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Shanel Tsosie
Lee University, Cleveland, TN
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The year 2015. Wow, how time flies. It was 17 years ago that Indian Ministries of North America, as we know it today, began to stir in our spirit. Our family’s ministry to our Native American brothers and sisters goes back much farther, 1967 to be exact. The vision of the current ministry of IMNA came in the summer of 2000, after invitations to minister on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and New Mexico during the fall of 1998 and throughout 1999. We heard the call of God to launch into the deep. We had no idea how deep we would be going and the size of some of the waves that would crash around us.

Today, Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. has ministry efforts that reach into Alabama, Arizona, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma and Virginia. Of these states, over 16 different tribes are ministered to through IMNA and our affiliate partners. God has blessed and given us favor everywhere He sends us, and we are seeing an increasing hunger for God and the truth.

I remember going to the Southwest my first time and feeling God’s call to come to life inside me. It was while helping a young Navajo girl carry clothing to her house that I felt God squeeze my heart and speak to me, “I have a work for you to do.” The family lived in an old camper from a pickup truck balancing on concrete blocks and propped by wooden poles.

God moved swiftly after that, and soon we found ourselves ministering with teenagers through camps and youth rallies. It was at one of these rallies, that a young Navajo girl accepted Christ. Her name was Shanel Tsosie and she began to travel with our youth team, RELEASE, during the summer months. She began to feel God’s call on her life, and today she is a graduate from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. With her major in Intercultural Studies, she is ready to answer God’s call and reach her Native brothers and sisters for Christ. (See front cover photo)

Below are a few photos from the past. In the next issue we will take an even deeper look back, as we remember the beginning.
Earlier this year, 4 members from the Trinity Church in Marble Hill, Georgia visited the monthly meeting of the Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring program in the Choctaw community of Conehatta, Mississippi. The youth learned to make no-sew blankets and prepared some for gifts to elders in the community. Each one was prayed over by the youth as they asked God to bring blessings to the individual who received the blanket. The group also heard from a retired detective about the importance of personal safety and the traps that await today’s teens. Following the group mentoring time, the team from Georgia also assisted the church with some repairs, painting of the kitchen, and building additional bunk beds in the mission house where they were staying. Trinity Church has been a supporter of IMNA for several years, and we would like to express our deepest gratitude for their heart to see the lives of our Native young people transformed by Christ.

For August youth mentoring, we took some time to really dig deep with the girls about purity. We spent a weekend lock-in together worshiping God and learning what His Word taught about staying sexually pure and waiting till marriage. The girls were taught from the True Love Waits curriculum, as well as some personal stories from leaders. Through group activities and quiet personal time, they were shown that keeping their bodies and minds pure for Jesus is the best way to live life. At the end of the weekend, they were given the opportunity to make a commitment to live a life of purity. We explained the importance of this pledge and that they should not take it lightly. After those that decided to make the commitment, we planned a ceremony so they could declare to their family and friends the choice they were making. We wanted them to take ownership of this choice and be proud of it. The service will happen at a later date, so pictures and updates will be in a later issue. We wanted to share this topic with them before school started back so that they would be ready to defeat any temptations and share with their peers another way to live. We are hoping that this will open many doors for them to minister to their friends and family, especially since promiscuity and teen pregnancy are evident in this day and age. Please be praying for the girls who made the commitment to remain strong and reap the wonderful benefits of their choice. Also, pray for those who did not feel they could make a commitment at this time. Pray that they will see the importance of living a pure life and that life is possible with the help and strength of Jesus.
A Generation Rescued by the Power of the Cross

As the sun rose on June 27th, there was a notable stirring in the air in the little community of Roach, Missouri. At the Windemere Conference Center, vehicles of all shapes and sizes began to roll in for a true “gathering of nations.” Over 800 young people, representing over 100 First Nations tribes from the United States and Canada, came together for a week of discipleship and worship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at the On Eagle’s Wings’ Warrior Leadership Summit.

Under the leadership of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, thousands of Native young people have experienced the saving grace of Christ over the last several years. The theme for this year was “Rescued,” and over 200 came forward to be rescued from a life of sin by their Savior, Jesus Christ. Over 30 then followed in the act of water baptism. Native speakers, teachers and musicians lead the participants in worship and the Word, breakout classes, devotionals, and recreational activities.

IMNA returned this year accompanied by a group of 12 members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, Mississippi. It was an awesome experience for the group and they are already expressing a hunger for more in the future.
In June, our group from Princeton Pike Church of God, Hamilton Ohio was blessed to partner with Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. for a Missions Trip. Our work was with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, MS.

Our team was led by Mike Hendel, the church’s World Missions Board director. Other members of the team included myself, Mitch Paris, Damon Dixon, Tony Leisure, Herbie Asher, Jan Cornett, Elle Neyland and her son. Many of the men on our team were skilled in different trades that were needed during the trip, such as, construction, electrical, plumbing, building and remodeling etc.

Through the faithful givers in our congregation, we were able to financially contribute to the necessary repairs at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church and their Mission House.

One of the first activities we did was a Community Outreach where clothes, shoes and personal items, etc. were given to those in need. It was a blessing to us to be able to spend time with the community in a casual setting and to hear the stories of their lives.
Over the weekend, the Church hosted an associational “Hymn Singing.” Each church from the Choctaw Baptist Association brought its choir to sing a few hymns. The afternoon was filled with songs to the Lord, and afterwards, we all enjoyed a traditional Choctaw meal of fried chicken, hominy and frybread that was all cooked outdoors in cast iron kettles.

Each day we worked on construction projects, sometimes completing projects started by previous teams, and some that we initiated and accomplished due to safety needs of the facility and the people. The list of projects that God enabled us to complete is lengthy, but a very brief summary of our work includes: replacing chandeliers in the sanctuary, reworking electric wiring in the kitchen, and repairing burnt breakers in the electric box. We rewired and installed a new stove hood and exhaust fans in the kitchen, installed exhaust fans and florescent lights in the church’s Mission House. Plumbing in the Mission House bathrooms was repaired or replaced, along with new switches and vanity lights the bathrooms. Gutters were installed on the Mission House, a ramp for the storage shed was built and a lot of cleaning, priming, painting, and staining where it was needed in both buildings.

Each evening we held Vacation Bible School. We averaged 40-45 school-aged children every night. We also had 6-9 Preschoolers. The theme was based on Mount Everest and conquering life’s challenges with God’s Power. We passed out new Fire Bibles to the children, provided by the Church of God World Missions Department. It was so fun to worship with the kids, teach them truths from God’s Word, play games with them, conduct science experiments with them and to pray with them. We were extremely excited that so many children chose to participate, considering it was the same time of the community Stick Ball practices and games. This is a traditional sport for the Choctaw people and extremely important to them. What a blessing that the children chose to be in God’s house to learn and grow in their faith. We were touched.

The Congregation was truly thankful for the work that God enabled us to do. Their church body is small and with very few skilled tradesmen, and little financial resources to purchase needed supplies. It was our pleasure to go and be the hands and feet of Jesus and to help the men, women and children of Macedonia Indian Baptist Church reach the Choctaw Nation for Christ in a facility that they can take pride in and know it is safe and functional. All Praise to our Lord Jesus for the success of this trip.

Pictured to the right and below are more scenes from the PPCOG trip. It was a blessing to be a partner with this amazing church to show Christ’s love to our Native American brothers and sisters. Thank you to all who donated product for this outreach and in the lower right corner a young girl waits for the water in a pool donated by Toys R Us.
The Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma gets a new bathroom facility to accommodate the larger teams going to minister among the Cheyenne people. The once covered pavilion area has been closed in to make room for a public restroom and additional restrooms and showers for the dorms.

IMNA has been extremely blessed to have volunteer teams join us in this project. During the initial phase, we were honored to have the construction team from the Community Family Church in Independence, Kentucky join us to get the project underway.

This team was followed by a group of volunteers from Tennessee and the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi. During this time, we also conducted a Vacation Bible School for the community, and participated with local churches in a July 4th Celebration in the park. We were honored to have a group of young people from the Navajo Reservation stop by and lend a hand with work, along with Paradigm and GraFted leading worship for the celebration.

During phase three, Donnie and Karen Lay from the Parkway Church of God in Sevierville, Tennessee, joined in to run electric, complete the framing and lay ceramic tile flooring. Belvin and Darnell Willis, along with Zack Thompson from the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi joined us to lay the brick on the exterior of our new restroom addition.

During the week, we held a Bible study and clothing giveaway for the community.
Scenes from Phase Two of the Grace Point project.

**TOP L - R:** Karla Scoggins patches cracks in floor of youth room, Darnell Willis finishes wood for the new bathroom ceiling, and Christopher Hughes chisels through a brick wall to make room for new bathroom doorway.

**BOTTOM L-R:** Lindsay Slaughter and Brian Carroll install insulation and concrete board on walls, Johnny Hughes begins stucco on exterior, Elizabeth Hughes paints the floor of youth room, and exterior view at the end of Phase Two.

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**Phase Three**

Don and Karen Lay of Pigeon Forge, TN work on the tile floor in the new restroom at Grace Point.

Exterior view of the new addition

*More photos on page 10*
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
The heat index was near 105 degrees when we arrived at the Friendly Holiness Church on the Poarch Creek Reservation in Atmore, Alabama. The team was scheduled for a four night revival to “Ignite a Generation.” The natural temperature continued to rise, and soon the temperature in the spiritual atmosphere began to rise also. From the very first night, you could see the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the youth and the adults in attendance.

During the altar time, several young people came forward and accepted Christ and one lady came forward, aided by her cane. She had torn her knee and was facing further treatment and possibly surgery. But God! We anointed her and began to pray, and as a testament of her faith, Johnny took her by the hand and began to walk her up and down the aisle. Soon her limp diminished and she said the pain was gone. She left that night without the aid of a cane and it stood at the altar throughout the revival as a testimony of God’s healing power.

Throughout the following nights, the Holy Spirit continued to pour out on those in attendance. Children began to pray for each other, without the adults around. God was lighting a fire inside their hearts, that no man would quench.

Through the worship of GraFted and the church drama teams, the ministry of Stephen Bush (The Burnin’ Bush), and the messages from Johnny Hughes, we saw 10 young people accept Christ, 4 were filled with the Holy Spirit and healings, miracles and deliverances were experienced among the people in the congregation. To God be the Glory!
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