

OBI office (contributions):
2921 St. Andrews Drive
Findlay, OH 45840
Phone: 419-423-1556
E-mail address:
obi@olivebranchinternational.com



Field Address:
Bobby & Denise Dickens
PO Box 1346
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636
Phone: 520-458-0013
www.olivebranchinternational.com

December 2008

Jesus is the Reason for the Season



Merry Christmas!

Happy Hannukah!

It's the kind of Christmas he's dreamed of... soaring through clouds at subfreezing temperatures, his winged "sleigh" (airplane) loaded with goodies, landing perfectly on the high-valley airstrip, little Navajo children cheering the plane's arrival, tribal leaders receiving gifts for distribution among the people... ah, a dream come true!

† **Faith** – Now *faith* is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things unseen (Hebrews 11:1)

Bobby is stepping out in **faith** to be a pilot for reasons just like this. In November he and his fabulous instructor Jon Nelson flew as part of an airlift of 27 planes loaded with 3 tons of toys, clothes, and food to Window Rock, a Navajo community in northeast Arizona. This trip wasn't just ministry; it also fulfilled the double cross-country requirement for his private pilot license. And since Jon was making the trip anyway, it didn't cost Bobby a dime!



Captain Dickens



Bobby with flight instructor Jon Nelson

In numerous ways like this the Lord has provided for Bobby's flight training. He studies diligently, and Jon is impressed with his ability to maneuver in the worst of conditions. In fact, by having to deal with high altitude, heavy cross winds, and restricted military zones here in southeast Arizona, Bobby is learning skills that will serve him in almost any part of the world.

Our hearts are still for the nations. Bobby's flight training is part of our preparation for returning to the mission field; so is our completion of a four-part discipleship series at Shiloh Christian Ministries. We don't know when or where, but the Lord continues to turn our eyes to the harvest. Naturally, the harvest in the US is plentiful, and we praise God for opportunities to reach out to our neighbors here.... Yet our hearts are for the nations, and it is our **faith** and **hope** to again serve the Lord on the mission field.



Hope – *Hope* does not disappoint,
because the **love** of God is shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us (Romans 5:5)

Christmas is a time of great **hope** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Our **trust** in His death and resurrection should also snap us to attention, taking our focus off of world news and onto what Jesus has already done – He paid the price for us to dwell with God forever, starting now! We can **trust** Him to be with us in every circumstance and to provide for all of our needs. As we pray for our new President to serve well and for our economy to be uprighted, let's fix our eyes on Jesus and keep our **hope** in Him!

♥ **Love** – And now abide *faith, hope, and love, these three;*
but the greatest of these is love (I Corinthians 13:13)



God's **love** for us, our **love** for God, God's **love** for our neighbor... there is nothing greater than the **love** of God! And while everything seems to be legislated these days, there is no law against **love** – God's Word says so! (Galatians 5:22-23)



iFeliz Navidad!

The Lord's been teaching us about His **love** in very practical ways. In fact, He outlined to us three specific guidelines: **Stop accumulating. Get rid of the excess. Give to the poor.** It's amazing what happens when we pass up some attractive little trinket at the store and choose instead to help a neighbor, a missionary, or another person in need.... God was so faithful to give and to **love** by sending us His only begotten Son. His **love** motivates us to walk in **faith, hope, and love** – toward Him and toward all those around us!

The **OBI Sponsorship Program** is still very active, linking sponsors with students in Honduras and Guatemala. Two students at Jose Gilberto Christian School (Guatemala) are in need of immediate sponsorship - \$20/month provides a student with tuition, books, uniform, and a daily meal. Call, write, or e-mail to become God's hands extended to one of these little ones!



On a personal note...



Caleb (below left), age 12 and in 6th grade at Shiloh Christian School, is a whiz at history and geography! **Alicia** (14, right) is (unbelievably) a freshman in high school! She has a beautiful voice and expresses a desire to sing for the Lord. **Elizabeth** (21, center right) is engaged to a young man in the Marine Corps! They plan to marry next June in Ohio. With our children growing up, **Bobby & Denise** (center) have a lot more to trust God for! ☺ Denise enjoys her two part-time jobs: at Shiloh Christian School teaching Spanish, and at S & S Tours arranging tours to Mexico. ¡Qué bueno! Bobby studies full-time and plans to take on full-time work soon. He says his mind has really sharpened up since he's been studying. In order to achieve his private pilot license, he still has to take the written and oral tests – so keep praying!



We love you very, very, very much. Thank you for all your love and prayers this year. God's blessings be yours in abundance!

In joyful service of our King,

Bobby & Denise

and family

With **faith** and **hope**,
let's **love** with our **whole heart**
this season!

Jesus is the Reason for the season