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Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.

May 2016
Volume 15 – Number 2

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James A. Hughes

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Johnny K. Hughes

Asst. Exec. Dir. / Board Secretary
Becky Hughes

Vice President
Rodney LaVallie

Directors
Chris Allen
Fred Carder
Johnny Crumpton
Troy Dailey
Ken Davis
Doug Payne
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A simple man with a GREAT BIG HEART! That is how I will always remember my friend, W.H. Wright. I knew him all my life and saw the struggles that he had endured. He would be the first to tell you that he was not a perfect man, but when God grabbed his heart, tugged real hard and changed his perspective on life, everyone noticed the difference. A passion and love for his Heavenly Father became so evident, that his relationships with family, friends and even strangers took a dramatic turn.

When W.H. became aware of the call that God had placed on our family to reach the Native American people for Christ, he immediately, without question, jumped on board. He caught the vision of Indian Ministries of North America and turned his experience as a long haul trucker into a passion for missions. He traveled thousands of miles for IMNA, delivering food, clothing, household supplies and toys for Christmas.

With his long white beard, the Indian children would call him Santa, and he loved to see their smiles as he would help to hand out the gifts wherever we were. Children became his happiness and they drew to him like a magnet.

I remember all of the advice that he would give to me while we trucked across the country. Through his many years of driving, he was always a loner in the cab. He would never sleep, but one day, he gave me a compliment that I always cherished. He looked over at me from the passenger seat and said, “I believe I will take a nap. I can sleep with your driving.” I felt like I had made it. I had proven myself to the King of the Road.

Anytime we were on the mission field and you needed to find W.H., look for the children, and there he would be. Making them laugh, tending to a boo-boo or slipping them a snack.

W.H., you will be missed and we at Indian Ministries of North America could never thank you enough for helping us fulfill the Vision. Rest in the arms of your Father in Heaven and we will see you soon.
Indian Ministries of North America is believing for a Gideon’s Army of 300 to commit their support for the next 12 months. Your gift of $1.00 per day will support the mission and vision of IMNA. Your gift will help save the lives of those who are battling the spirit of suicide, which is now the 2nd leading cause of death among Native young people under the age of 25. Through Impact Warriors Mentoring, youth rallies, and revivals, young people are finding Biblical answers and their life’s value as we direct them to Christ.

Email: BeckyHughes@indianministries.org for additional details

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Lee University Honor Society Volunteers

The Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society of Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee volunteered to work in the warehouse at the Indian Ministries of North America offices. They assisted with sorting the recently acquired donation of men’s dress shirts, children’s books and a trailer load of donations. They also loaded the IMNA trailer for the trip to the Navajo Reservation. We would like to thank them for their services and encourage other groups from schools, churches and civic organizations to get involved in volunteering. There are always projects underway.
On March 19, at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors for Indian Ministries of North America, a few changes occurred in relation to Board members. James Herring, of Temple, GA, saw his term expire, and welcomed back to the Board, Doug Payne of Blairsville, GA. Also elected to serve as a new member was Pastor Johnny Crumpton.

He is currently the Pastor of the Center Hill Baptist Church in Hanceville, AL, where he has been serving since 2011. Under his leadership, the church has seen a real move of God and their attendance has grown from 12-18 in 2011 to currently 90-100.

Several new ministries have been added under his leadership, including expanding the children’s ministry, establishing an annual corporate 21 day fast, a men’s ministry, mentoring and a “Vision Team.”

Under Pastor Crumpton’s leadership, the church has become a “Mission” active church and now is conducting regular local, national, and global outreaches. Their goal is to fulfill the Acts 1:8 commission to take the Gospel to all peoples.

Pastor Crumpton received his call to ministry in 1996 and has served in various leadership positions in churches throughout Alabama. He and his wife, Jennifer, have 2 sons, Jonathan, 14, and David, 8. Johnny works as a fireman in the Birmingham area and also serves as the chaplain.

“We are very excited to have Johnny and Doug serving with IMNA. Their experience and leadership will be a vital part of the future of the ministry.” Johnny Hughes

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**Be a Light of Hope in the Dark**

Students from the Ben Franklin Career and Technical Education Center in Dunbar, West Virginia recently partnered with IMNA and New Vision Renewable Energy to produce 75 solar light kits. The lights, which are created with recycled political signs, will be distributed to families in remote areas which have no access to electricity. The students developed Mountaineer Power and Energy Simulated Workplace at the school, and completed 16 light kits, which were presented to Johnny and Becky Hughes during a ceremony at the school.

During Earth Day festivities at the New Vision facility in Philippi, West Virginia, the students assembled 22 additional kits to be completed by IMNA’s Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring program. Also, they will be providing 37 more lights later this year. Thank you to all of the students, faculty and community leaders that made this project a success.
God's timing is always perfect! We had been asked to accompany IMNA to the Choctaw reservation in Mississippi for a little over a year. The timing never worked out. But, finally we locked down a date and packed our bags to leave early on a Friday morning.

When we arrived a few hours later, I didn’t know what to expect or how my story would be received. First, I spoke at a church, where the majority of the attendees were kids from the Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring. I LOVE kids! I was concerned about how graphic I should get because of their age, but I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to guide me on what to say. At the end of my story, seven children and one adult asked Jesus into their hearts. I gave a lot of hugs.

The next morning, I went to a women's shelter where I spoke with four women. This is where I was most intimidated and the enemy messed with my mind tremendously throughout the entire talk. How could I relate to these women? How can I convince them that Christ cares about them and their circumstance? Here they are, alienated from their family, living in a shelter with other women and children. It was something I struggled with the entire time.

However, it was not my job or responsibility to convince. The Holy Spirit doesn’t need our help to "convince" people! He draws them unto Himself.

At the end, I felt defeated. As I prayed, more for myself than the women, I saw the brokenness of the women. One woman raised her hand to accept Jesus, and the other three took me to their rooms to show me pictures of their children.

All they needed to know was that Jesus loved them and nothing, NOTHING, could ever separate them from the love of Christ! He can do just fine proving that to them.

Lastly, I spoke to another youth group involved with the Impact Warriors at another church. It was a very interactive time. Later that evening, it was good to see a few young girls from the group participating in a fund-raising carnival that we attended that night. The trip was great. However, I was pumped to see how God would use me, but when I left, I saw how He used others to pour into me.
On April 19-20, my wife, Sonja and I were asked to speak for the Impact Warriors Mentoring Program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in the Tucker and Conehatta communities. We are so thankful for God opening these doors and allowing us to be part of a great ministry that IMNA has established. We shared with the Impact Warriors about the full armor of God and how it helps us in our daily walk with Christ. How we can be prepared to handle the battles that Satan brings against us.

In Tucker, the Holy Spirit led us to talk about our value as children of the King and how each one of us are important to God. Those in attendance were very receptive, and we closed with a prayer of salvation and a blessing of God’s protection around each of them.

In Conehatta, we shared about the armor of God, but this time my wife and I shared our testimony and how God does not want us to settle for less than He has planned for our lives. This weekend was a God moment from months of God putting things together and using us at the right time and place. We were thrilled to have met Lindsey and see the desire that she has to serve God. Thanks to Indian Ministries of North America for allowing us to be part of this weekend.
The Value of Life Restored

The rising of the summer sun over the Black Hills of the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota carried the warmth of a new day. The sound of dogs barking, larks singing, and children’s voices let everyone know that the dawn had broken over the small community of Evergreen. Frances Yellowboy was out the door and on his bike, headed to his uncle’s house at the lower end of the community.

Fran was born into a family of 6 brothers and 3 sisters. His mom and dad divorced when he was 7 years old, and his home, like most Native American homes, was impacted by the evils of drugs and alcohol. Many times, when he would awaken, his mother and older brothers were passed out drunk, along with their friends or mere acquaintances. All Fran wanted to do was escape. Most days were spent at his uncle’s home, the basketball court or caught up in video games. It was seemingly an endless cycle, a train that would not stop to let him off.

By the age of 13, Fran was recruited and then “jumped” into a one of the local gangs. Being jumped into the gang meant that all the gang members gathered around him and beat him as his initiation. Fran reflects, “Since my mom and dad divorced, there was nothing to do and I lived with a family of drunks.” Because of the lack of love and attention in his broken family, Fran found acceptance in his new gang family. Two of his older brothers were in the gang, along with a lot of his school friends. At first, things were fun. Partying and fighting became the norm for most of these young people, but soon they began to realize the consequences of their actions.

For all his life, Fran had declared he would not be an alcoholic like his mother and brother, but the party life of the gang revealed the temptations before him. He tried drinking several times, but he never liked the taste. However, he was introduced to marijuana and pills. He recalls how that every day after school he would smoke a joint and get high. This soon led to showing up many times at school high on drugs.

This is normal in most of the lives of those living on Pine Ridge. Several friends’ and family members’ lives were cut short because of their involvement in the gangs and the lifestyle that substance abuse produced. He recalls that most people that he knew that had committed suicide, or as the locals would say, “went sideways” or “walked the wrong path,” were victims of bullying, sexual abuse or just overcome with the oppressiveness of hopelessness. It seemed that Fran’s life was headed down that same road.

He admits that most young people his age have either contemplated suicide or have attempted it. He himself tried twice to take his own life, but could not go through with it. The younger children look up to the older teens and adults, and when they see one of them commit suicide, they see how much love is shown to them. The mind games begin and they feel that the only way that they will be loved, even if it is in death, is to “go sideways.”

The value of life has diminished for most youth on Pine Ridge, and many see no reason for living. They feel trapped with no way out of the oppression they

South Dakota
experience each day. This was the feeling in Fran’s heart, but then circumstances changed.

In the summer of 2012, due to a cousin not being able to attend, Fran joined a team of young Native Americans from various locations traveling with Indian Ministries of North America. They were headed to the small town of Roach, Missouri to attend the Warrior Leadership Summit. This annual event, sponsored by Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, brings together over 700 Native young people from all over the United States and Canada. This week-long gathering was a totally new experience for Fran. He was not accustomed to church or Christianity and this was total “Culture Shock.” We were all excited to see Fran walk to the front during the invitation time, but in his own words, “I was scared to death, and would have said or done anything just to get out of that place.” He was taught the Lakota way, and it was much different than what he was experiencing.

Following the WLS gathering in Missouri, Fran returned with Doug and Laura Payne to Blairsville, Georgia, where he planned to spend the remainder of the summer, but God was setting him up for a total life makeover. The Paynes were granted guardianship, and Laura recalls what a major adjustment it was for the family. They were planning to begin traveling to the Reservations with IMNA in full-time ministry, but now God had brought the “Rez” to them. They quickly realized how far behind he was in school, which led to home-schooling to get him caught up. The challenge of living in a home with discipline was a major adjustment for Fran. On the Reservation, there is very little discipline and Fran experienced first-hand how that “when discipline stops, disrespect begins.” There were spiritual issues and anger issues that had to be addressed. It was time for a change.

In the summer of 2013, while attending the Canal Lake Bible Camp at the House of Prayer in Blairsville, Georgia, Fran felt the drawing of the Holy Spirit and he knelt to pray with Doug, Laura, and friends, and accepted Jesus Christ into his heart. They told him that there was a celebration going on in Heaven and he smiled more in the next two days than he ever had before. He said all the pain and heartache had been replaced by the peace and joy of the Lord. He has finally found the answer to breaking the cycle of hopelessness that he had experienced since birth.

In Fran’s words, “Pine Ridge is an okay place to live, but it is not the place to grow up as a child.” It took a lot of time to get the old way of thinking out of his head, but with the support of Christians who love him, he says the battle is won.

Fran received a scholarship to the Mountain Area Christian Academy where he will graduate with the Class of 2016. He is an accomplished athlete, playing basketball and running cross-country track, where he is a 2-time Individual State Champion. He has placed his future in God’s hands and will “go wherever God leads.”

When asked what he missed most about the Reservation, he thought for a minute, and said, “I miss my family, but really miss the Frybread!”

Story By:
Johnny K. Hughes
IMNA recently acquired a truck load of bottled water from World Vision for The Navajo H2O ministry. It is located in Manuelito, New Mexico and is under the direction of Davanna Driggers and her family, who also run the Native American Dream Center. We have also furnished clothing, food and other household items for this ministry over the last few months.

Davanna stated, “I would like to personally say thank you from the bottom of my heart to Indian Ministries of North America and World Vision. Providing clean, safe drinking water is near to my heart and is at the core of this mission’s humanitarian purpose. When the twenty-two pallets of water arrived, you can be assured that I was right there to see this beautiful sight!”

The Navajo H2O team and I interviewed each recipient of Navajo H2O’s Food Pantry Water Day. Here are some of their stories and thank you notes with photos.
The mission of Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. is to be frontline Warriors impacting lives, restoring the broken, healing the wounded, and setting the captives free.

Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to travel to the Navajo Nation and minister in some of the local Navajo churches. We conducted revival services, taught a leadership seminar to youth leaders and pastors, delivered supplies to a couple of local senior centers and a boarding school.

One of the highlights when we travel to this area is partnering with Elston and Renae Bingham to minister to the homeless community in Gallup, New Mexico. We were able to lead a devotional with the men and women, feed them a hot lunch and distribute hygiene kits assembled by volunteers of World Vision, North Texas.

“It was my first time to work with the homeless and it was an humbling, yet rewarding experience,” stated Elizabeth Hughes.
“Where there is no vision, the people perish…” Proverbs 29:18

When I first met Pastor Mark Patrick, I knew that he was not just any ordinary man. He spoke with Kingdom authority and a compassionate heart for his Choctaw people, especially the youth. As the pastor of the Corinth Baptist Church in the Tucker Community of the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi, I have seen him take on the task of constructing a new, large facility.

With the current location in need of major repair, Mark cast a vision to the small congregation of constructing a new, larger facility. Of course, not everyone was on board with the idea, but Mark never gave in to the negative talk. He vowed to complete the process, even if he had to complete it with only the youth. God has honored his dedication and teams from Alabama and Louisiana have joined in the construction.

Indian Ministries of North America has had the privilege of joining together with this church project and through our partners throughout the country, we have been able to acquire over $50,000 in supplies. Some of the materials included insulation, concrete board, ceramic tiles, windows, bathroom fixtures and lighting. The church has seen numerous financial donations come pouring in from all across the country. Thank you to all who have assisted with this labor for the Kingdom.
Poarch Creek Revival - The Expectancy Rises

IMNA closed out the month of April and began the month of May in revival services among the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Atmore, AL. We ministered in a youth revival at the Friendly Holiness Church, followed by a day of fun, food and worship at the Pow Wow grounds. We closed out the week with services at the Poarch Community Church and had the privilege of visiting our friends at the Atmore United Pentecostal Church for one service.

The Holy Spirit is truly stirring the hearts of the people, and pastors are anticipating the revival that is the air. It was a great week of ministry, as we saw the Holy Spirit intervene in many lives. Several came forward for healing, encouragement, and direction. We are looking forward to returning in the near future to be a part of this move of God.
During January and February, IMNA wrapped up their winter wood splitting trips to the Cherokee Qualla Boundary in North Carolina. Team members from First Baptist Cleveland, Tennessee, along with others from Parkway Church of God, Sevierville, Tennessee, and Grace Covenant Church of God, New Ellenton, South Carolina endured cold temperatures, rain and snow to make sure that elders and low income families were warm. The families that qualify to receive the free firewood are clients of the Cherokee Family Support Services. The woodyard is under the supervision of Donovan Crowe, who has worked in the yard for 17 years. “When the Indian Ministries’ teams come, it is always right on time. You don’t realize what a blessing it is to us and the people we serve,” stated Crowe. On most days, the work completed at the yard is done by Donovan and his partner, Richie Wolfe. They have become very special friends to IMNA and all the teams that go to serve.

LEFT: Mike Schwarz tosses wood to the pile.
BELOW: Donnie Lay works through a stack of trees, sawing for the splitter.
RIGHT: Rex Calfee saws the larger trees while getting assistance with the CAT.

Photos By: Nathan Ball Photography
Ashley Slaughter
Richie Wolfe works a huge log

Suzette Slaughter shows the mountain of wood she has conquered.

ABOVE: Fred Carder cuts his way through the log pile.

BELOW: “Goose” Thomason splits through his pile.
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