Christmas Memories
Indian Ministries
of
North America, Inc.

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Spirit Rain - $10.00
Breath of Heaven - $15.00
Altar of Praise - $15.00

Three Inspirational
Native Flute Releases

Spirit Rain
Breath of Heaven
Altar of Praise

$10.00
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$15.00
In my travels throughout the Native American communities and reservations, I can’t help but notice the poverty that exists. When I cross into many of these areas, I feel the oppression and the pain of hopelessness. Moving down neighborhood streets my eyes are drawn to the men sitting on the curbs, porches and fence rows. Nothing to do but drown their sorrows and feelings of inferiority in a bottle of liquor.

I have asked myself many times, “why?” Having talked to many of these men, they feel a sense of shame and worthlessness. There is something inside them that tells them that what they are doing is wrong, but they are just following the example that was set before them by their fathers and grandfathers. You see, for generations, the Native men were the ones who hunted and provided for their families, but today everything seems upside down. God placed man as the provider for the family and the head of his household and when God’s order is altered, chaos enters and the family unit becomes fragmented.

Due to the fact that there are very few places for employment on most reservations, unemployment rates are at a staggering 50% to 85%, men have seemingly lost their role and are wandering aimlessly. When there is no where to work and no means of providing, I see how the enemy can attack the spirit of the man and cause him to feel worthless and inferior. This has caused women to step into the family leadership roles, and even in the churches there is a shortage of men who are trained in the Word.

I can quote you statistics like 80% of Native households are affected by alcohol or drugs and over 50% are living below the poverty line, but the reality is, there is a greater poverty issue in front of us today. Of the approximately 2.5 million full-blood Native Americans in the United States today, almost 95% of them do not claim to be Christians. Let’s put this into reality for the Church. If Christ returns today, there would be over 2,375,000 Native Americans who would be eternally separated from God in a place called Hell. This is the reality of the desperation facing Indian Ministries of North America. God has called us to GO, not to just make converts, but to make disciples. (Matt. 28:19) It is our focus to teach, train and raise up leaders from the communities and the churches to return order to the family and the church.

The Spirit is calling us. Do you hear Him? There are fields that are hard and in need of the breaking of a plow. There are fields that have been plowed and are in need of sowing. There are fields where the harvest is tender and growing, and there are fields that are white with the harvest. The Spirit is calling us. Do you hear Him? He who hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. (Rev. 2:29, 3:22) I must be about my Father’s business, and that is reaching the First People of this country with the life giving, hope building Gospel of Jesus Christ. I need you. God needs you. 2,375,000 Native Americans need you to respond to the call of the Spirit. Please join with Indian Ministries of North America today and bring in the HARVEST.
I

NMNA and a team of volunteers had the privilege of partnering with the Bogue Chitto Community on the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi for their annual Christmas Celebration. Over 400 people turned out to hear Christmas carols by community churches and members of the IMNA team. We were able to bless the community with new toys for the children, new clothing, diapers and hygiene items, as well as other miscellaneous items for the family.

This was our first visit to the Bogue Chitto community, but I already looking forward to returning for more community outreaches and distributions. We will be choosing a different community on the Mississippi Reservation to partner with each Christmas season. We are already looking forward to Christmas 2014 and God’s blessing on our next distribution. Thank you to all of our partners who made the smiles possible that you see in the photographs below.
Shilombish Himona

Shilombish Himona is Choctaw for “New Spirit” and that is exactly what Carlston Isaac has found in his own life. For the last 2 years we have had the privilege of mentoring and training Carlston in the Word and in the aspects of ministry. He has shown a great hunger for more of God and His teachings. His heart’s desire is to see all of his Choctaw people come to know Christ and experience the freedom that he has found in his new walk.

Thus, the Shilombish Himona Support Group was established to help those who are dealing with personal or family issues of addictions or other problems in their life. Carlston’s personal testimony of his deliverance from alcohol addiction gives him an important and strategic edge to dealing with those who are facing the same issues that he once faced. Through his leadership, those who saw no hope are finding the hope of Christ and His power to set them free.

Indian Ministries of North America has committed to Carlston and his vision for his people. He will be working as a Home Missionary for IMNA on the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi. He has already become a vital liaison between church and tribal leaders and the vision that God has given us for the Choctaw people. If you are interested in learning more about this support group and how you can get involved, please contact the IMNA offices or go to www.indianministries.org.

Pallet House

In the quest for affordable housing options, IMNA representatives decided to build Carlston Isaac, our Home Missionary to the Choctaw Reservation in Mississippi, a new home using primarily discarded shipping pallets. We were blessed by the tribal recycling center with over 100 pallets to complete the project. The structure, when completed will be a one-room, 400 sq.ft. home.

In keeping with one of our new focuses in our Impact Warriors youth mentoring program, this house will serve as a prototype for possible future projects. We plan to use solar lighting and passive solar heat to supplement the traditional electric utilities.

The teams who have worked on the project have been surprised at the strength and efficiency of the dwelling. This home will serve as Carlston’s residence, but he has already stated that it is dedicated to the Lord’s work and plans to hold home Bible studies there each week. Thank you to all who have helped with this project.
Paradigm Leads the Celebration in Hammon

The 2013 Christmas Celebration at IMNA’s Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. This year’s special guest was Darren Nez and Paradigm from Shiprock, New Mexico. We have been partnering in ministry with this Navajo praise and worship team for several years, and they are always a blessing. Darren delivered a moving word each service and we saw several young people come forward to make a commitment to Christ.

Under the leadership of Karen Johnson, many of the people at Grace Point are experiencing a spiritual breakthrough in their lives. Karen’s passion for reaching the Cheyenne people is what drives her to press on. We feel that Hammon is the key to unlocking a true spiritual awakening among the First Nations people of Western Oklahoma. Therefore, Karen is conducting women’s retreats, weekend worship training, prophetic gatherings, and weekly services for the community.

One young lady that we have been mentoring for the last several years has begun a weekly Bible study with some of the high school girls and is spending time each afternoon with many of the younger children following school. She said they are enjoying just having someone to care enough to listen. Mentoring the youth of Hammon is a priority for IMNA and for the future of that community. Our goal is to raise up young leaders within to begin a transformation in their community.

Darren Nez, above, speaks to the congregation at Grace Point in Hammon, OK. Several young people were touched by his message.
M y trip to South Africa during the summer of 2014 will include a group of four Lee University Intercultural Studies majors. We will be taking part in a required ten week internship. The trip will begin in early May and we will return to Tennessee the end of July. This internship will determine our graduation from the program and will challenge us in ministry as God leads. We will be involved in different areas of ministry which include working with HIV / AIDS victims, preaching and teaching the in local churches and small groups, learning about the people and experiencing their culture. We will also be working for two weeks in Mozambique. There will be a lot to experience during this trip and we will be relying on God for all our provisions. We are planning to stay with local missionary friends, but we will also have the experience of living out of tents for part of our trip. There are still a lot of details to be worked out this spring semester before we leave, and we plan to represent Christ in all that we do.

Shanel Tsosie

If you would like to contribute to assist Shanel with her trip, please contact the IMNA office

A Life Transformed

By: Laura Payne

Hi, Everyone! Just wanted to give a praise report on Francis! Many of you have been praying for him and we want you to know that the Lord is answering those prayers in so many ways. First and foremost, he has firmly committed himself to the Lord! Fran is a Lakota from the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota, and he came to live with us in the summer of 2012.

Through a wonderful scholarship and generous donations from friends, we were able to enroll him into a private, Christian school. It is quite small, so all the students and faculty know him and have warmly accepted him. His grades continue to improve, and although it is still a challenge, he continues to climb those educational “mountains.”

He is involved in both Cross-Country and basketball. He placed second in the State in cross-country and his basketball team is headed to State Finals in early February.

It has been such a blessing to see this young man come alive and blossom right before our eyes! Friends from church comment that they cannot believe the wonderful change in Fran, his eyes and face just light up!

Christmas brought a surprise gift of tickets to his favorite college basketball team, Duke University. He and Doug attended the game and was able to meet up with his cousin Garrell from Pine Ridge.

Continue to pray for God’s wisdom and provision as we move forward in our service for the Kingdom.
from the Southwest
The IMNA teams of volunteers traveled over 5500 miles to extend their hands of love and deliver Christmas gifts to children and their families. We were able to touch the lives of over 4000 people this past Christmas season. Through God’s provision and our partners, we were able to serve people in the Navajo Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, the White Mountain Apache, and the Southern Cheyenne / Arapaho.

In our annual trip to the Southwest, IMNA partnered with the Church of God Southwest Indian Ministries to assist with their Christmas Celebration. Also, while there, our team served the homeless community in downtown Gallup, NM. We worked alongside Elston and Renee Bingham, missionaries from Blairsville, GA. This couple felt led to move to Gallup a few years ago to work with the homeless Native Americans in that region. God is tremendously blessing their ministry and we give Him all the glory for their success.

We also served the senior adults at the St. Michaels and Ft. Defiance Senior Centers. We were able to bless them with food, coats, blankets, hygiene products and other personal items. We visited the St. Michaels Association for Special Education and blessed the students with loveable stuffed animals and other supplies for the school. IMNA also blessed the NAOMI House, Hunter’s Point Boarding School, Sun Valley Indian School, local churches and the Navajo head start program with toys, new books and new children’s sweaters.

In Cherokee, North Carolina we supplied gifts to the Snow Bird Community, local churches and the Christmas Store for needy families. The Choctaw Reservation was also one of our stops. (See pg. 4)

We give glory to God for all of his provisions that enabled us to accomplish the Christmas Celebrations. Through the generosity of everyone who gave of their time, resources and finances, we saw God’s love manifested to those we served.

Thank you

World Vision, North Texas
K.I.D.S. Fashion Delivers
Good 360 / PETSMART, Regis Hair Care
Chattanooga Bakery Buckner Foundation
Better World Books Flowers Bakery
Operation Compassion People that Care
Starbuck’s Coffee

To all the individuals, churches, and other agencies who gave
Beginning this Spring and throughout the summer, there will be several opportunities for individuals and church groups to join Indian Ministries of North America in a mission trip to a Native American community or reservation. We will have trips designed for families, youth groups, construction teams and evangelistic teams. We are scheduling trips to Oklahoma, North and South Dakota, Arizona and New Mexico, Mississippi and North Carolina. We plan to keep the cost for each trip as economical as possible and it will be a life-changing opportunity.

Tentative dates and locations are:

April 5-13; Turtle Mountain Reservation, ND (Revival and light construction)
May 14-23; Hammon, OK (Evangelism, youth mentoring, light construction)
June 6-14; Choctaw, MS (Evangelism, youth mentoring, light construction)
July 12-23; Navajo Nation, AZ & NM

Please contact the IMNA offices for more details and for scheduling. Spaces are limited. Don’t delay.

Email: johnnyhughes@indianministries.org   Phone: 423-479-3831

A Heartfelt Thanks to a Volunteer

The leadership of Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. would like to express our sincere, and heartfelt gratitude to Pat Larson. She has served for the last few years as the Procurement Coordinator from her home in the Dallas Metro area in Texas. She has been instrumental in establishing partnerships with various organizations and non-profits from around the country. As of January of this year, Pat has decided to step down from her position and return to school to complete her certificate in Biblical Studies from Kings University in Dallas.

Pat has an extensive resume working with non-profits, and she used that knowledge to acquire much of the product that we have been blessed with for our benevolent outreaches. We wish her the best. “I do believe it was a divine connection that God put us together for a season,” stated Pat.

Again, we say “thank you” and may God’s richest blessings be upon you.

Pat assists with homeless outreach
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Service</td>
<td>Shady Grove Methodist Church</td>
<td>February 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warriors of the Word</td>
<td>Impact Warriors Mentoring, Pearl</td>
<td>February 5-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Morning Service</td>
<td>Cotton Port Church of God</td>
<td>February 16</td>
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<td>Impact Warriors Mentoring, Pearl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evenings Service</td>
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<td>Lee University Cross Cultural</td>
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<td>May 14-23</td>
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