

January/February 2016

TECH INTERCESSOR

903-757-4530

25 FRJ Drive, Longview TX 75602 www.techteam.org

Passing THE MANTLE

YOU and I, along with the organizations in which we are involved (family, business, church, etc.) are constantly faced with various transitions. Missionary TECH Team is in the midst of such a transition – a process that has been on-going for a number of years. Birne Wiley and his friend, David Carnahan, joined hands in the fall of 1968 to lay the groundwork for a new service mission to help with the technical needs of ministries worldwide. Consultation with a number of recognized “experts” in mission organization said that it would be impossible to implement and sustain such an agency.

There were several basic reasons for such an assessment. First, qualified technical persons would be wary of joining an organization where they would be responsible for developing faith support. Second, if they did join, it would be virtually impossible to generate adequate finances since they would be located predominately in the states rather than in a foreign setting. Third, it was to be the policy of the organization to not withhold support from personal ministry accounts for financial undergirding of the Mission.

But God! For these 47 years, God has faithfully met the personal and organizational needs for Missionary TECH Team to provide **Technical Engineering and Consultant Help** to more than 1,000 ministries located in every state and in over 100 countries.

The transition process involves virtually every

person that is associated: boards, missionaries, prayer and financial partners as well as those whom we are privileged to serve.

Scripture give us numerous examples of leadership transition: Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, Paul to Timothy and a father to a son. It has been the fervent prayer of we at TECH that the “product” would be outstanding AND that the “process” would honor Christ in every detail.

We believe that goal has largely been accomplished with the installation of Randy Harris as TECH’s new President on October 30. Birne Wiley served as the Founder and President for 47 years and now continues to serve as Founder and through Ministry Partner Relations activities.



(continued on the BACK)

Trustees began asking the Lord for wisdom in the selection of a new leader after Birne had a heart attack in 1996. In God's sovereignty, that process continued until the fall of 2013 when it became clear to the Board and to the Harris' that Randy would meet the established requirements for the new President.



Birne Wiley and his wife, Lynella

Absolute requirements included: 1) A person deeply committed to Christ and a man of the Word; 2) Enthusiastic agreement with the Biblical stance of TECH; 3) Fervent commitment to the ministry purposes of the Mission; and 4) A wholehearted assurance of the "by faith" principle of personal and organizational financial support.

As in most transitions, an effort is made to build on the strengths of the past while being cognizant of areas that require strengthening . . . or even eliminated. The world of missions has made significant changes since TECH's founding in 1969. An intense effort has always been made to accommodate such changes.

Those foundational principles are evident in the life of Randy and it is a great joy to welcome and endorse him as the new President of Missionary TECH Team. I strongly urge and request that you undergird him in prayer just as you have done for Lynella and me these previous 47 years!

Randy and Connie first came to TECH as missionaries in the early 1980's and served faithfully for five years before

returning to their previous ministry at Camp Barakel in northern Michigan where they served for the next 30 years.

Randy was invited to serve as a TECH Associate in 1999 and in 2001 became a member of the Board of Advisors. In 2003, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees and in 2006 became Trustee Chairman where he served until rejoining TECH as a missionary staff member in 2014.

A great blessing is that Randy comes into this new ministry assignment without being encumbered with any organizational indebtedness. TECH's facility and ministry "tools" are outstanding. The dedicated missionary staff is deeply committed to the purpose of TECH by using their training, skills and experience in their respective ministry assignments.

One great challenge TECH faces is in the recruiting of experienced and qualified professionals that gives stability to the organization. Simultaneously, there is a great desire

and effort to recruit vibrant, enthusiastic younger people desirous of using their passion for serving God with an eternal perspective.



Randy Harris and his wife, Connie

Global conditions make this a daunting task! It takes a "people person" having administrative skill and spiritual discernment to meld

all these elements together. Randy has served not only in direct faith mission endeavors, but also in leadership roles on other board memberships. He is a voracious reader, a quick learner and a builder of people in teamwork. We rejoice that God has led him and Connie to TECH!



From the inception of TECH in 1969, the purpose has been to accomplish the ministry goals through teamwork. That entails not only missionary staff, but also boards, prayer and financial partners. Therefore, any accomplishments can be attributed to our united working together for the cause of Christ. Our motto, "To know Christ and make Him known", is our fervent goal and ambition. Paul admonishes us in Ephesians 3:20 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." (NLT) Together let us make the future ministry God gives TECH the greatest yet!



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)



1. Bob & Jan Schill - 2015 has been a signal year for Jan and me. It has been a full year of major surgery and its aftermath which has led us to a wonderful, fuller experience of God's love and power. He has taken us through this year with a clear sense of Christ's presence and oversight of every event and detail for the procedures for me. Glory and praise be to His name and unfailing love to all of us.



2. Justin & Lee Foster - *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:2.* It is comforting to know that the God of the universe will be right beside us as we go through life.

3. Facilities Planning - As we continue to work on Facilities Planning projects this year, pray that we would not just focus on the building plans that we develop, but that we would stay focused on the lives that will be touched as a result of these buildings.



4. Ken & Katie Selden - We have been blessed with safe travel during the last twelve years of serving with Missionary TECH Team – tallying over 70,000 miles. We have three “home” churches: our commissioning church, our local church, and the church we attend in Longview. All three have supported us these last twelve years with finances but, most importantly, with their prayers and friendships. We look forward to the coming year with untethered expectations in what direction the Lord will lead us. *Psalm 139: 9-10 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.*

5. *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is Spirit. II Corinthians 3:17-18 (ESV)*



6. Teri Comroe - As I have been studying in Romans, it has been impressed upon me the awesome power of knowing that we are forgiven. *4:7 Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. 8:1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.* Thanking God for the amazing gift of Himself, for breaking the power of sin over us, freeing us to walk and grow in His Life and Love.



7. Charles & Noreen Powers - When I see the sunrise and its great beauty, I am reminded of God's physical power. As I read God's Word, pray, and listen to Him, it continues to amaze me how concerned and active He is in every detail of our lives. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18*

8. It is great to be in the service of our God. We continue to see His hand on TECH in providing for us in ways that are beyond description. His faithfulness is clearly seen in meeting our daily needs and so many of our desires. He certainly deserves our praise!



9. Gene & Maxine Williams - I thank God for His guidance and enablement to fulfill the ministry assignments He sends my way.

10. Computer Services - We know that Computer Services has amazing potential to help ministries, primarily because we are swamped. We have held off committing to new programming projects for over two months while we try to get caught up. We are getting closer but haven't gotten there yet. Pray for more full-time help.



11. Randy & Connie Harris - After serving for several years in a ministry where we worked on many Sundays, it is great to be able to fellowship with a local church on a regular basis. To be strengthened in our walk with the Lord through worship and the ministry of sound preaching is certainly a highlight of living and serving in East Texas.

12. Each Friday our chapel time is devoted to prayer. We have opportunity to pay specific attention to the many organizations we serve and the specific needs they have. One of the great things about TECH is that we hear of God's provision for so many of His works around the world.



13. Tim & Kay Meadows - *Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.* It seems this gets harder to practice as the world continues on a much different path.



14. James Wood - *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38 -39 (ESV)*

15. Pray with us that we would not get in the habit of just “doing our job”. We talk often about the difference between a job and ministry. Our desire is to be used of God to our fullest capacity and that God would be foremost in our thoughts and conversations.



16. Dan & Renee Harding (Ruth, Bethany, Grace, Sarah, Philip, & Nathanael) - Praise the Lord for a God who doesn't give up on us when we fail and doubt. Pray with us as the prayer of Paul in *Colossians 1:9-12: For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (KJV)*



17. Birne & Lynella Wiley - God's presence in our lives has been especially meaningful these past few months. We are grateful for His work in us as well as giving us the privilege of interaction and service to others.

A home Bible study facilitated by Lynella as well as individual interactions and a number of person-to-person discussions with men, young and old, by Birne are especially rewarding. Pray for God's wisdom as we interact. We rejoice in being able to cast our cares upon Him for He does care for us!

18. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet each day for chapel. These are special times in the middle of the day that give us opportunity to focus on why we do what we do. Our desire is to know Christ intimately and that He would be displayed in our daily lives.



19. Milt & Jackie McElvain - In taking care of His own, our Lord Jesus knows exactly where His children are, how He wants to use them, and what they need to feel that their life is fulfilling. Our attachment to MTT

is a constant reminder of this. We had nothing to do with the opening of this door. God used Ken and Katie Selden. Once we were introduced to this ministry and the fine people who serve here, the Lord began to develop our involvement. There is always a good time to nurture the soul; to stop and listen to His voice. Our time each Tuesday is for this purpose. As God's people pour out, He provides a respite for a half hour in which we are given the blessing and opportunity to participate. We often say that Tuesday is our favorite day of the week. God will put you where you belong, with the people you need to be with. "Thank you our Lord Jesus for the ways in which You love us. Thank you for the dear people at MTT and their place in our life." The next time you wonder about your life - don't! Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.



20. Bill & Karen Myers - As Karen and I stepped out in faith last year to go full-time in our RV ministry, God has been so good to us in confirming that step. It meant leaving our home and selling or giving away many things. God has honored our step of faith.

There are multiple people who are agents of God in helping us to serve our Lord in this new phase of our life. TECH and all its staff have a warm place in our hearts, and we always look forward to our time with them. We are so blessed!



21. Joel Kreider
Shine brightly forth,
for the wonder of our Lord
is not a thing rightly concealed,
held tightly, or considered lacking in worth.

22. Mechanical Services - We are blessed to be able to meet the immediate needs of stateside missionaries through the leasing and maintenance of vehicles. God's hand in this particular ministry is evident in that our current resources are fully utilized, and we hope to expand our partnership capacity in the coming year.



23. Bill & Joyce Daniel - We are thankful to be able to assist so many ministries to reach out through God's Word to a lost and dying world. We pray for God's power to help them bring multiplied thousands of people to salvation in Christ this year.

24. It is easy to lose our focus with the intensity that often exists in ministry. Sometimes the menial things that disrupt our day cause us to lose sight of God's unending love and provisions for us to be involved in His work.



25. Les & Gina Brown - As we begin this new year, we strive to remain faithful in our daily time of Bible study and prayer. Pray that as we seek Him, the Lord would make Himself more real to us.



26. David & Nancy Leventry - We always desire to be sensitive to the Lord's leading in our lives and to get involved in what He is doing in us and through us on a daily basis.



27. Patrick & Hannah Schnell (Emogene)
Psalm 27:1 - The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? As followers of Christ, we can

be fearless in the face of all things. However, my heart often forgets this truth. May God remind us all of His salvation every day that we may live fully according to His purposes.

28. Graphic Services - *Exodus 35:30-35...the LORD has called by name Bezalel... And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of craftsmanship... 34 He also has put in his heart to teach, both he and Aholiab. 35 He has filled them with skill...as craftsmen of every work and artistic designers.* Like these two forefathers, we hope to bring glory to our Creator by serving ministries through graphic design.

29. *O God, you are my God; Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. Psalm 63:1-3 (ESV)*



30. Doug Shively - I am especially thankful for our daily chapel time. It is good for the staff to break away from our projects and meet for a short time of prayer and/or Bible study. At times we even hear from missionaries coming back from the field. This doesn't happen often, but when it does, it's a BIG encouragement to all of us.

31. *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:22 & 23 (ESV)*



*Ruth Wood,
beloved wife of James
(Graphic Services),
was promoted to glory
on Monday, November
30th. They served*

*faithfully with TECH for nearly 17
years. Please join us in remembering
James and their family (three
married children) in prayer.*