

On The Rhoads

May 2011

Serving Christ Worldwide

Blessings & Requests

- Praise for 21 years of marriage!
- Please continue to pray for Susan and our new baby, due on 7/19.
- Pray for 20 more (\$50) monthly partners
- Pray that the relationships we've been cultivating in our neighborhood and community will result in more worshipers of Christ.
- Pray for our family, that we would deepen our commitment to the Lord, pray more, spend more time in Scripture, and that the Holy Spirit would give us the character of Christ.

Anna's Story

All is not great and glorious. Satan has never given up his ground without a fight. And following Jesus on the path of the cross is still too often forced upon His followers even today. This last week we received word from the Middle East about "Anna," a young woman who had fallen in love with Jesus and was following His ways. Anna was actively sharing about Him with friends and other women in her area by playing various songs, poetry and videos for them on her mobile phone and sending those materials on to those who were interested via Bluetooth phone-to-phone transmission.

Anna was killed last week by her brother at the insistence of her father. Anna had been told that following Jesus had brought shame upon the family and was given the opportunity to stop loving Jesus and stop following Him. But Jesus was a more precious treasure to her than life itself. PTL she now rests in the embrace of her eternal Father, knowing closer fellowship with Jesus than she ever experienced on earth. Pray for the other believers whose safety is still threatened and for her family who need the forgiveness that can only be found in Christ.



It Is Finished

A majority of Brad's time over the last two years has been invested in building a digital library system called Ibidem.

There are lots of collections of Christian materials that missionaries and others have written/translated into the various heart-languages of the world. Unfortunately, many of these collections are now just in hard-copy, sitting on a shelf and of no use to anyone. So the goal of Ibidem is to provide a tool to preserve these important resources and making them discoverable by people ministering in the those languages.



Brad giving a demo of Ibidem.

Ibidem was inspired by an MAF missionary in Thailand and is now being considered for a number of other projects, including a mobile website for Global Recording Network

Ibidem is free and open source software. So please spread the word to other missionaries and anyone who may have a need to build digital libraries. You can find out about Ibidem, including how to download it, from:

<http://maflt.org/products/Ibidem>.

Please pray that the many hours of work you make possible through your prayers and financial ministry support, will ultimately result in more true disciples of Jesus.

Scouts and Sports, Babies and Bonfires



- Brad is the Chaplain for David's Boy Scout Troop. And at the March camp out, with about 20 other troops, Brad preached an evangelistic message, "A Scout is Obedient."
- Brad is coaching Sarah's soccer team. One of the other girls on the team and her family joined us for Easter, which was a real blessing for us.
- We're building great relationships with our neighbors. A highlight for all the kids is the weekly Friday night bonfires and smores at our home.
- Susan is doing well, as we look forward to Jesus entrusting us with another of His children, due in July.

Teaching Kids in Costa Rica

La Carpio has no known internet connectivity, partly because of a major lack of resources, but also because of geographical isolation. Although within the capital city of Costa Rica, it's a slum separated from surrounding areas by rivers on two sides and a garbage dump on a third; the only way in or out is one thin road.

Partnering with another missionary who has served this isolated community for the last five years, we are helping shape the Christian impact here. A computer lab installed in August 2008 was in place and running, used almost exclusively by the children of La Carpio. However, with little supervision the lab had become largely just a computer arcade, opening it up to a variety of computer viruses and not reaching its full potential for helping the kids.

Over the last two years, with an active role and hard work, MAF Learning Technologies is seeing a huge turn-around in the lab. While in language school for his first year in Costa Rica, MAF-LT's Brendan Blowers spent some of his free time with the kids, practicing his newly acquired language skills. Eventually he discovered that their community center offered a lot of fun activities—including access to the computer lab. He began teaching classes but first had to devote considerable time to computer maintenance, including cleaning off the viruses, and loading office and training tools on each computer. Next was networking all 12 computers. The kids had been used to spending all their time playing distracting games; Brendan introduced them to games with purpose.

Although Brendan has experience teaching kids, he has never written his own curriculum. Putting together some challenging and fun lessons, Brendan began seeing God-given aptitude emerging from the kids. By mixing in educational games with their video games, the kids found themselves excited about the "games" that were developing their creativity and problem-solving skills. While the kids are "playing," they are acquiring high level skills and at the same time being exposed to the Word of God ... and the godly mentoring of an MAF-LT missionary like Brendan.



You can give online at www.maf.org/rhoads

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