



Jeff & Diane Brown working to lengthen the list of tribes, peoples, and languages that worship God

Summer Travels ~

Jeff, Diane, and Alyssa go to India in two weeks for two months of Urdu study. This seemed to us and to our colleagues as a good way to gain some ability in this language, which is the trade language of the “Angus” people we work with in Central Asia, and also the language most widely spoken where we live in Sharjah, UAE.

Jeff is still slowly working on the heart language of the “Angus” people, but without any consistent daily exposure to it, this is not easy.

Daniel is now in the US, where he will spend the time that the rest of us are in India. He is SO excited about it! After a week in California with the family of one of Diane’s sisters, working the lavender harvest, he heads to Lincoln, Nebraska to stay with the family of a good friend of his from 5th grade in Lincoln. He will go to a Boy Scout camp in Nebraska and a youth camp in Minnesota with the youth group from our home congregation. Here he is in the lavender field...



Translation Work ~

We live over here in Asia to office this seminomadic Muslim people group, the “Angus” the opportunity to know God by following His Son, the necessary-and-only Savior. In our work now, in addition to continued language and culture learning, we have two small projects with which we are involved. One of these is a project to get the New Testament translated into the “Angus” language. The lack of a culturally and linguistically appropriate version of the scriptures is a key obstacle to the ability of the “Angus” people to understand the faith option we are here to help present them. We are helping those “Angus” (some of the few who do follow this Savior) who are directly working on the translation, with financial and prayer support. Jeff just returned from another trip to Central Asia, on which he was unable to visit the translation office due to bombings and other violent unrest in the area, but was able to meet with some of the workers and discuss our partnership with them some more.

As we mentioned in the last BROWNEWS, we have adopted the use of the nickname “Angus” for the group of tribes we work with, for security reasons.

School Project ~

In the last BROWNEWS we described the other of the projects, a school run by an “Angus” headmaster and “Angus” teachers, (under-) funded by a poor, local “Angus” NGO, and attended by “Angus” children, up to the 5th grade. Jeff was able to carry in a large donation to help them buy text books, blackboards, pay one of the three teachers, to re-thatch the rain-damaged roof of the two outdoor “classrooms” to shield them from the sun, and pay the tuition some children are unable to pay.

Jeff visited the school again on this trip and interviewed two 5th graders, asking them what the importance is to them of this school. They said:

- Neela: *“I became very happy when this school began in my area. I want to help my parents in the future, so learning is important.”* Neela went to a government (bad education) school “far away” before. Her father pushes a wooden cart around the streets selling what goods he can. She read some of her English text to Jeff and accurately told its meaning in her language.
- Shista: *“With education I can become a doctor, lawyer – a good educated person.”* Shista used to attend a government school, but it closed. She is an orphan. **She could not afford the textbooks for this school year – they cost about \$6 for the entire curriculum. She also could not afford the monthly fee – 83 cents per month.** She is the first one to school six days a week, the best student, and even with her second-hand glasses she must put her nose on her book to see the words.

Jeff was able to speak briefly to the 4th and 5th grade class in their language: telling them his name, nationality, current home, and a little about Daniel and Alyssa. Later, the headmaster reported that after Jeff left they wondered out loud to him: “How in the world does an American know our language!” They felt known, significant in this world

Jeff Turns 47 ~

Can he really be that old?! Diane concocted a brilliant surprise party scheme, which worked like a charm. A dozen colleagues showed up ahead of time at a nearby restaurant on a dhow – a common boat used here to ferry goods across the Persian



Gulf. (The Persian Gulf is the water we see out our window.) Jeff almost didn’t make it to the party. He had been quite sick to

his stomach the night before, but Diane begged, and just barely succeeded. Jeff watched everyone else eat, but was touched nonetheless. He doesn’t act that old (see below J).



At right are some more pictures from the trip we took in April as a family: Jeff & Diane eating with their hands; the four of us out in the desert mountains; Diane with a horde of kids.

When you read this on our website, you can click the magnifying glass icon and increase the size of these photos for easier viewing.

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News from Jeff & Diane

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