

# \*\*\*Harv-e-News\*\*\*

February 2012

**Whoa!**

We just realized that it has been since November that we've sent out an update, and lots has happened. This week I'm working hard to turn my Uighur into Turkish. It is really fun! Uighur is a Turkic language, but the differences are just enough to get me into lots of trouble. For instance, "Older brother" in Turkish, if I tried to say it in Uighur, would be "Nasty Brother." Things like that. So things could get pretty "Eski" for me in the next few weeks, as I'll be in Turkey for about 15 days. My bags are packed and full of things I'll need the Lord to get me through customs with. Any prayers most welcomed! Thank you!

Ann and I are so grateful for any prayer and for your fellowship and friendship in this ministry! Thank you! I'll let you know how Turkey went next update. Here's a quick update since November.

Family: Well, sometime this summer we started seeing a change in our Joseph. Always a wonderful kid to know, (and yes, I have to start calling him a man now), it turns out that this summer something DID happen to him. He communicates to us in stories that he writes. He is a really fun writer; lots of drama and hidden meanings in adventures. Things he'd rather not say, he writes and allows us to read. God is working in his life, and no font can express how huge that is to his mom and dad. For those who pray for him, thank YOU!

Ann's mom is well and so wonderful to live right next door to, (well, diagonally so). What a blessing that our children know her, her faith in Christ, and get to see her example. She brings faith and hope into every relationship and day. Lydia and Dayna are stepping into new expressions; Dayna with a worship Dance team in Charlotte; Lydia taking voice lessons, and both asking harder questions (from MOM, thank you again for praying!) (-: about faith, and why things are the way they are in this world. Growing up for sure!

Theresa still loves her work at Lifeway, and continues finding next steps with the Lord in ASL and in ministry to young adults who struggle in decision making. She's a wise lady (who also asks questions of her MOM).

Ann and I are experiencing God. We are hearing His voice more these days than in recent months, and learning to step into things that we normally wouldn't.

The paper work for Release the Oppressed Ministries is with the IRS now and we should hear any day now, if we are approved for tax exemption status. Then we can launch our website, which is just about finished. Very exciting for us!

Okay, for fun stuff: I got to go with an amazing team from Eternal Church, to Casa Bernabe, Guatemala, the week before Christmas. They were an awesome team! If you want my full Guatemala Report (I warn you though, that though factual, it is also kind of insane), just let me know: [ROHTom@comporium.net](mailto:ROHTom@comporium.net)

Then again with Eternal Church and the Orphan Care Ministry Team and Care Team and lots of awesome volunteers, we went out and celebrated Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>, with the children and staff at York Place Children's Home. [www.yorkplace.org](http://www.yorkplace.org). Pizza party, hay rides, fun games, worship in the chapel, and then back to the dining hall for hot chocolate,

and the church bought shoes and gifts for the children, and the whole night was just so much fun. I'm guessing about 150 people were out there joining the children. The kids all got along so well, you couldn't tell who were from the church, and who were from York Place. Kids loving kids! Just a really special night.

Writings: Okay, I've slacked a bit in the writing section. At [www.answersTom.com](http://www.answersTom.com) I have started editing an old article I wrote back in the early 90s. I got three letters in one week, from inmates asking, "How can I hear from God?" So part one of that answer is up, and I hope to add to that as soon as I get back from Turkey. But, and this is a first, the online magazine "niNe" asked me to write about "being vs. doing." And so instead of answering a question, I got to ask the reader, "Are you a be-er, or a do-er?" The magazine is designed for teen ladies, and so I relied much on groovy editors (who don't use the word 'groovy' apparently), Melinda and Irene. You can see the article at: <http://www.ninemagazine.org/Faith/Are-You-A-Beer-Or-A-Doer.html>. If you know young ladies who you want encouraged, click around. And by the way, I'm a do-er, and Ann's a be-er, and we will soon celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So no excuses! Get along, Church! (-:

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, our Orphan Care Ministry team at church, will host a half day seminar on, ministering to your adopted child. Experts in the field, from Crisis Care Training International (<http://www.crisiscaretraining.org/>) will be coming out to offer this training. It will be from 9:00am to 1:00pm with folk lingering to ask questions until 2:00pm. Brunch provided! So if you are in the Charlotte NC/Fort Mill, SC area at that time, and want to take part in this special day, just drop me a line. Tell others you know who have questions about adoption, or hesitancy about adoption, or who have adopted and just want some more support as they seek to minister to their son or daughter.

Okay! That's all for now! Ann and I are doing well on the vegan thing. She's so helpful and supportive. Wow! Always coming up with new recipes. I do my best too, and let me close with a helpful tip, for those of you just starting out:

#### Cooking Tip from Tom:

If you find that you've put too much chili pepper in your tomato, tofu, bok choy, celantro and curry-onion stir fry; to help neutralize the heat, simply add one large spoonful of Jiff's all natural, low sodium peanut butter. Stirring, let it melt in. It really does help neutralize the heat. On the downside; it tastes gross.

Blessings to you!

*Tom and Ann*