

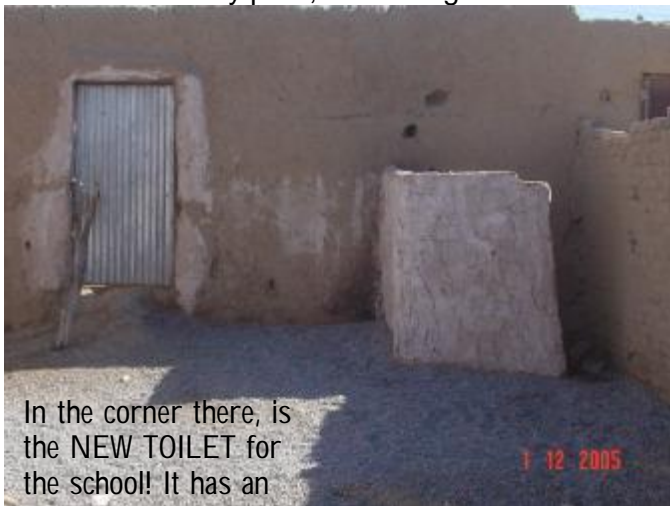


Jeff & Diane Brown working to lengthen the list of tribes, peoples, and languages that worship God

Development Work: Schools Project ~

The "Angus" language is one that could die out, if measures aren't taken to preserve it. Language is part of the DNA of culture, and vice versa. If it dies, their rich culture will be endangered as well. Some among them have become active in trying to preserve it. We have joined this effort, and supplied one all-"Angus" school with readers in their language. We will try to get them into another school in a different village this spring. We are also working with these schools to plan for their financial self-sufficiency or develop local funding sources, instead of relying on outsiders, in light of the government's neglect of education in many poor, rural villages.

This is the first time most of the kids have seen anything written in their language.



In the corner there, is the NEW TOILET for the school! It has an actual cement slab inside for squatting over, which is quite an improvement. (Not every kid makes it go in the whole, though) It cost about \$8.

From Jeff's Last Trip to Central Asia~

Jeff stayed with a Sunni family in a Shia village during his last trip, and 'Ashura fell during that time. His Sunni host evacuated his own family and Jeff to nearby villages, while he stayed behind to "hold down the fort". Two years ago, in that area, there was much violence and bloodshed, so now during 'Ashura there are curfews, and uncertainty.

'Ashura marks the anniversary of the death of Imam Husain, the grandson of Muhammad. It is a holy day celebrated more by the Shia Muslims than by Sunni Muslims, because Sunnis don't recognize Husain's claim to being the proper successor to Muhammad. Although tradition has it that a number of other important events occurred on 'Ashura, including Noah's ark coming to rest, the Prophet Abraham's birth, and the Kaaba being built, it is Husain's death that is the real focus. For Shia Muslims, 'Ashura includes "passion plays" of his martyrdom; some mourners beat their chests or even lash their own backs with spiked whips, lamenting and grieving over Husain's death.

As you know from the current news coming out of Iraq, Sunnis and Shias don't always get along so well; and 'Ashura is a time when their differences are heightened even more.

One Measure of Success ~

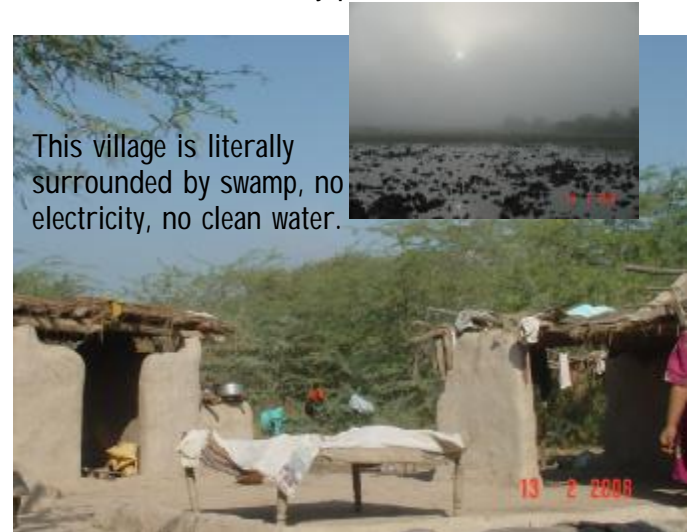
Our purpose statement says this: We live cross-culturally to offer a semi-nomadic Asian Muslim tribe the option to know God by following Jesus.

We are not the only people who are working to offer this tribal group the option to know God by following Jesus. There are few other "foreigners" doing so, but there have been some from their own people working at this for a few years also.

Well, from things that Jeff saw and heard on this last trip, it appears that quite a number of families who are exposed to this option and who see the positive changes in the lives of family and neighbors who have chosen this option, are themselves choosing this option to know God by following Jesus. The number of families is either in the hundreds or thousands – it is unclear at this point. Jeff went to a village trying to learn more. ↪

We, of course, think this is great! In western countries, we are used to having choices – in many areas of life, including our beliefs. For centuries these people have had only one option when it comes to belief. Now, more and more of them are experiencing Choice. Of course, if we thought that "having a choice" in and of itself was the final good, we probably wouldn't have left the life we knew behind to simply offer a neutral choice. We believe that choosing to know God by following Jesus is the best choice, and we are willing to leave a lot behind in order to offer these people this particular Choice.

But in the end, it *is* simply their choice. In matters of faith, we are definitely pro-choice!



This village is literally surrounded by swamp, no electricity, no clean water.

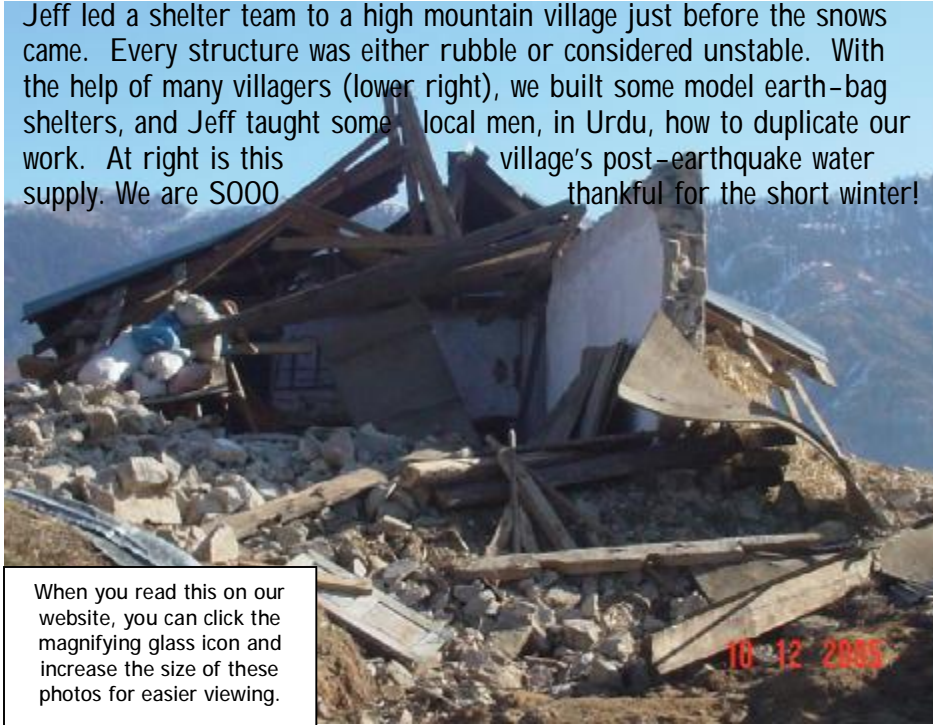
Jeff's bed one night – under the stars, mosquito nets

Translation Work ~

One important aspect of offering this people the opportunity to know God by following His Son is to offer them an opportunity to listen to (or read, for those few who are literate in their language) the Bible, not only in their own language, but in their language translated from the original in a way that makes sense to this people group, with their particular world view. We are helping those "Angus" who are directly working on the translation, with financial and prayer support.

From Jeff's Last Earthquake Relief Trip ~

Jeff led a shelter team to a high mountain village just before the snows came. Every structure was either rubble or considered unstable. With the help of many villagers (lower right), we built some model earth-bag shelters, and Jeff taught some local men, in Urdu, how to duplicate our work. At right is this village's post-earthquake water supply. We are SOOOO thankful for the short winter!



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



New Covenant Community Church
6000 S. 84th
Lincoln NE 68516

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 968

News from Jeff & Diane

If you know somebody without internet access who would like to receive BROWNEWS by mail, send their mailing address to Danny Keelan at: dannyk@inetnebr.com

If you received this through the mail, but you have internet access and can save us time and postage by viewing BROWNEWS Online, send your e-mail address to Danny at: dannyk@inetnebr.com

If you would like information about our Prayer Community, contact Danny: dannyk@inetnebr.com

Visit us at OUR NEW WEBSITE, located at:
<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/dannyk/brown>

There you will find past BROWNEWS issues, photos, information on Islam and Christianity, links to news about Central Asia and Venezuela, maps, and (as they say) much, much more!

Contact Information:
Phone numbers: 971-6-5722153
971-50-8725466, 971-50-8725472
E-mail: caracasbrown@bigfoot.com
