



# FORDS 2 THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

February, 2017

Psalm 26:7

That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

Hello from Southern Arizona! As I write this it is hard for me to believe that we have been here for three months. The time has passed by so quickly. Since our arrival in November, 2016, we have seen the Lord prove Himself over and over as He has steadily opened the doors of opportunity for us to minister to the Tohono O'odham people. We are excited to share with you all that He has done.

Our first exposure to the works in the villages came in December, when we joined missionaries, Carroll & Jan Hughes down on the Southwest end of the reservation to deliver Christmas bags to the children. To get to these children we had to travel to several villages which included Hickiwian, Charco 27, Gunsight, and the far south village of Pia Oik. The images of these trips are still etched in our minds. As we drove into one of the villages, despite not knowing who we were or why we were there, the children chased after our vehicles and quickly gathered around us when we got out. As we handed out fruit bags to each child, some would immediately begin eating their fruit. At a time when they were receiving toys, the food bag held their immediate interest. It is heartbreaking to know that as it was Christmas break from school, lack of food had become an issue for most of these children. At another village, we put out tables where we distributed packs of socks and underwear to the children along with their Christmas bags. As a child, for me getting socks or underwear at Christmas was boring. However, for the O'odham children this was a real treat and blessing. They would tell you thank you over and over. While we wanted to be a blessing to the Tohono O'odham people, they blessed us in so many ways. As stated earlier, one of the villages we travelled to was Pia Oik, which is located eleven miles from the Mexico border. We were unsure if we would be allowed to go in as it has been very strictly regulated by the Border Patrol for several years now due to the area being a hotbed for illegal drug traffickers. Thankfully, the Lord opened the way and we were able to go in without incident. However, as we were leaving, we witnessed an apprehension out in the desert just a couple of miles north of the village.

Later in the month, we joined missionaries, Jay & Becky Shannon to visit the village of Cockleburr on the North end of the reservation to give out what is for most the only Christmas gifts that they would receive.

Instructions for submitting financial support to our mission agency:

Mail to:

Beacon International Baptist Mission  
PO Box 5907  
Johnson City, TN 37602-5907

1. Make all checks payable to: BIBM
2. Note: "Billy & Julie Ford" in the memo section of your check.



Village Outreaches



Continued on page 2...

## Southern Arizona

Post Office Box 222  
Fall Branch, TN 37656  
tnhawker2000@yahoo.com  
Telephone Number:  
423-444-6561  
[www.fords2thetonation.com](http://www.fords2thetonation.com)

\* NOTE: Our contact information will remain the same until we secure those services in Arizona.

Sending Church:  
Eastside Baptist Church  
Pastor David Fox  
195 Serral Drive  
Greeneville, TN 37745  
Telephone: 423-639-2582  
[www.eastsidebaptist.info](http://www.eastsidebaptist.info)

Mission Agency:  
Beacon International  
Baptist Mission  
bibmoffice@yahoo.com  
P.O. Box 5907  
Johnson City, TN 37602-5907  
Telephone: (423) 928-5759  
[www.beaconibm.com](http://www.beaconibm.com)



This visit was bittersweet as this was the first village we visited in 2012. The village God would use to call us to be missionaries to the Tohono O'odham. Because of that call, we are so pleased to report that at this point, the Lord has given us favor with all the villages that we visited and it looks as though we will be able to begin Bible Club services in several of them within the next few weeks. This brings us to another very important situation that we have encountered regarding the road conditions into many of the villages. Several of the roads are in extremely bad shape and are at times almost impassable by anything but a high 4-wheel drive vehicle. Due to this we have determined that the Mobile Mission (which is our physical "Lifeblood" to the village Bible Clubs) does not have the needed clearance to traverse these roads. After much prayer; the Lord through His people has provided the funds to raise the suspension by replacing the current axles with a custom-built set of "High Lift" axles that will give us the needed clearance. Once this project is complete, we will be able to start our Bible Club ministry.

In early December, we were also blessed to have Jay & Becky Shannon ask us to start a Junior Service at the Tohono O'odham Baptist Church in Casa Grande on Sunday mornings. We have had an average attendance of around (8) thus far and are thrilled to see the young people so eager to learn about the Lord. In early January, we were extremely excited to be able to start a "Teen Service" on Tuesday nights in the village of Ak Chin! We are running anywhere from (3 to 6) so far and are providing a meal along with the Bible teaching. Please pray for these young people to stay faithful to God's house and for their salvation as we try to reach them with the Gospel before the pull of the drugs, alcohol, and immorality grab their attention.

The last weekend of January, we travelled to the village of Sells for the 79th Annual Rodeo & Fair in the village of Sells. We joined missionaries, Carroll & Jan Hughes as they had acquired a fair booth where they gave out Bibles in the O'odham language as well as many bags that contained tracts and copies of John & Romans. It was so great to see the smiles on the O'odham people's faces as they saw the Bible in their own language. With this event, we have covered more than 1100 miles since Christmas ministering on this vast reservation and we have yet to start weekly Bible Clubs.

We have developed a plan for our Bible Clubs that we feel will help to promote and excite both those in charge of granting us permission to minister in the villages and the children that live there. Each Bible Club will have three sections:

- A. The curriculum that we will be basing our Bible Club lessons from will be the "Cadets for Christ" program that was written by Dr. Jody Jenkins at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in Gray, TN.
- B. We will be using "Archery" as our primary activity and Madison will be heading up that part of the work.
- C. Due to the overwhelming hunger issues that the children face, we will be serving a substantial meal.

**I am including separate flyers** with our prayer letter to give more details about these segments of our work in the Bible Club ministry as well as a list of needs that we would like for everyone to please pray with us that the Lord would provide. Please also continue to pray for the sale of our home in Tennessee as we are extremely excited about the work here in Arizona, but are also anxious to have a permanent place to live. Finally, with a humble heart, I want to say thank you so much for your prayers, support, and the special gifts that allow us to serve the Lord on the Tohono O'odham reservation!

For His Glory,  
Billy, Julie, and Madison Ford  
Missionaries to the Tohono O'odham Reservation

## FORDS 2 THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REACHING VILLAGES THROUGH BIBLE CLUBS

Our vision for the Bible Club outreach is to be able to teach God's Word on a weekly basis as well as provide an activity that we can incorporate into the scripture lessons. The Bible Club ministry will operate under the name: "**Road Runner Bible Clubs**" We plan to also use archery as a tool to involve the young people in both an individual skill as well as incorporate them into a team environment as we teach them the Bible during our training sessions Our daughter; Madison will head up this segment of the ministry that we plan to call: "**The Straight Arrow Youth Challenge**". We will transport this equipment with us into the villages and set it up on site as a part of our Bible Club. Everything can be purchased through the (NASP) National Archery in Schools Program at the manufacturers cost.

### Total cost for the equipment will run:

7 RH Genesis Youth Bows - 125.00ea	= \$875 (Includes (1) Mini Genesis)
3 LH Genesis Youth Bows 125.00ea	= \$375 (Includes (1) Mini Genesis)
5 Dozen Arrows - 200.00	= \$200
3 NASP Targets - 170.00EA	= \$510
1 Arrow Backstop Curtain -	= \$325 (This sits behind the targets and catches stray arrows.)
Portable Locking Bow Rack -	= \$210
	<b><u>Total \$2,495</u></b>

### We also have other needs that would be a blessing in the work:

Due to the extreme temperatures that we will experience in the summer months (120+) during the day, we are praying that the Lord will provide an extreme duty cooler for us to keep the food and drinks that we will be carrying from spoiling. In my research, I have determined that a model such as the **Yeti 105 Quart** would serve well as we will be out in the heat for as much as 8-10 hours per day at times. These coolers are expensive, but also very durable and are able to hold ice for very long periods of time. The current cost for one is around **\$480** before tax or freight if ordered over the internet.

Please pray along with us that God will supply these items for our ministry. Do not hesitate to contact Billy should you have questions about our Bible Clubs or the needs listed. Thank you so much.

**Mailing Address:**  
Post Office Box 222  
Fall Branch, TN  
37656

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**Email Address:**  
tnhawker2000@yahoo.com

**Visit us at our website:**  
fords2thetonation.com

## **FORDS 2 THE TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION**

### **The Tohono O'odham Christmas Shoe Box Ministry 2017**

Dear Ministry Partners,

Merry Christmas! While we hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas in 2016, our family is looking ahead to Christmas 2017! When do you start planning your Christmas? June? September or December 23<sup>rd</sup>?! Our family is hoping you will start today.

Arriving in November, 2016, we participated in Christmas outreaches to the Tohono O'odham villages. During those outreaches our family saw many families that would have not been able to provide Christmas presents to their children had it not been for the generosity of the missionaries and churches. However, due to limited resources, many villages, families and children were not served. It is our goal to be able to expand our services for Christmas, 2017 and we feel we have found a wonderful way to do that. We are excited to announce that we will be participating in the Native American Christmas Shoe Box ministry that is headed up by Brother Gerri Locklear at the Native American Mission Fund Ministries in Hendersonville, NC. Brother Locklear and his wife Sheril are members of the Lumbee tribe in North Carolina and have been involved in Native American missions for over 20 years.

Our partnership with NAHM will not only make a tremendous difference in the lives of the children who would not be receiving anything for Christmas, but it will also open doors in villages we otherwise would not be allowed in. This past December, we took gifts into some of the otherwise "off limits" areas and were so blessed to not only be able to give out the Gospel but also have several people ask if we could start coming on a regular basis. That folks is nothing less than God opening the door for us to start brand new Bible Clubs!

Later this summer we will send out information that will include:

- \*Shoe box size
- \*Age/gender designation instructions
- \*Appropriate items to include
- \*Approximate amount of shoe boxes needed per age/gender group
- \*Time requirements

Will you pray about being be a part of this very special Christmas ministry? If God leads you or your church to become involved; please contact Billy via e-mail at [tnhawker2000@yahoo.com](mailto:tnhawker2000@yahoo.com) and we will get you on the list for 2017. Thank you so much.

Billy, Julie, and Madison Ford  
Missionaries to the Tohono O'odham Nation, Arizona

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