



# HELPING HANDS

JASON & JONIE MELLINGER ● JANUARY 2012

SERVING WITH NEW TRIBES MISSION

Our last letter was full of stories and adventures with airplanes, motorcycles and helicopters, cities, towns and remote mountain villages, lots to see and do in a short amount of time. But the human body can only handle so much adventure, so much lack of sleep, and so much rice before it starts to shut down. For me, I get irritable, for Jonie, she needs to sleep, both of us need time by ourselves, and we need to be careful to take that time. This last trip was exhausting, and the recovery time was incredibly short, basically the 32 hour flight back to America. Once we returned we had one day to unpack, clean up and recover before we started to help with our first class.

Over the last couple of semesters our teaching load has slowly increased. Jonie is helping with Field Health, a class to help the new missionaries be able to provide medical care for their families and the people in their villages. It is amazing how many health issues missionaries have, not to mention the death and sickness of the people they work with in the village.

Jason is heavily involved with the Practical Skills class. Living in the jungle with solar power and batteries, getting all groceries and other supplies every three or four months via aircraft, being able to keep and maintain a home and basic technology with little



A student learning to use a chainsaw

or no experience or mechanical skills is very difficult. For two weeks the students aren't allowed to use any appliances, mixers, microwaves, etc., no lights after 9 PM, and one hour a week of phone and internet (emails only, no Facebook!). All of their food is ordered via radio and

purchased by someone else and everything that they eat is made from scratch. Then for two nights and three days they live in the woods where they learn how to tie knots, sharpen knives, build fires and shelters, butcher and cook chickens on a fire, as well as use and maintain chainsaws, topography maps, GPSs and develop navigation skills on unfamiliar terrain to an unknown location. These skills will help them survive and even thrive in extreme remote places around the world and focus on their Bible translation and teaching.



Jason's knot tying class



Jason's wigwam house we live in



Inspecting shelter building



If the tribal missionaries' knowledge fails them and they need someone to come and help, they will call for assistance. Right now, most of them have Jason as their only option, but the goal is to have a tech specialist working in every country in the next few years. The only way we can reach this goal is through training new technicians, which brings us to the final course where Jason uses his experience. This week we are beginning the third semester to train new tech specialists. Jason will have a part in this class as well when we return from Asia Pacific, teaching concrete construction, small and large engines, welding, etc.

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

**Travel to Asia Pacific** - We've been asked to return and teach this tech class to Indonesians, through a translator. I'm really glad I spent time in India speaking through a translator so I can kind of mentally prepare for teaching a class in another language. Also we will be setting up another solar system, repairing a wiring issue on a truck, rewiring another house and surely the myriad of projects that come up. We will be there for 6 weeks. Please pray for us as we teach, serve and travel!

**Baby/Travel to Alaska** - We are expecting our first child in June. We will be going to Alaska after graduation in May to spend a few months there and be back in time for classes in August. We are very excited to be home in the summer this time!

**House** - We are having to consider our future, not only where we're going to be in a few years, but where we're going to live. The house we live in now has been condemned and slated for destruction soon. We're not sure how much longer the roof will sag instead of collapse, nor are we sure what to do when we have to move out. Rent, buy, move...We need wisdom for this.

**Finances** - We are \$981 short of our minimum recommended amount of pledged support including the added expense of a child. Plus our traveling expenses are about \$10,000 per trip not including equipment and supplies. It's more expensive than we anticipated, but the CAUSE is worth it!



**Jonie teaching how to make tortillas from scratch**



**Baby Mellinger**

### **PARTNER WITH US**

[www.ntm.org/jason\\_mellinger/give](http://www.ntm.org/jason_mellinger/give)

Call: 866-547-2460

Or send a check made to New Tribes Mission with a note for Jason and Jonie Mellinger to:

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