Jim Hudson Cuts Firewood for Cherokee Elders
Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.

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As I sit here thinking about another new year, a new decade, I can’t help but look back to where I’ve been and God’s path for my life; however, I can’t stay there long because of the anticipation of looking back to the future.

Being raised as a preacher’s kid, I have always been aware of the importance of a Christian walk, and our responsibility to share the Gospel message. I didn’t realize as a young person that my responsibility would manifest as a missionary to the Native American people of the United States.

I can remember as a young child, my father instilled in me a pride for my Cherokee heritage. He made sure that I knew the ways of hunting, fishing, gathering food from the mountains, and survival. He taught me the history of our ancestors and the injustices that had been done to them, many times in the name of Christianity.

However, the most important of all the teachings was to “love the Lord, with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.” It was that foundation that God used to build my life where it is today.

I accepted Christ at the age of 5, and from that point on, He has been shaping me to fulfill the calling of reaching my Native American brothers and sisters with the love that He has placed in my heart.

Looking back, I see the map and connections that God has used from my school days, to my first job, to my years as a newspaper photographer, and then the years of my professional photography career. All of this has been connected to where I am today - a husband to my soulmate, a father to a wonderful daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, the director of a growing mission organization, a spiritual father to numerous young men and women across the country, and a minister of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

It’s now been 20 years, since I began to see a shift taking place in my future. A shift that would forever change my life, as God called our family to a deeper commitment to the passion and compassion that He had placed in our hearts for America’s First People.

I now look with anticipation to future of Indian Ministries of North America and to new paths that God will illuminate. I pray for clarity, wisdom, discernment, protection, and most of all souls and disciples for Christ. I want to say thank you to everyone who has and continues to stand with us through your prayers and support. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!
During the 2019 Christmas Season, IMNA was able to share the love of Christ to approximately 1000 people in 8 different communities across 4 states. It is always a blessing to pass on the provisions and blessings that God provides.

We began our annual Christmas Celebrations and deliveries in Hammon, Oklahoma, at IMNA’s Grace Point Ministry Center. Our team prepared a community meal at the Community Fellowship Church followed by the distribution of family food boxes, new toys, diapers, personal hygiene products, household items, and clothing.

This was the sixteenth year for IMNA’s Christmas Celebration in the Hammon community. It is always one of our greatest highlights of the year!

Handmade stockings prepared by the Ladies Ministry of Faith Temple Church of God, Wauchula, FL.
IMNA traveled to the Henning, Tennessee community of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. We were able to bless this small community with the resources that we had been blessed to receive. Following the meal of soup and frybread, Christopher and Lindsey Hughes opened with Christmas carols, followed by a message from Johnny Hughes. The families were then blessed with clothing, household items, personal hygiene products, diapers, and much more. Each child in attendance was able to pick out their own special new toys, books, games, and stockings prepared by partner churches in Florida. It was such a blessing to work with this community and IMNA is planning more events and ministry in the Henning community. Thank you to all who made this possible and to the workers from the community.
One of the goals of the Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring Program is to teach the value of service to your family, church, and community. This Fall, the Choctaw youth in our Conehatta, Mississippi, program learned the basic use of various tools, and constructed two sitting benches and a food prep table at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church.

The ladies from the church prepare their traditional meals of frybread, hominy, and fried chicken in cast iron pots under the arbor and over an open fire.

The youth will now be learning the techniques of preparing these, and other traditional foods, in the near future. We must continue to pass on the skills of previous generations.
During the Thanksgiving season, Choctaw youth created “thank you” cards for the local Choctaw police department. Pictured is one of the officers receiving the cards.

With the coming Winter Season, the youth at the Conehatta Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring built bird feeders to hang in their yards. They learned that one of the ways that our Heavenly Father assures that our feathered friends are fed during the colder months, is with the help of His children.

PICTURED ABOVE: Two of the youth from the Impact Warriors’ Camp Tuesday in Hammon, Oklahoma, perform their Christmas carols during the Christmas Celebration. A small group of the youth have been learning to play the keyboard under the direction of Betty Eaton.
The Morning Star Church in the Bogue Chitto community of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, is a small church with a God-sized heart. Under the direction of pastor George Dixon, the church conducts services almost every night of the week. They either meet in the church building or conduct home services throughout the reservation.

IMNA teams have had the privilege of worshipping with the congregation during a revival and are now joining with them on the first Friday night of each month. We have seen salvations, healings, and people filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Most of the services are broadcast through Facebook Live and their YouTube channel. They regularly conduct prayer services for healing and special needs, and have received requests from various foreign countries through their online presence. The voice and heart of Morning Star Church can truly be heard and felt around the world.

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The Crosby family from the Bogue Chitto Pentecostal Church of God ministers in music at the Morning Star Church revival.
Indian Ministries of North America had the privilege of joining a very special Christmas project. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Cherokee, North Carolina, conducted a project to assist the families on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This region of the United States is one of the most impoverished regions in the Western Hemisphere. We were so honored to provide gifts for the families and children. We were able to send gloves, socks, coats, games, toys, and several other items for the families that were served. Thank you to Chief Sneed and his staff for allowing us to join in with this project.

**FROM PRINCIPAL CHIEF RICHARD SNEED**

“Over the Christmas Holidays, members of my staff, members of the community, and I traveled to Pine Ridge, SD to help distribute Christmas presents and food boxes to the families of the reservation. Thanks to the passing of Resolution NO. 640 earlier this year, I was honored to present the Oglala Sioux Tribe with a $50,000 check from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to aid in flood relief and recovery efforts.

Also through a last minute GoFundMe fundraising effort, $4,786 was raised and used to assemble food boxes that were distributed all over the reservation.

It was truly a blessing to help and carry out this project and to see the joy that was brought to the families of the Pine Ridge Reservation. I want to thank everyone who donated and assembled gift boxes and I also want to thank all who were involved in the organization and implementation of this project.”
BACK TO THE WOODYARD

Once again, IMNA is assisting the Family Support Services of Cherokee, North Carolina, with splitting firewood for the elders, handicapped, and low income families. Each Fall and Winter, teams come together from various churches to support the Cherokee families with this project. Over 200 families are typically blessed with the firewood from the wood yard, which is delivered to their homes all throughout the Smokey Mountains.

Serving Hands, Serving Hearts

The Intercultural Studies Department from Lee University, Cleveland, Tennessee, partnered with IMNA for a cross-cultural service project. A group of students and faculty leaders traveled to Cherokee, North Carolina, where they assisted with the cleanup of a newly acquired facility by Life Christian University of Cherokee. This facility will be used for the housing of women, and women with children, during their addiction recovery. Prior to their cleanup project, the group heard testimonies from two local Cherokee ladies, Sunale Crowe and Heather Rednour. Following the project, the women from the Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church prepared a traditional meal for the group.
Lighting the Darkness

For the last several years, IMNA’s Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring participants have assembled portable solar light kits for those without access to electricity. These kits were developed and provided by New Vision Renewable Energy of Philippi, West Virginia. These light kits have been assembled by youth across America and have impacted the lives of thousands around the world.

Recently, John Garrison with Just Like God Missions delivered some of the kits assembled by IMNA’s students to Uganda during a medical missions trip.

The lights were used at the clinic conducted in the Bush. Pictured below, the light is being used to assist in the pharmacy. The lights were also used in surgical procedures at the local school which only had outdoor lighting.

The lights were welcomed by all of the Ugandan staff, and they were left with the doctor who conducts regular clinics in the Bush Country.

It is truly a blessing to teach our youth that they can make a difference around the world, even as a child.

Light Up the Hoops

Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. has once again received a youth mentoring grant through our partnership with Leadership Foundations. The three year grant will be used to help fund our Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring programs in Hammon, Oklahoma, and Conehatta, Mississippi. Other locations are also being considered during the next three years.

The Leadership Foundations’ vision is that cities across the world will be transformed into places of shalom, fulfilling Zechariah’s vision where “Men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets...each with cane in hand” and where “city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” (Zechariah 8: 4-5)

They believe that every city has the potential to be a playground instead of a battlefield. A community full of growth, opportunity, safety, love, and joy. Leaders and organizations all over the world are working to achieve this vision in their cities through social and spiritual renewal. Leadership Foundations discover these leaders, develop their skills sets, and empower them to be more effective. By cultivating better leaders, we create better cities and a better world.
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Impacting Warriors’ “Camp Tuesday” Youth Mentoring meets every Tuesday after school at Grace Point, Hammon, Oklahoma.

Youth teaching each Sunday evening at Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness, Wolfetown Community

One Full Basket Women’s Gathering every other Friday evening at Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness, Wolfetown Community

Connect with IMNA

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