

FLY FISHING

“Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men” Matt 4:19

The 25,000 piece jigsaw puzzle of LIFE!

It seems on the day you are born God joyfully takes a 25,000 piece jigsaw puzzle and with an eager grin inverts the box and dumps every piece excitedly on the floor of the delivery room. What looks like utter chaos and fragile infant failings to us... in HIS mind is the beginning of another wonderful life...created to be a beautiful picture like none other.



“Where do we start?”, we wonder as parents. Do we begin with the straight edged border of the puzzle or some bright eye catching detail in the middle? Then some character takes shape, years tick by, and the “jigsaw puzzle”...with barely even all the pieces right side up....starts out on its own adult life journey. Watching our first “jig saw puzzle” leave us was humbling....so much of it not finished, and what exactly is the picture on the front of the box? Oh Lord, hover over Ben, piece by piece, as his puzzle comes together! Let him keep his eyes on YOU..the BOX TOP HOLDER!



Saying good-bye to Ben just before he left on the plane to the USA. He will be attending Oregon State University in the Fall, and has received a 3 year Army ROTC scholarship. We praise God for this provision!



Susan, Bryce, Luke, Ben and Adam soaking up precious family time. This summer Bryce went to Chile with Teen Missions International. His team will be evangelizing and rebuilding a chapel destroyed by an earthquake in 2010.



Nathan (friend), Ben and Luke caught a nice sized squid one night while camping. We are thankfully not far from the ocean. Homemade spears and duct-taped flashlights can keep boys occupied for days!

I am somewhat obsessive when it comes to jigsaw puzzles. I become a mess when someone dumps a billion piece puzzle on the table and then walks off. My back cramps and my eyes water with a deep weird need to complete it. We are finding that is the way we are doing our life too. Here we are at 40, been at this "missionary stuff" for a while now...and we don't even have the border completed yet! "For goodness sake! Just find the pieces with the straight edges! How simple is that?" But sometimes you are just stuck on 100 pieces that all look one color...or 100 days in a row that look kinda the same...and your eyes cross a bit...

Those stubborn monotone looking pieces...



For many years we worked with a particularly difficult national family here in our town. Their kids ran wild and the problems were endless...but year after year we would persevere in reaching out to them. Notice the boy with his hands on his hips in the picture? That is Ejohn in 2001. Ten years ago he used to come to the library at our house. We have not seen him for four years now...until last month...when he stood in the road...red eyed and drunk and threatening me unless I gave him money for alcohol. Then he recognized me, hugged me and called me momma with his musty beer breath. Suddenly, all those little mundane

pieces of time spent in years past took the shape of something we both recognized....HOPE. No drunk calls you momma unless you did the momma thing before he became a drunk. Now his pot smoking friends have said they want to come to our dirt floor church! So we slip back through the mud every Sunday morning to the shack in the shade where they all live...and we have yet to have even one of them actually get in the car with us...but we keep on asking, keep on slipping in the mud. We are believing that these small pieces of the puzzle...the seemingly mundane ones...will soon take shape into reconciliation between Ejohn, his drinking buddies and their Savior.



As I write this letter, Brian is flying long hours, with load after load of eager passengers from all over the world. They have come to our island to witness the dedication of a New Testament that has been completed for yet another people group here! For 29 years the translators overcame huge hurdles. There were thousands of hours spent over this portion of their life puzzle...backs bent...eyes strained....for the purpose of HIS GLORY. This celebration is the culmination of so many little mundane puzzle pieces. Box after box of completed NT's will be unloaded from the cargo hold of the airplane today...and they will be carried on shouting recipients shoulders...and the celebration will go on for days.

After all, everyone stands back and takes a break to celebrate when some big piece of the puzzle comes together. The puzzle becomes more beautiful...makes more sense...looks "do-able". The big beautiful picture is made up of the small insignificant pieces.

Our "todays" feel full of those "seemingly insignificant pieces".

Today I will go and climb up into the little shack where dear Lince (pictured at right) is staying. I will give her more medication for her typhoid fever, make sure she has food and pray for her healing...again. Brian will soon be turning his plane homebound with hot and tired celebration goes. Another piece in place...another day passed.



We don't know where this letter will find you, but we do know WHO is standing beside you as you read this. Not one of your puzzle pieces is "mundane" to Him, not one will be lost. With God, life is never "just another day at the office". Every diaper changed, smile given, hand shaken, and word spoken MATTERS. Each little piece is a part of the beautiful picture He had in mind when he created you. We pray He returns before our puzzles are finished. Imagine that! Our backs will straighten, and our straining eyes will see Him!

Until "The Box Top Holder" comes, and because He will!!!

Praise and Prayer:

1. We praise Him for healthy bodies! Since returning here 11 months ago we have walked through Dengue fever, typhoid fever and 6 cases of malaria, but we praise Him for healthy bodies that bounce back!
2. Brian took over the manager position for our organization in March. Wow did the puzzle pieces increase! Please pray for Brian as he works in this role and continues to fly many hours.
3. We need wisdom as we parent our boys/men. That is a no-brainer :-)) Ben starts college this Fall, he would appreciate your prayers too! Luke is volunteering in several villages this Summer, pray for protection for him!
4. We are still daily pursuing leads on a place to live here long term. We are borrowing a home until Christmas. This process has been long and winding...please pray for breakthrough for us!

If the Lord puts on your heart to join our team with financial support, or for one time gifts, tax deductible donations can be sent to Wycliffe Bible Translators address below. Please attach a separate note indicating your donation is for the ministry of Brian and Susan Stubbs account number 311268. Thank you to all of you who have so generously given and stand by us each month!



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