



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

Christmas Break ~

Daniel and Alyssa are still on their Christmas break. During the break, Daniel is preparing a Beatles song on the piano to perform solo when school resumes. He also has Arabic and a couple other subjects to study. Alyssa, however, is takin' it easy.

Our winter break vacation was a day about 10 miles from our apartment – at the world's largest indoor ski facility. Daniel and Alyssa took snowboarding lessons and then went on the slopes, while Jeff skied. Alyssa had snowboarded once before in the US. Both kids greatly enjoyed it, and did pretty well at it. Alyssa said it was the best ending to a Christmas break she has ever had.



It does feel a bit like winter around here these days; actually chilly – 57 degrees today, and overcast. Some people are wearing heavy coats with hoods. And it has rained several days in the last month!

When school resumes, Daniel will find out whether or not he made the freshman basketball team and Alyssa will begin netball.

Pakistan Earthquake~

If you want to keep tabs from time to time on the aftermath of the Pakistan earthquake where Jeff lived and served during the fall of 2005, go to www.pakquake.com. They compile a constantly-changing list of short recent articles about the quake recovery.

Thanks for Reading ~

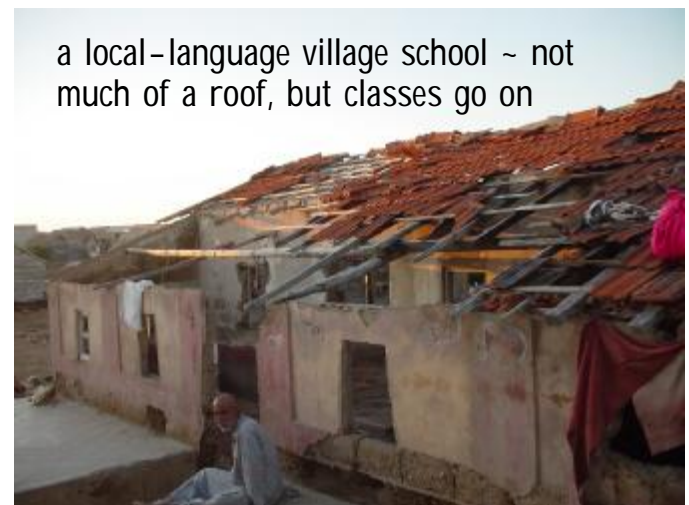
When we were in the US this past summer, we were encouraged by how many people mentioned that they had been reading our BrowNews newsletters and our Prayer Letters, and had been praying for us and for our work.

House Churches Spreading~

The underground “Angus” movement to JC seems to still be growing. Jeff took three days to visit four villages. Two were fishing villages – all without electricity, clean drinking water, toilets, or heat. The rhythms of life are a bit different in such places.

In each village there was a house church of Muslims who now follow JC. The house churches meet and worship in their native language – they pray, read and explain scripture, discuss how to handle various Islamic customs and traditions in light of their faith in JC, and take the Lord's Supper.

There are some really good things going on in the many villages affected by the “Angus” Followers of JC. [They do not use the term “Christian” for themselves, due to its associations with western imperialism and immorality. They use “Follower” or “Authentic Muslim”.] As you can tell from the lack of basic services, governments don't pay much attention to rural “Angus” people. In most villages there isn't a school, so in some locations the Followers started schools for lower grades where the medium of instruction is their local language.



And when some are discovered to have “changed their religion” and there is persecution, other Followers chip in and provide help. Jeff came across the patriarch of one extended family group he had met before whose houses had been torn down and crops destroyed. Other house churches in the area have taken the families in until they figure out what to do next.

All Followers of JC everywhere are still growing in the knowledge of our faith and how our backgrounds affect how we understand our faith. A typical “Angus” Follower at this point in the development of the “Angus” church could be characterized by these beliefs: that Mohammad was sent as a prophet, that JC is divine, that the Qur'an is inspired, that the Book (OT/NT) is the truest, that every person who does not follow JC is separated from God, that good deeds do not cancel out bad deeds to determine salvation. Their leadership, on the other hand, believe that Islam is a false manmade religion, that Mohammad was not a prophet, and that the Qur'an is not inspired. They keep training new leaders to train/teach the people.

extended-family housing with some charpies (beds) out front ~ Jeff slept on the one on the right



children using a plastic bag for a toy

Jeff had the opportunity to pass on teachings he has received over the years. He used the Balaam's donkey story to address a problem arising between parents and their adult children. He also taught on how the early church dealt with the danger of one-size-fits-all rules; the importance of men not neglecting the spiritual well-being of their wives; and Growing Kids God's Way. Back in the early '90s when we lived in the country outside Lincoln, we participated in a study called Growing Kids God's Way with some farmers at our church. Parts of it were extremely valuable, and Jeff's teaching on it was well received – the leader Jeff was with said he would pass it on to all the leaders. One house church leader asked, "Why didn't you bring your wife?" Next time.

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News from Jeff & Diane

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