

April - June, 2010

Editors: **Harold & Brenda Bracken**

Vol. II; Issue 2

**Harold & Brenda**  
**December, 2009**

## “40 Years and Still Going Strong!”



Way back in **August, 1970**, Harold, Brenda and Angela moved to Rochester, PA, and entered a missionary ‘Boot Camp’ operated by New Tribes Mission (NTM). Even though we really weren’t sure what ‘boot camp’ was all about, we were excited to be moving in the direction of foreign missions on a journey that would take us half way around the world.

In **January, 1972**, after about 17 months and countless ‘lessons from the Lord’ later, we moved to NTM’s ‘language school’ located right on the Lake of the Ozarks near Camdenton, MO, for the last year of phonetics and language training before being released to go to a foreign mission field. Chip joined us while we were in Missouri, and we completed language school in January, 1973! We were now ready to go to **Indonesia!**

Finally, in **November, 1973**, we left for Indonesia which would be our ‘home’ for the next 17½ years. Even before we finished our Indonesian language study, we were asked to work at the NTM boarding school at Wajok Hulu right on the equator just outside the city of Pontianak on the western end of the island of Kalimantan (Borneo). What a thrill it was to be involved in the lives of all those missionary kids (MK’s)! In

**March, 1974**, our first year at Wajok, Shannon was born, and in December of that same year Shannon drowned. Many of you remember sharing our grief during those very difficult days.

In **May, 1980**, we moved to the island of Sulawesi (Celebes) to help establish another MK school and served there for another 12 ½ years still teaching MK’s in elementary school until we returned to the US in **May, 1991**. We then served from NTM’s MK Educational Center in Camdenton, MO, for the next 2 years.

In **August, 1993**, we transferred to United World Mission’s International office in Union Mills, NC. (That’s how we ended up here! ☺) And then in **May, 1997**, we transferred to Equip through which we still serve today!

**August, 2010**, will mark our **40th anniversary** in our various mission-related ministries! We’re still excited about being involved in missions, and we’re thankful that we’re still having a part in the lives of missionaries as we train them through the various programs offered by Equip! And through these ministries people are coming to know Christ! Please thank the Lord with us for His faithfulness over these **40 years** of ministry, and please plan to continue to ‘serve’ with us and through us for the ‘next’ **40 years!** ☺

Many of you have been on our ‘team’ since way back in **1973** when we flew off that very first time! Some of you joined our team much later, and a few of you have been team members with us only a short time. Whether you’ve been with us ‘since the beginning’ or have just started with us, we’re so thankful and grateful that you are part of our team. We can’t minister without your prayers and your financial support! ☺

by **Harold & Brenda**



**Harold, Brenda, Angela & Chip**  
**ready to go to Indonesia in 1973!** ☺  
(Have we changed much?!?)

## “CHE Chatter”

It's never happened before this year! For the very first time, the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) seminars scheduled for Vancouver Island, BC, Canada, for July, 2010, was almost full by the end of March! I couldn't believe it! And there were enough to schedule another CHE in Canada for the first week of August! So that's what we did. This was the first time ever for Equip to have 2 CHE programs during the summer months in Canada!

Then it happened! After 13 years of having a usually full CHE program at the end of Equip's spring semester, the CHE scheduled for here at Equip this month had to be canceled for lack of attendees! I couldn't believe it! That has never happened before this year.

Then it happened again. One-by-one those who thought they could attend the August CHE in Canada slipped away and now that program has also been canceled. We're down to 2 programs instead of 4! But...

But God has a plan, and we're stickin' to it! Brenda and I will be in Canada at the end of July for a little over a week to 'facilitate' the CHE seminars, and we're excited about that! Please pray for the 17 attendees and us! ☺

by **Harold**

## Praise and Prayer Updates!

At the end of May Chip had another scan to determine the condition of his cancer. The results indicated that he's still cancer-free! Praise the Lord with us for answering prayers!

As I'm writing (but not as you're reading) Keith, Angela, and Kids are somewhere over the Pacific Ocean on their flight from Hong Kong to San Francisco on their way to the Ft. Worth, TX, area. (PS. Angela called to let us know they made it home safely! PTL!) They'll be here in North Carolina with us on June 11th for a couple weeks, and we're really looking forward to having them here!

Please pray for them as they adjust to life back in the US.

Please continue to ask God for additional students for Brenda. She still has only 2, but there may be some possibilities.

Brenda has been working for the US Census Bureau for the last month or so 'counting' people. She's really enjoyed most of it, and it has given us some much-needed additional income.

As Harold and I look back over our 40 years, we stand amazed as we see how richly the Lord has blessed us with so many dear, dear Friends like YOU! To each of you we send our love and deepest heart-felt thanks for your friendship, your prayers, your financial support, but most of all your love. Thanks for letting us be a part of your 'family' for **40 years!** ☺

by **Harold & Brenda**



## “NILD News”

One of my two students has dyslexia. She reverses letters in spelling, in speaking, and even reads words in sentences in reversal. She is very intelligent and is in the process of learning how to keep letters and words in order so that words and sentences make sense. Disorder in her life isn't something she recognizes at the moment, but eventually she will realize when 'things' are out of order and be able to change them.

Aren't we as believers the same way at times? "Things" get out of order, and we don't even recognize it. Let's let God 'order' our lives so we can be better used of Him! ☺

by **Brenda**

## Nigerian update

John and Lydia Apeh are national missionaries with Equip serving in their home country of Nigeria overseeing a national school program. John wrote the following:

“Students [at 3 Christian schools] are coming to know Christ in a personal way.

Please pray for our safety from attacks of the devil and the non-Christians around us. Last month (March, 2010) hundreds of Christians were killed in [the city of] J\_\_\_. Please pray for the family members left behind.”

Please remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ as they struggle each day to just survive in Nigeria.

by **Harold**