stop at the gas station to fill up several five gallon cans of diesel to keep us in supply. The trick was always to keep the cans well closed so they would not leak on the groceries with which they shared tight space in the truck.

When this is a way of life, you don't think about it very much. But just think: if your wife wants to use the blender, the beater, or the hair dryer, you have to run crank up the generator. If it is being used all morning for power tools, by mid afternoon she is ready for a break so she can take a nap. And at nine p.m. when you pull the string from the house to turn it off, you breathe a sigh of relief as you take in the night sounds of crickets and the creek flowing nearby.

Even with the generator, we never could use an electric iron, refrigerator or microwave. Imagine heating real irons



John Whited happy to see power being produced

on the stove, or reheating your coffee in a saucepan. Imagine trying to cram all your meat and vegetables in a small refrigerator powered by kerosene or gas. In recent years we had some back-up power from solar panels for computers and 12V light, but never

enough to run a whole house off the grid.

Through the years we talked about the possibility of setting up some sort of micro hydro plant. Our property is located on a peninsula between two creeks; would there be any way we could tap into one of these

streams to produce constant power?



Manuel and John and the team working on the intake

Though we are now only 4 miles beyond the end of the power lines versus 30 miles when I was a boy, no one knows how long it will be until those 4 miles will be gapped. Maybe it was my grandfather's engineering blood, but something in me said

micro hydro was worth a try.

In April of this year, this dream became a reality, thanks to all the help, favor, and resources that God poured into our

laps. During Easter Week of this year, some 40 people (most of them under 20!), descended on our place to help install the system. It is impossible to fully communicate in a short space all who were involved in making this happen, but a few thanks are in order:

Kevin: I hardly remember telling you we needed a turbine on your first trip in '07, but you took the idea and ran with it! Thank you for your faith and help with so many details: researching, purchasing, sending, and encouraging. Thank you for being a brother!

Bethany Christian High School: How could you raise over \$10,000 selling "Spirit Links" at \$1 or \$2 each? That's a lot of strips of paper! Your attitudes,

service and spirit were awesome. You all have a special place in our hearts.

Mrs. DeSalvo: I often remember your motto: "I don't ask my kids to do what I won't do myself." You truly lead your students by example . . . and enthusiasm!

John Whited: We couldn't have done it without your knowledge of engineering and electricity, as well as your love as you laid down your life, your time and your own projects to come help us with ours. May your vision of a helicopter for reaching people in these mountains soon be flying!

Manuel and Sharon: Thank you for challenging us to receive these high schoolers three years ago. You know I wasn't very excited about it, not wanting to lose time on translation. But what multiplied blessings we would have missed had we said no! We love you all!

Steven and Cameron: Thank you for sharing these moments with us; you pull us all together, believe in each one, and



Thank you BCS! (Bethany Christian School)

By David Jones

We regularly have people from up in the mountains, mostly Cabécar folk, come needing work or needing a place to stay while they work temporarily on nearby farms. Some come because of various kinds of health problems as well as mothers who are going to give birth. Since Bribri, the small town we live near, is a county seat with its necessary services including a bank, some people come for business reasons including to go to the Registrar office to get ID cards and birth certificates or to record births of children born in the jungle. Often these people want and need our help deepening on there needs. The majority of those who show up here at our house are Christians that we are working to disciple or at least hearers of the Word. Since some come from places as far up as three days hike in the mountains, places we don't get to regularly, part of our ministry is done from our home with those who come to look for us here.

Not long after we moved to where we presently live almost nine years ago, we built a bamboo shed for our visitors to cook and hang out in but they have usually always end up sleeping on the floor of our house.

For years Lucy and I have dreamed of having a little cabin for these friends from the jungle to stay in during their visits. It would also provide good living conditions for those who take care of our place during

our absences. Actually, the friends that are already staying with us at the time when we need to travel somewhere usually end up being our caretakers.

This dream became a reality in February when friends from Indiana and Kentucky came and helped us frame up the building. They worked hard and were fun to work with and a blessing to be around. After this, more unexpected provision came, enabling us to bring the building close to completion.



A place for Cabécar to stay.

We decided to give this year for helping with the revision of the new Cabécar New Testament. To make my part of the work easier and more efficient we decided to go live near the translation office and work directly there instead

of working from our home. The translation office is about a five hour drive away in the area where I grew up and where two of my brothers live and serve. Since June we have been working hard on this translation project for the better part of each month and returning home for a few days around the first weekend of each month. The new "little

house" is now being occupied by a young family from the jungle who are taking care of our place during our absences.

We rejoice that this building could be built early this year and put to good use just in time. A big thanks to those

who contributed to this building project and came and sweated with us to see it become a reality.



A typical meeting place.

During Timothy's recent visit to Kentucky, I reflected on "things learned in Costa Rica" namely remembering that "what goes down, must come up". Timothy taught me this truth as we hiked many hours through the mountains and I quickly realized that the relief of a section of downhill terrain is inevitably followed by the challenge of an uphill climb. We smiled as we recalled those days together, visiting friends in the mountains sharing the Jesus film and the Good News.

As I now reflect on the past 3 years during which I have been privileged to serve as the president of the Board of Directors for the River of God, I humbly acknowledge things the Lord has taught me during my tenure. He has taught me to trust as I have never trusted before (Proverbs 3:5-6); He has taught me bring my burden to Him (Matthew 11:28-30) and He has taught me that all things are possible through Jesus (Philippians 4:13). My thanks to Timothy, Philip and David for allowing me to serve alongside them, to pray, to walk the mountains, to love, to laugh, to grow.

I am richer having made the journey and look forward to what great things the Lord is going to continue to do through the River of God ministry.

In His love,
Lisa Beihn

President,
River of God Board 2007-09



Robert and Lisa serving together "...and they shall become one flesh.."

SPIRIT LINKS...FROM PAGE 2

lead us all to worship . It wouldn't be the same without you two.

Lord Jesus: Thank you for giving us power. Not just for electricity. But for life and godliness. For being present in our midst this Easter week; for showing up in Nari. For water to run turbines. For the River that brings healing. For the way your Spirit links us with others for purposes beyond our wildest dreams.

I am also grateful to our neighbor for allowing us to access a creek that runs through his pasture. Neither of the creeks bordering our property proved suitable, but this creek did the job. It is

very small, but not too far upstream from where it flows onto our property, we found it had a small waterfall, giving us a total of 90 feet of head (height). The water is collected via an intake that filters out debris by



John Whited connecting the turbine

means a special screen, and then diverted 600 feet in 4" PVC pipe to the turbine located just inside our property. The turbine puts out 24 volts DC, which is used to charge a battery bank. This stored power is then converted to 120 volts AC by means of a 3.6 KW inverter. And there you have it: 24/7 off-the-grid power!



Digging a ditch for the piping

Our neighbor did not at first want to let us use the creek, but when I offered to give him some power in return for his water, he jumped at the chance. So after we got the system up and running, we ran 600 feet of cable to his

house and wired it with several energy efficient light bulbs and a few outlets.

The elderly man, his children and grandchildren were smiling from ear to ear! Though he is not a believer, he now he says good bye to me with, "May Jesus go with you," instead of invoking the name of the local god. Maybe he is

beginning to see, even if in a practical way, that Jesus is the light of the world.

After more than a month working on installing the system, I returned to the translation with Fabio, enjoying constant power as we close in on our part on the gospels. Sao bought an iron and even a hair straightener. But when someone suggested we get a microwave, she thought a minute and then said, "What for?!"

GOING TO THE RIVER WITH MY COUSINS

By Emily Joy Jones

I like to go to the river with my cousins because it makes me feel happy.

The river is behind my house. The river has a deep, dark green pool. We like to play in it because it is clean, nice and fun. When we go there we like to slide and jump off a rock. When we jump in the first time the water is cold, then it feels warm because we have been in it for awhile. Sometime the wa-



Sao and her students

ter gets in my mouth and nose and I don't like it!

When I go down there I can feel the sticks, rocks mud and leaves under my bare feet. Those things feel hard and funny. My cousins like to swim underwater with me too. I like to get warm by laying down on the big warm rocks.

I feel happy after I get out of the cold water. I like to go

to the river.

THE NEW ROG BOARD

As we close the third year of the River of God organization, we look back with gratitude to our Lord Jesus and the people that have been willing to serve. We look forward with joyful anticipation of what our God will do through the new board of directors. Beginning on January 1st, the members are:

President:

Jay Shultz

Vice President:

Jack Folden, Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chris McMichen

Mission Liaison:

Randel Stringer

A YEAR END LETTER...FROM PAGE 1

struggled to pray. I was tired of translating. I just wanted to see the New Testament printed and be able to get on to the Old Testament.

But many things happened that began a process of renewal. One was that in March we had begun building a cabin as a home for one of our translator families, and I realized that we should instead turn it into a permanent home for the translation office.

On Sept. 7 we moved the office into this beautiful cabin, finally giving the office a permanent home. It has a beautiful view and a cool breeze that blows refreshment into the soul. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard on building it with us. Almost all the wood came out of the forest around us, and was milled and carried by loving hands.

Another source of joy was that on July 23rd, Keiry and I for the first time were able to get away for a few days to celebrate our 21 anniversary. To be alone together was almost awkward and yet it focused us on who we are, and what we want to be as a couple and family.

We are very thankful to God for our six children, who are our partners with us in all our struggles. They help us carry the burden day to day, of caring for the weak, serving the needing. On their vacations and weekends they work on the farm

and go to teach and serve. In July Rebekah, Hannah, and Mark and John went with me to help build the new

house in the mountains. Rebekah and Hannah smoked pork, cooked meals peeled green bananas and kept our whole camp going. Mark helped me with framing the house. John played with the little boys. Our children are our greatest assets.

In March, Hannah entered school of Business at the University of Costa Rica where Rebekah is in her third year in the school of Den-

tristry. She and Rebekah live together during the week in an apartment we found for them. On weekends they come home. Mark was accepted into 9th grade at the bilingual High School in Turrialba. During the week he boards with friends of ours there. Ruth, John, and Abigail were with us at home this year all doing home school in English. So we ate our meals and spent our evenings with just our three younger ones, a new beginning in our relationship with them.

We are thankful for David and Lucy Jones who moved up from Bribri in May to join us in finishing the Cabecar New Testament. David has worked tirelessly checking over the books of Paul in the New Testament

with David, Vinicio, and Reynaldo. Lucy and Keiry have thoroughly enjoyed working on creative projects together. And our kids and David's Andrew and Levi, have made many memories playing together. Philip Jones has made his contribution in checking the Gospels and the books of John at the end of the New Testament. He is very patient with me, as I sort through his ideas and suggestions. Josiah and Cyntia Hubbard have been working with us for nearly four years now. They are making good progress with the language. Earlier this year Josiah and I started building a house together out in the mountains in a little village that our families will share while doing ministry there. It is a 7 hour hike from the end of the road. The people in the village are all Christians and are very special to work with. On their breaks from school our children go on trips to the mountains to help the people and teach the children the Bible and reading skills. Josiah and Cyntia want to live for extended periods of time to further their skill in the language and teach simple woodworking skills to the people. This house will make it more convenient for everyone. Alekcey and Judith Murillo also partner with us in various endeavors, one of which is a coffee business. They also succeeded in getting two footbridges built in Tsimari, a remote community where life is very precarious. A write up on the bridges got into the Sunday morning edition of the largest national newspaper. Their efforts there contribute to the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the people.

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The new office.



John, Ruth and Abigail in their Jones Home School Uniforms



Our 21st anniversary

It was 8 years ago that I began visiting Tsimari. But it wasn't until January that the first 4 people were baptized there. Romualdo was the one who opened his home there 8 years ago one day when we met him on the trail. When we were about to baptize him, I asked him, "Have you ever seen someone be baptized?" "Yes," he replied, "in the Jesus movie that you showed us." Thank you Robert and Lisa Beihn for your many trips with us in the mountains showing the Jesus movie.

In September we were honored to have a team from River of God come and repair the roof structure of the church, which had been weak since it was built. We were impressed with the quality of their work, and so glad that they were able to carry out the project with almost no help from us.

We could never do what we do without everyone's help here. We are part of a

body, and in our weakness we appreciate this so much.

And thanks to all of you who give, who come, who work and serve with us in so many ways. Thank you to those who made our trip to the United States for a month possible. Thank you, Carl and Debbie Martin for providing a van to



Timothy and Keiry presenting the first copies of the gospel of John — Hallelujah!

use during our visit. Many of you shared your homes with us. You helped us buy plane tickets, gas, food, clothes and many other things. All of you in Niceville, Florida went out of your way to make our stay so memorable... Pastor Charles, you

opened the doors for us in so many places so that we could share our story. The Lord "gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might, he increases strength." Isaiah 40:29

Your brother and sister in Christ, Timothy and Keiry Jones

We at the River of God ministry want very much to help improve communications. It is important for all of us to stay up to date on the various aspects of the ministry work and to understand how we can support and pray for the work. You have probably have heard from other ministries that giving is down this year, and this ministry has seen a decrease, also. We understand that you want to make sure that you are good stewards of the money God has given to you.

We believe that improved communications will help you understand the impact your donations are having in reaching the mountain people of Costa Rica. The translation and spreading of the Gospel is "Kingdom" work and we invite you to stand with us in the ministry.

We enjoy publishing these newsletters and we wish that we could send them more often. As an alternative, we would like to supplement the communications with periodic, emails, Blog posts, and podcasts. These new communications tools can help you stay up to date with happenings, but only if you subscribe to email. Please visit the site and follow the links from the home page. We will be adding some video interviews with Timothy, Philip, and David.

Please let us know how we can improve these communications.

Thank you!

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

— 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV)

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got email?

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