Natick Praying Indians
Faith Gate Restored
Pg. 6

Montana Revival
Pastor Tommy Bates
Pg. 4

The Splendor of God's Creation
Badlands National Park, South Dakota
With the fall months quickly passing, I find myself reflecting back over the last few months and seeing the hand of God move in mighty ways. Following the hectic summer schedule, we found ourselves leaning heavily on God for needed financial provision, and He began to speak to the hearts of many individuals and we saw a miracle in our finances. It is always a financial challenge going into the last quarter of the year. Our commitment to see hundreds of Native children have a joyous Christmas is sometimes testing on our faith. We get challenged with approaching deadlines for the procurement of gifts and supplies to distribute, as well as the finances for the delivery of the gifts. God always comes through and we give Him all the glory.

Since summer we have been very busy with speaking engagements, mission conferences, revivals and campmeetings. We had opportunities to speak in several local churches throughout Georgia, Ohio and Tennessee, sharing the mission of Indian Ministries of North America. My wife, Becky, and myself had a wonderful time of resting and being ministered to by the Princeton Pike Church of God in Hamilton, Ohio. This has become one of the highlights of our year. Pastor Barry Clardy and the entire missions committee welcome us and all the other missionaries each year to bless us and challenge us to keep “Operation Great Commission” going strong. We also had the privilege to address the congregation at the Solid Rock Church in Monroe, Ohio, under the leadership of Pastor Darlene Bishop and her son, Lawerence, Jr. We are very excited about upcoming events being planned for 2013 with WAEM during 2013.

IMNA teams just returned from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Reservation. We conducted services at the tribal amphitheater with our guest speaker/musician, Chris Allen from Cleveland, TN. Chris is from the Lumbee tribe in Eastern North Carolina. We were also blessed by the teaching of David Gale from Vicksburg, Mississippi who will be assisting periodically with the monthly Warriors of the Word Bible Training Institute.

Continue to pray for the final months of 2012 and for 2013. We have exciting and challenging times ahead, but remember, “Together We Can.”
This fall marks my fifth semester teaching the Native North American Indians course at Northern Kentucky University. Every year, I am shocked how little students know about America’s First Peoples. As I migrate from the Northwest Coast to the Southeast, students are amazed of the rich heritage of each indigenous culture area we explore. I appreciate Johnny and the Indian Ministries of North America because they value the cultural expressions of the Native people with whom they work and encourage Indians to be who they were born to be: Cherokee, Choctaw, Cheyenne, Lakota, and the list continues. We must understand the body of Christ is a multicultural organism—it can only function the way it was designed, that is, with all its parts working together to form a whole. Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, a Keetoowah Cherokee, stated “…you [the church body] need us [Native people] more than you realize. We are a part of the body you shouldn’t ignore. We have special giftings and understandings without which, the Scripture says, you are incomplete.”* IMNA has a special anointing to tap into these gifts of Native peoples, especially among the youth who are suffering on many fronts. It is my desire to see more lives changed for the Glory of God in the context of cultural continuity.

Pastor Tommy Bates, my sister, Ashley, another minister from Community Family Church, Leslie Kittle, and I had the opportunity to minister on the Crow Indian reservation for their 61st annual camp meeting. Many lives were touched for the glory of God. Hundreds of people gathered in and around the tent to hear the timeless message of Jesus Christ and many flooded the altars and
were saved, delivered, and healed. My adopted Crow mother, Melissa Falls Down, and her family continue the legacy of her father, Harold Carpenter, who helped spread the Pentecostal message/experience to the Crow people in the 1950s.

Ashley, Leslie, and I headed cross-country to western Montana to the Blackfeet Indian reservation for youth revival services. Several youth who had never heard the message of Jesus (and had never been to church) received salvation. It is on the Blackfeet reservation where I am currently conducting fieldwork for my Ph.D. dissertation, which explores the influence of Pentecostalism on the reservation. When the project is complete, I hope to give the Pentecostal Blackfeet a gift of documenting the early years of the Pentecostal movement among their people. And it’s always a pleasure to enjoy the breathtaking views of Glacier National Park during the summer season. Visit our church’s YouTube link and watch a video covering our trip at www.youtube.com/user/communityfamchurchky

Community Family Church and Tommy Bates Ministries are proud supporters of IMNA. Please continue to bless this ministry with your love, prayers, and financial support.


Story By:
Eric Bates
Community Family Church, Independence, KY

**Hundreds of Crow Nation members gather under a tent to hear Pastor Tommy Bates minister the gospel.**

**Eric Bates meets and prays with tribal members throughout Montana.**
In 1631, Reverend John Eliot left England and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts where he preached at the Roxbury Church. Eliot learned the language of the local Native Americans and began to preach to them. On October 28, 1646, Eliot preached to the Massachusett Tribal Sachem Waban, who converted and his people became followers of the Christian path.

In 1651 by order of the Massachusetts General Court, Natick was established as the first praying Indian village. The place was set apart as a place for Waban and the Praying Indians to worship in peace, unmolested by the colonists and the surrounding disagreeable Native tribes. In the beginning there were 51 inhabitants of the Natick Praying Indian Village which was the first Christian town in the country. Natick means “Place of Searching” and is the “Mother Village” of what would become 14 total Praying Indian Towns.

Reverend Eliot was loved by the new Christian native people and became known to all men as the “Apostle to the Indians.” Natick is home of the first Praying Indian Church (present day Eliot Church of South Natick, MA). It was the only church to call its members to prayer service by its drum. Thus begins one of the greatest linguistic feats in history... the translation of the Bible.

The first Bible printed in America would be in the Massachusett-Natick language. In 1661, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Rev. Eliot, aided by three members of the Massachusett Indian Tribe, translated the New Testament. The Bible was completed in 1663. It must be understood that the Indian language was completely oral. Eliot did not have a key and worked alone on this task with the Native brethren. Eliot needed to understand Native words and their meanings. The Natives needed to understand him.

In the winter of 1675, fueled by fears of King Phillip (Metacom), mighty Wampanoag Chief, the colonist removed the Natick Praying Indians to Deer Island. At midnight in the month of October, holding their Bibles and with Eliot seeking to comfort them, they were taken to Deer Island in Boston Harbor where they were confined. The first Praying Indian Village of Natick suffered severely. Abandoned by their colonial Christian brethren, the Natick Praying Indians were left unprotected on the frigid Island. A month later two other Praying Indian Villages were added to the tragic confinement from 1675-1676.

By this time the other villages received news of the imprisonment and either fled or joined Metacom, Wompanoag Chief known as King Phillip by the colonist for is military prowess. Natives captured were also placed on Long Island in Boston Harbor. However through little clothing, starvation and enforced deprivation such as being forbidden to light fires, hunt game or build shelters, most lives were lost. The young, the old, the pregnant and the weak could not survive. Most of the Indians died of cold and starvation.
I find myself reflecting back to four years ago, August 7, 2008, when myself and other members of the Jamestown Christian Fellowship, Congregation Zion’s Sake, led by Rabbi Eric Carlson and Chief Anne Richardson of the Virginia, Rappahannock Tribe, met and honored Chief Caring Hands and the Natick Praying Indians for the first time.

On August 8, 2008, our team met at the Eliot Church in South Natick where we made faith declarations for Righteous Recovery. We were believing that one day the Praying Indians would once again be able to hold a service in the church that Puritan missionary, John Eliot had built for them. We then traveled to Deer Island to take Communion, and while on our way we noticed a rainbow over the island. We proceeded with communion, with the belief that the defilement to the land in 1675-1676 was being cleansed and God would restore the blessings back to the land.

The Holy Spirit had also instructed me to redo the 1621 Harvest Meal with not only the Natick Praying Indians, but to invite the tribal descendants of the Massasoit, Winds of Thunder (Bill Guy) & Lion Heart (Clifford Guy) whose ancestor, Yellow Feather, was the one invited by the Pilgrims to celebrate in the harvest meal.

At the gathering a gift was given to Chief Caring Hands, a blanket filled with 333 one dollar bills. One dollar for each year since Deer Island, plus a prompt from the Holy Spirit to inform them that the blanket was blessed. A blessing to reverse the wrong done by the English Settlers in the 1600’s when they gave the cold, indigenous people blankets laced with the deadly small pox disease.

My last point to this memorable day was when someone in the Pokanoket/Massasoit Tribe noticed a double rainbow when arriving at the John Carver Inn in Plymouth. This is significant because the John Carver Inn was built on the very location of the first Pilgrim Colony. The land was granted to the Pilgrims as a peace offering, given through Grand Chief, Yellow Feather, Wind’s of Thunder’s and Lion Hearts great grandfather.

Covenant and “Righteous Recovery” in God’s sight was accomplished, reversing a wrong at a faith gate (a place where Christianity was birthed), and the blessings of this act were realized on August 11, 2012, when the Eliot church opened its doors to the Natick Indians to conduct its first official service in the building in 337 years.

This was the culmination of years of fervent prayer by the Natick Praying Indians. Also, many Christians who had helped the Praying Indians over the years, witnessed this day of restoration to their church and gained the respect of the people of Natick that had been lost for years. My hope for this day was that through this act of kindness by the Eliot Church to open their doors for the service, that in God’s eyes, it was the beginning of a new day for America. A time not built on an altar of politics or governmental discussions, but based on a decision to build an altar of righteousness before God.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warriors of the Word</td>
<td>Choctaw Bible Institute</td>
<td>November 2-4</td>
<td>Morning Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pearl River, Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hope Baptist Church</td>
<td>Morning Service</td>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Blairsville, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNC Powerfest 12</td>
<td>COG Campground</td>
<td>November 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Whittier, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Point Ministry Center</td>
<td>Christmas Celebration</td>
<td>November 28-12</td>
<td>Hammon, Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Indian Ministries</td>
<td>SW Christmas Outreaches</td>
<td>December 2-9</td>
<td>Arizona and New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warriors of the Word</td>
<td>Choctaw Bible Institute</td>
<td>December 7-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pearl River, Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Celebrations</td>
<td>Cherokee and Choctaw NC and MS</td>
<td>Dates TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Revival</td>
<td>Choctaw Tribal Center</td>
<td>January 2-5, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choctaw, Mississippi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>