

River of God

“for the healing of the nations.”

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

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BE PATIENT...

By Lucy Jones

BE PATIENT

December is the time we like to visit our mountain friends. We all went as a family. My desire is to see the believers growing and maturing in their Christian walk, but seeing that they aren't doing it in the way I desire, I get discouraged. When we came home I began to pray specifically for various believers that have a lot of talent but aren't using it correctly.

The Lord spoke to me through Ezekiel 36:26-27. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances."

When I read it I felt-- that is the answer; that is what they need. From that day on, I often pray that Word for them, and I patiently wait on Him.

BE PATIENT

For more than two years we have been hoping Andrew and Levis' mare, Paloma, would have a colt, and now in March our hopes were being fulfilled precisely during the time we were preparing for a trip to Panama. We knew she was about to give birth and the boys were sad because we weren't going to be home to see her offspring. But the Lord who knows the depths of our hearts and

grants the desires of our hearts blessed us. An hour before we were to leave for Panama, the mare amazingly laid down beside our house and gave birth to a handsome colt! All of us were able to watch the birth and see how God had made him perfect and beautiful. Levi



David and Lucy in Panama, celebrate their anniversary

named him Thunderbolt. The Lord is faithful!

After we watched the little colt get up on his feet, we left for our ten-day trip to Panama, happy and grateful to the Lord that He had given us the opportunity to be home for this long-awaited moment.

Our time in Panama was also very special. We stayed in a house that a Guaymi family loaned us. We had many visitors. The local children were delighted to come and play with an educational toy I brought and to learn a little English. Other people, ladies with their little kids came to visit us too. We were able to erect part of a small house

on the land we acquired there two years ago. This is where we will stay when we visit Panama.

When we returned to our home in Bribri, we were excited to see Paloma with her little colt. But a few days later, the colt came down with tetanus and was gravely ill for five days. In spite of antibiotics, anti-tetanus medication, and our intensive care, the colt died. When the boys saw that Thunder-

**"THE LORD SPOKE
TO ME THROUGH
EZEKIEL
36:26-27. "**

died. When the boys saw that Thunder-

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A WORD FROM THE RIVER OF GOD BOARD

Rejoicing, Prayer, and Peace

Dear Friends and Family,

What a joy it is to share the thoughts and prayers of Lucy, Keiry and Saukeen. As each speaks from her heart, we feel our connection deepen to our sisters in Costa Rica. "Be patient"...how those words minister to all of us and we are reminded of God's perfect timing. "Simply my love"... what better gift can we each bring to the Lord? "I am learning to lean on my Lord"... a lesson we all desire to realize in our lives. Let it be said that we were patient, that we let go and gave the Lord our love and that we trusted in and leaned on Him in all circumstances.

The River of God Board thanks you for your continued support of this ministry through your prayers and your financial gifts.

Blessings,

River of God Board-

Jay Shultz
Jack Folden
Chris McMichen
Randel Stringer
Lisa Beihn

**"THEREFORE
ENCOURAGE**

**ONE ANOTHER
WITH THESE
WORDS."**

—1 THESS 4:18

SIMPLY MY LOVE

By Saukeen Jones

It's been almost fifteen years since I left China after my four short years there. I knew then I had to learn the lesson of letting go. I thought I was going to be quick to learn. But after all these years I'm just starting to understand that this is a life-time lesson in our walk with the Lord.



Thank you Jesus for our new truck!

I left China and all my dreams and plans with it. I left with one pretty-empty suitcase as I was sick and I knew I couldn't lift much weight on my long journey back home. I guess I was saying too, "I'm trusting you Lord. I'll leave everything behind. I know you'll fill me with everything new."

If you know our story, you know that soon afterwards I met Philip, the husband the Lord had promised me. Four short months later we got married. And very soon my empty suitcase was pretty-full again, along with rooms full of blessings, houses, lands, a new family, nieces and nephews I didn't have before, my own beautiful children, health and peace. My cup sure overflowed . . .

. . . only for me to have to learn again and again that here will always be something I need to let go of, whether it be material or something from my heart—like dreams or plans or rights.



Our unforgettable hike to Sarkli.

However, what I'm finding out now is that more than anything I can give back to the Lord, what He really wants from me is not any of the things I've struggled to let go of, but simply my love. Whatever human love I can give to the Lord, He will turn

it into His divine love. And that love in the end is the only thing that can change me and change those He brings my way.

Yes, He wants my two fish and five loaves of bread that I can willingly give Him so He can do something glorious with them. But most of all He wants me to give Him, simply, the love of my heart.

UPDATE ON

OUR KIDS:

Emily Joy will be 10 in July. She's full of energy and laughter as always. She is almost done with fourth grade. She's learning to play the piano and I love it now when her playing starts to fill the house with a little tune (rather than banging on the keys!) She has a sharing heart and likes to care for other's needs. Our prayer for her is that Jesus will really be Lord of her heart, attitudes and emotions, especially as she enters her next decade.

Christine Faith is eight and she's finishing second grade. She whistles all day long, like a bird full of music inside. She loves to sing and to be loud and it

doesn't take much to make her laugh or cry. She has a servant's heart and is always ready to help whenever she is asked. We pray Jesus will use her life and voice to bring much glory to His Name.

Jacob Emmanuel is five and very

proud of it! He continues to be our sweet-and-gentle-in-heart boy. He can't wait to be six so he can start first grade. Hopefully, I'll soon have some girls giv-

ing me a hand in my school. Jakey's mind is always trying to figure out and define things with his little words. But it is his heart so full of love that always melts us. He prays faithfully for a brother and a bunk bed, neither of which has come yet. We pray He will always have God's blessing and be used by the Lord to bring many to His feet.

Anna Hope is our little 3 year old sanguine, although she doesn't like me to call her "little" anymore. She's usually happy and ready to make us laugh anytime. She's very easy going but also strong in what she wants. She keeps herself busy all day as she always has something she wants to accomplish. She is a very lively girl and we pray she will bring the hope of Jesus' eternal life to many.

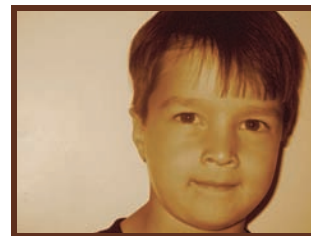
We appreciate your prayers for our family and our kids. Please continue to pray for Philip and I to raise them with wisdom and love.



Emily



Christy



Jakey



Annie

DEAR FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

By Keiry Jones

I was asked to write something for the River of God newsletter a long time ago. I do not know if I still will have a chance but I am going to try to put in words what is going on in my life and in the life of my family.

As many of you know by now, I have just buried my dad: Salvador Sanchez Carvajal. he was only 73 years old. Too young to leave us. But God has his perfect plan in everything. A least this is what I believe!

It has been a week and a day since the day we said our last goodbye to the body that was my dad. I have been on the road either coming or going since that day so today is the first day that I am at home really since that happened.

In 7 months I have lost two of the most special family I had. First my grandmother, who meant everything to me and to the whole family, and now my daddy. Before this I had to cry the death of Doña Flora a very dear friend to us and especially to me. I never knew I could hurt this much in my life. Most of you know me as a strong, happy, free person and I know it is hard for you all to think of me sad. But I am sad.

I am so happy to know that they all had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior and that they are with God waiting for us and that we will see them again.

Life With My Dad

I was born in January '68 right beside the park in my home town of Nicoya, Guanacaste. My mom was a divorced young women of only 19 years, with already a son of 3 years and my dad a single, mature man of 31 years. I was told that they never married because my mom was a divorced women and being Catholic that meant that my dad could not marry in the Church and could not have communion ever. I think that my mom was heart broken and to this day I believed she loved him with passion.

My mom had to work hard to feed us since she did not receive any money

from my dad or her ex-husband. She was a very proud women and always told us that she didn't need a man to help her raise us and I admire her for that.

My dad was then a very hard working man, who made lots of money building roads and bridges all over our country.

I don't have many memories of my dad as a little girl. At one point I even changed my last name to Carrillo since my younger siblings had that name and I wanted to be the same. But that made my dad mad and soon after that he started to get closer to me.



A family picture from 2007.

When I graduated from 6th grade it was my uncle who came and gave me a Seiko gold watch, not my dad. My dad paid for me to go into a all girls Catholic boarding school in Alajuela and that was when I started to see him more often. He worked near the Panama border so he would bring me very expensive perfumes and exclusive canned goods and all kinds of things. (He is the guilty one that caused me to have very good taste in perfumes to this day.)

I used to be proud of being Sanchez because my dad had so much money and was a very popular man. But I am more proud of him now for who he was. He died a poor man in the material world but he had helped so many people while living. Just the Friday before, I had called him after he had to go to the hospital and my mom went to help him. He told me that when he got to the hospital alone, he saw some people that he had helped years and years ago

by giving a birthday party to these people for their only child. They were so happy to see him and helped him right away with anything that he needed while in the hospital. God sent his angels to help him!

In the last years we had my dad come stay with us for months at time. He loved our home, the kids, the farm. He was even able to work again when he had hardly been able to walk. He helped me clear some pastures and some land by being there with the workers. He got so well physically that his older brother and now president and owner of the company called him back to work for them. He was no longer co-owner of the Construction Company, but a worker. My dad had been there from the beginning. He and uncle Mariano had many stories to tell about the beginning. We ALL loved to hear them over and over again. Many were a little exaggerated, but never the less, exciting!

We as a family went to see the new highway he was making, the San Ramon-San Carlos highway. It was awesome!. He got to be so close to the people from the small town that they killed a pig in his honor and invited all the workers to come and eat. We also ate and they were so nice to us.

When he got sick again he went back to his house. Later he came back and stayed longer and for Christmas! That was one of our best Christmas's ever. He was a man who could always find ways to make us laugh. He was the best grandfather and I know my kids miss him very much!

In these last years, I finally got to know who was my dad was, a man who was kind, loving, funny, outgoing, very friendly, full of jokes and sayings. He knew so many people from all kinds of social status, but it did not mean anything to him. He once told me that all the money that he had and all the places that he went, did not compare with the joy and love he had now. I told every-

one at the funeral that our dad left us a legacy that not many fathers could leave their kids, and that legacy was all the history of roads that he built and the love and joy he had for his kids and grandkids. I am going to miss him so much, but I am happy to know that he is not in pain anymore and he can eat all those delicious foods in heaven.

Now my dad was not perfect! But who is??? We all make mistakes in our lives and choose right or wrong. This does not makes us more or less than anyone.

Jesus still loves us and He knows our hearts! We can do good things all our lives, never drink even a beer or wine, never say a bad word or do anything that our society tell us is bad, but if our hearts are not right we are just all the same.

We can choose to do good because we want to or because it is the proper thing to do. He still weighs our heart or the reason.

I am not perfect! I am not even a very good missionary or leader, but one thing I know is that my heart cries for those who are in trouble and for the poor. I don't want to loose this ever. My mom says that I am so much like my dad and my grandmother, no wonder they got along so well!

The way I came to know my dad is the same way I came to know Christ. I was already a grown young lady when I came to know Jesus. I pray that I can get to know Him as well or even better then I got to know my Dad.

You know, our time here is so short that we need to live it to the maximum of what God wants from us.

We need to choose whether to be happy or sad! I want to choose to be happy even though there are hard times!

Our Family

Rebekah is working hard at dental school. She had some hard tests so she will need your prayers to recover from low grades. She is part of the student council of the Dental School. She is also going once a week to a VERY dangerous part of the capital to clean teeth. She comes to the apartment so tired and stressed. She told me the other night

that she can see why dentists get very tired having to keep their hands and bodies to the position to be able to reach our mouths. But she loves it!

Hannah is so busy that she is almost in bones! I told her that if she did not take time to eat well, I will bring her home and keep her.

Besides studying Business Administration, she is in the University Choir and also taking private singing lessons. The girls at the house joke that they do not need

to go see her perform since she is always singing in the house any way! She also plans on taking a part time job to increase her credentials and for the experience and money!

It is hard to keep up with Hannah!

Mark, he is doing well in school and also he is learning to play the electric guitar. He wanted

one for his 16th birthday, but we could not buy it for him then. He is such a good son and very loving. He is also hurting a lot from loosing his grandfather Tito. He is also doing swimming as a sport in school and skateboarding! Please pray for his and all of us safety.

Ruth is with her daddy in the south, home schooling. I miss her a lot and I know she is missing home too. But it is good for her to be there helping her daddy. She is such a special daughter very kind and loving. Please pray for her future schooling.

John, is learning a lot in school. He is so worried about time. He had a bad asthma attack yesterday at school and I had to come home from Turrialba to take care of him. All the teachers say that he is so sweet and loving and has a pure heart!

Abigail, she is so loving. She loves to hug and kiss us. Her joy is to see her big sisters every weekend! Now in school she is doing excellent and she is reading better now.

Timothy is at the Swiss Indian Mission Farm working hard on the last revision of the New Testament with Israel and David Lopez. I miss him a lot, but we know that it is important to finish the Cabécar New Testament. Please pray for all of us since being apart is very hard for every one.

Me, I am taking care of the home front and the farm. I have a lot of projects in mind. I am learning to lean on my Lord to take my sorrow away, to decide to be happy no matter what comes!

Thank you for your prayers and your financial help. These last months have been hard on us and we pray that The Lord

of the Heaven and the Earth will keep supplying our needs.

Blessings from our hearts to yours,
Keiry Sanchez de Jones.

"I AM NOT PERFECT! I AM NOT EVEN A VERY GOOD MISSIONARY OR LEADER, BUT ONE THING I KNOW IS THAT MY HEART CRIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN TROUBLE OR FOR THE POOR."



Keiry shares the progress and vision for the coffee farm with a team from Indiana.

BE PATIENT...FROM PAGE 1

bolt was dead, they remained silent. Then Levi said, "Oh, like Job!" I had been talking to them about Job 1:21 "The LORD gives and the LORD takes away. Praise the name of the LORD."

We thank the Lord for the time that we had the colt. We will patiently wait and hope that next year Paloma has another colt.

BE PATIENT

I thank the Lord for the two sons He has given me. They are good helpers and very creative. My major challenge with them has been homeschooling. I love teaching them, and through it I have learned a lot, especially the English language. Andrew is skilled at mathematics and working with his hands. Levi loves language and is a real thinker. The way I am, I have wanted them to advance at a more rapid pace. That is the thing that has frustrated me the most and often made me angry at them. Thinking, praying, and crying out to God for an answer as to why school work is so difficult, a phrase sprang up inside of me, "Be patient."

I have come to understand that many of the problems with homeschooling were my lack of patience. With all the ministry trips we have taken, we haven't advanced according to the program, but I have seen that they really are learning.

A prayer I read in a book that I like to apply to us is –

Lord, guide me by Your Spirit while I pray for my sons according to Your will. I leave them in Your hands so that it is Your will for their lives that is accomplished. I will try not to repeat my life in

my children. Don't permit me to tie them to my needs, to the things I want, to my desires or ambitions for them.

Don't let me be a stumbling block in

Your path as you form the life of Christ in them and give them Your best. Give me the grace to know how to wait on You because Your timing is perfect.

BE PATIENT

During Holy Week, David and Andrew went to visit our mountain friends and I stayed

home with Levi. I took advantage of the time to rest and spend time praying and reading the Word. Thursday I was praying for David and praying Ezekiel 37:26-27 for the believers. Then I read the Bible passage for the day, Numbers 11. I felt like the Lord spoke directly to me in Numbers 11:23. "Is the LORD's arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you."



Guaymi Children

The next day after praying and reading the Bible, I read another book about some missionaries in Cambodia and what the Lord told them when they had to leave the country for awhile. "When you leave, don't worry

about the work here, whether it will grow or fall in your absence. Know that

this is not your work, but Mine, and when you return, the church will shine like the sun."

Then from my room, I heard a verse on a video that Levi was watching.

"My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me." (John 10:27-28) Glory to God because the church in the mountains is His church and the believers in the mountain are His sheep.

That afternoon, David called me on his cell phone from the mountains. I told him what I had read that day. I was very happy because I knew that Word would encourage him.

The next day, while reading the Bible, I read Numbers 23:19.

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.

Does he speak and then not act?

Does he promise and not fulfill?"

These verses give me the assurance that every Word that

the Lord has spoken will be done.

The only thing left for me to say is "Blessed be the Lord." I will wait on Him.

With Love,
Lucy



Andrew and Levi in a dugout canoe.



The small home in Panama to use when working with the Guaymi.

**"IS THE LORD'S
ARM TOO
SHORT? YOU
WILL NOW SEE
WHETHER OR NOT
WHAT I SAY WILL
COME TRUE FOR
YOU."**

—NUMBERS 11:23

YAHWEH REIGNS!

By David Jones

Hi friends, since I'm presently free from finishing up my part of the Cabécar NT revision as Timothy, my brother, is working presently on his pending part of the project, I've taken advantage of the time to do other things. For awhile I've been trying to make time for treks into a couple of unreached Cabécar and Bribri communities. (With a lot going on, its sometimes hard to find time to go on certain treks that aren't to the main areas that we visit more regularly, where there are stable Christians and small church groups that we help teach and oversee)

During the first couple days of May, I started trying to plan a trip to the area of San

José Cabécar, upstream on the large Cuen of Talamanca river. The upper area of "Cabécar" as this area is also called, is Cabécar speaking and the lower area is Bribri speaking and is called Alto Cuen. Though once a very populated place, most of the population migrated down to the Talamanca valley or to other regions. Presently less than 10 families live in the Cabécar speaking part of San José Cabécar and this place is a dead end street, with no other communities beyond it, just jungle. Sadly though, this area is very important for their religion. In this community is a hill/knoll that bears the name of Sibö, the main Indian god. It is said that he would manifest there, that he was a small Indian man, that sometimes he would manifest himself as a handsome young man but other times as an old man full of body sores, that he would talk to no one except his niece... A stream comes out of this small mountain and crosses a main trail in that community. The stream is named "Sibö's stream."



A vine bridge .

Centuries ago the Spaniards stole the stone image of Sibö from San José Cabécar and apparently named it "San José" and this is also apparently where the community got this Spanish name from. A couple of years ago when a Bribri told me this story he said in reference to the image being taken: "Iepa a_te kë kkonuk ta_" That is: "they (the Indians) were left without a protector/guarder" When this brilliant, industrious young man told me this I could tell by his expression and tone of voice how

deeply he believed his statement! (Though I haven't confirmed this, I think the manifestations of Sibö quit with this image was taken from the area.)

I was deciding to try to hike up to San José Cabécar the week of May 10th but I was a little concerned that the weather would go bad, as we were in the very end on dry season. On Monday night the 3rd, I shared this idea with Lucy and we prayed about it. The next day I happened to find out the government doctors were going to be helicoptered into Alto Cuen of Cabécar the next day, Wednesday the 5th. I contacted those in charge of coordinating the flight and they said they would be glad to get us on the flight, if there was room.

Thankfully, we fit on the flight, along with the doctor team, two school teachers and the cargo! Me and my companion, Edwin, a brother from one of the ministries in the Talamanca valley, spent two nights in the upper Cabécar speaking area and two nights in the lower Bribri area. We spent the time walking around visiting and sharing with the people, seeking to plant seeds of Truth and combat darkness. The people of these communities are generally friendly. They have great soil to farm and

hunting is good. They are hard working. They are religious, holding tightly to their religion and sadly we have yet to see people from these areas truly transformed. Pray for repentance and transformations for those of these communities. Pray for the salvation of Margarito, a Bribri, and Juan the Cabécar witch-doctor and Ermelinda the old Cabécar lady who plays an important role in their religion.

Edwin and I hiked out uneventfully on Sunday. We were very thankful that the trip had worked out, that we were able to fly in, and that the weather remained favorable. The following week, when I had originally planned this trip, the weather turned bad and the rains started! God always has it figured out!

Alto Uren: I'm presently trying to go to another remote Bribri place of Alto Uren. Its not as important religiously, but is just as lost and traditional as San José Cabécar. Not many families live in this area either, but the few people that are there are very spread out and the mountains are steep there. Just the mountain to climb to get up into the area is a 3 hour climb! Please pray that this trip will work out and that God would provide the right companions, and give favorable weather and give us special boldness to speak the Truth with His signs following.

Have a great day,
David



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