

March 2025
Issue 1



TECH Team
Intercessor
Solutions for Missions & Churches

TECH Team Family,

It is with both sorrow and hope that I share the news that Birne, finished his race March 7, 2025, and is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior.

Birne dedicated his life to serving God and building TECH Team, leaving behind a legacy of faith, love, and unwavering commitment to the mission we all hold dear. While our hearts grieve his loss, we rejoice in the knowledge that he is now at peace, receiving the eternal reward promised to those who love Him.

Please keep Lynella and the rest of the family in your prayers.

As we share with you about Birne's life, may we continue the work he started, honoring his vision and faithfulness in all we do.

Justin Foster

In Loving Memory

Birne Wiley

June 8, 1937 to March 7, 2025



Birne Wiley crossed the finish line of his life to join his Lord and Savior on March 7, 2025 at the age of 87. He got off to a rocky start when he was born 12 weeks premature on June 8, 1937 in Kansas City, Missouri and given up for adoption. At three months old, Harry and Irene Wiley eagerly welcomed him to their farm in Manderson, Wyoming. Birne and his younger sister Jill, who was also adopted, grew up in a loving home marked by devotion to God and an intense bond of loyalty to each other. Harry and Irene proudly explained to both of their adopted children that they had not merely been born into the family, they had been chosen for it. This formative outlook shaped Birne's future interactions with others he treated as extensions of his family.

Third grade brought two milestones. The first was Birne's adoption into God's family when he accepted Jesus as his Savior. The second was when his dad sold the farm, graduated from Bible college and became a pastor, regularly bringing missionaries home for Sunday dinner or even for extended stays during their furloughs from the mission field. Knowing he would be allowed to stay up late if he was talking to missionaries, Birne would think of as many questions as he could to keep the conversation going. What began as



Birne Wiley & David Carnahan
founders in 1969



Birne & Lynella Wiley



1977 Survey Trip



David Carnahan, Birne Wiley, Bill
Gothard, Charles W - GC Weiss

a young boy's ruse to stay up gradually morphed into a young man's passion for ministry and led him to adopt as his life's motto:

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
only what's done for Christ will last.*
~C.T. Studd

He obtained an engineering degree from LeTourneau College in 1959. Over the next 9 years he was involved in a variety of ministries around the country which refined a vision and confirmed a calling to establish a mission organization that would focus on providing technical assistance to other missions.

Missionary TECH Team was founded in 1968. During the 47 years that Birne served as President of TECH he was joined by dozens more men, women, and families as God continued to bless the ministry. Since its founding, the missionaries of TECH have completed over 18,000 projects for missions across all 50 states and in 140 countries.

Seven years after his ministry with TECH began, God led Birne to his next major milestone in this life of service to others. He married Lynella Lytle on October 23, 1976. For the entirety of their 48 years together, Birne and Lynella were not only partners in marriage but also in ministry; a ministry that was further expanded with the birth of their sons, Caleb and Jonathan, who they raised with care and love modeled after Christ's love of His children.

Whether working on projects from the home office in Longview, Texas, visiting churches around the country to recruit others with the same calling, opening their home

for hospitality like Birne experienced as a child, looking for those daily opportunities to represent Christ to those without Him, actively participating in their local church or mentoring countless fellow believers, they counted each challenge as an opportunity to be faced together in the strength of their Lord.

More importantly than any accomplishments, he was a man with an abiding love for God and a desire to emulate the earthly example of character provided by Jesus. He not only demonstrated this character but gave God the glory and credit for the ability to do so. He was a living example of Paul's words in Galatians 2:20: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

During most of this life he was blessed with robust health. However, the last 10 years of Birne's life was marked by tremendous physical setbacks. Through them all, Birne maintained his steadfast faithfulness in the goodness and love of God. Though he longed to be in glory with the Lord, he accepted that this same Lord still had work for him here on earth and bore with grace these various thorns in the flesh. His repeated prayer and constant hope was that he wouldn't falter at the end, but would rather finish well and hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."

May we each one day know the joy that Birne does now. ■

When I first met Birne, he was an older gentleman at church. It was evident that people respected him for much more than his seasoned white hair, good singing voice, and love for hymns.

I knew from the time I was a young teen that God wanted me to use my technology knowledge for Him, but I didn't know how until I toured Missionary TECH Team. As I began volunteering, Birne started spending time with me. I have had many people ask me if I have a relationship with Christ, but Birne is the first person in my life who truly disciplined me showing me how God can use me.

I heard and witnessed about a little boy who grew up to be a young man with a vision of how he could step up and help people like the ones he met as a child. The concept was simple: a mission organization to serve missions—to be the service mission that like-minded Christian ministries could turn to for technical assistance and know-how. But what he built was not simple. He stepped out in faith and established this organization, and for over 50 years, Mis-

sionary TECH Team has been serving ministries and churches worldwide. Over 18,000 projects in more than 140 countries.

But the incredible story is not the numbers—it's the impact.

Architects, graphic designers, auto mechanics, software developers, print specialists, engineers, website designers, accountants, drafters, and various administrative experts are just a few examples of the professionals who have served in one capacity or another through Missionary TECH Team.

Various missionaries and their families on furlough have had a vehicle to drive for an extended period of time. Numerous churches, Christian schools and camps have received master plans, building designs, or renovation plans. Countless missionaries have had prayer cards, newsletters, and other materials custom-designed. Banners and display stands, signage used at fundraising events, custom software to assist with Bible translation, and even 3D printed solar-powered audio Bibles for use in remote areas of the world are just a few of the

projects TECH Team has had a hand in.

One day, everything changed—I realized that the career I had worked so hard to build had become a burden, an obstacle holding me back from serving and living out my calling in Christ. Birne and Lynella were there for this. They prayed with my wife and I; they took time to mentor us, and reminded us that God is faithful. We can step out to serve deeper because when God calls, He also provides. When we are inadequate, God overcomes. When we do not have the knowledge, God sends the resources to help us learn. It's about our hearts, our willingness to serve. God calls our heart.

Birne taught me how to move my heart from being a volunteer to a true servant—and for that, I will be forever grateful. I am just one of many whose faith has grown and whose relationship with Christ and heart for service have been forever changed through Birne's impact and the faithful life he lived. Birne's story continues and his impact is still reaching.

Justin Foster

As we have shared with you about Birne's life, we want to continue the work he started, honoring his vision and faithfulness in all we do.

The Board of TECH Team Advantage has established a memorial fund to assist the Next Generation of missionaries in their initial fundraising efforts.

Birne Wiley Memorial
Future Generations

For over 15 years, every Monday I would go out to lunch with Birne. We tried a good number of places in Longview, but seems like more often than not we would end up at either McAllister's, Jucys Hamburgers, or Olive Garden. Probably Olive Garden the most. We both would get the all you can eat soup, salad & breadsticks. And we always ate ALL we could, wanting to get our money's worth. Sometimes we talked about happenings at the TECH office, or family, or politics, or whatever. We enjoyed many good conversations over the years. I will miss not having that opportunity again, at least for a while.

Les Brown

First impressions often stick pretty well. As we notified TECH Team as we were arriving with our U-Haul in 1991, everyone showed up at the house to move us in! Birne was the one that assembled our bed and we were able to sleep in our own bed on our first night in Town!

David Leventry



TECH Team
Advantage
Solutions for Missions & Churches



Editorial Note: In God's providential timing, this newsletter was already in progress when Birne was called home. It is a privilege to witness God's answered prayers and His sovereign plan in continuing the ministry Birne established, inspiring others to join TECH in serving missions and churches.



As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the incredible progress made in serving ministries through technology. From developing new applications to enhancing existing software, 2024 was a busy and productive year for our team.

Of the 27 applications currently being used by clients, six were designed with multiple clients in mind while the rest were written as custom software built for individual ministries. Some of our key achievements in 2024 include:

New Software Clients:

Village Missions Contenders Discipleship Initiative – A web app supporting 330 students and their mentors, helping prepare future ministry leaders.

TMC Reporting – A web platform used across 60 countries to track student engagement, Bible lessons, and ministry impact.

Significant Enhancements & Deliveries:

- ◆ Developed and deployed a new *Staff Portal* here at TECH Team
- ◆ Reignited work on *HoneyBee* for Tyndale Bible Translators, an oral Bible translation tool
- ◆ Introduced upgrades to *CAMP*, *CSKLS*, and *STS* systems
- ◆ Welcomed new volunteers, **Brian C.** and **Jesse R.**, to assist with *HoneyBee*

Looking Ahead to 2025:

- ◆ Finalizing reports and exports for TMC Reporting
- ◆ Multiple new project quotes sent out for web and phone apps
- ◆ Continuing communication with past and current volunteers
- ◆ One intern scheduled for the summer and Adjustments to staffing

We have received five new project requests, ranging from a couple of discipleship/training *material delivery apps* to *church information tracking* in Uganda. Additionally, we have been asked to enhance STS for *Mission to Amish People*, making it more flexible for tracking Bible correspondence courses.

God answers prayer:

In September 2022 a supporting church requested a long-term prayer request for the Software Solutions area, something not likely to be answered very quickly. What was developed was this:

Please pray for two new full-time software developers to work in the office at TECH in the next five years.

Fast forward to January 31, 2025

when an email was

received from Jesse Sjoblom asking, **“Does TECH Team need any more software developers?”**

We praise the Lord that both Jesse and TECH were ready, as indicated by his being approved as full-time staff at the annual board meeting 21 days later! Jesse is so excited to get started that he has jumped on the chance to help with the HoneyBeeOBT app while also starting the process of raising his prayer and financial support team. An interesting side note, we had planned to present to the board how we planned to recruit more staff.

Please Continue Praying:

As we move forward, please pray with us for:

- ◆ **Jesse as he starts his support raising**
- ◆ **More full-time staff as well as volunteers who can commit regular time**
- ◆ **Wisdom in choosing the right projects and in saying “no” when needed**

We appreciate your prayers and support as we seek to meet these growing needs while staying true to our mission. Thank you for being a part of TECH Team Advantage!



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