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Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.
Winter 2015
Volume 14 – Number 1

Founder
James A. Hughes

Executive Director / President
Johnny K. Hughes

Asst. Exec. Dir. / Board Secretary
Becky Hughes

Vice President
Rodney LaVallie

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We brought in the New Year with bright lights and smiling faces. The Choctaw youth, who are a part of the Conehatta Impact Warriors mentoring program, assembled solar lights provided by New Vision Renewable Energy of Philippi, West Virginia. The lights will be delivered to Nicaragua by members of the Center Hill Baptist church in Hanceville, Alabama. The lights will be used for a medical mission trip deep in the jungle, and will be left with the local mission for their continued use.

After the students assembled the lights, we discussed another way in which they could be the light in this dark world. In one of the steps of the assembly process, the students had to make sure wires were making the correct connections. This insured that the battery and the solar components would work properly. We used the lights as an example of how making the "correct connections" in life can cause you to work to your full potential.

We explained that connecting with God and His people helps one shine the Holy light of Christ effectively and efficiently. Just as the sun powered these lights, so God's Son empowers us. We then had the students set up goals for themselves for this year based on a month by month step process. They will work on one step of the goal each month so that they will hopefully have more success in accomplishing their final goal by the end of the year.

Developing relationships with the students has been the highlight of the program so far. We are hoping for continued development and adventure from this wonderful group of students.

By: Lindsey Slaughter
The waves crashed at the feet of the giant, jagged cliffs as if to try and topple the massive figure looming over the waters. The clouds scrolled across the blue sky, and a shadow raced by, as a majestic eagle silently lands on the edge of an open crevice on the cliff’s face. Perched atop a mass of weathered sticks and driftwood, that had been knitted together to form a nest, the parent begins to feed the hungry fledglings.

After weeks in the nest, the time has come for the young eaglets to try their wings and begin the pursuit of their destiny - to soar to the heavens. The parent enters the nest and begins to stir and flap her wings. This commotion causes unrest with the young and they eventually clamor to the edge of the nest. Below is the crashing waves and giant boulders, but above them is a bright blue sky leading to the horizon. As they begin to flap their wings, unsure of what to do, the parent nudges them to step off and trust their instincts and the wind.

As the young eaglet finally releases its grip on the nest and launches forward, it begins to frantically flap its wings and soon finds itself falling out of control. The waves and boulders below drawing closer with every second, when suddenly, the parent eagle settles in under the young, and riding on the back of the parent the young eagle is returned to the nest.

Now, as it is perched on the edge and ready to soar, the young eagle, renewed strength and confidence, full of faith and trust, is ready to step into its destiny and soar into the heavens where only eagles can go.

Much like the young eaglet, we enjoy being settled into the comfort of our “nest” perched on the security of our salvation, while relying on others to feed us spiritual food. However, too many people become so dependent on others feeding them that they become fat on the Word, but have no application of their knowledge. Fear of inadequacy and failure grip many and they become satisfied to remain in the nest. The call on their life seems too large and scary and all they can see is the waves of life crashing in on them. It is the uncertainty of stepping out on nothing and trusting that our Father will be there to settle under you, and carry you like an eagle, that keeps many from reaching their destiny.

Any bird of prey can be controlled by placing a hood over its head and eyes to prevent it from seeing the surroundings. Many times we allow the enemy to blind us from the reality of where God wants to take us; therefore, we are afraid of what we cannot see. The fear of the unknown locks many of us in our present condition and when the enemy can keep you settled where you are, accepting life as it comes, will keep us from fulfilling the mission God has created us for. According to the book of Jeremiah, we were all created with a purpose and we will never know that purpose until we respond to the stirring of our nest.

When God began stirring my nest and the realization of
“Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south? Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place.”

the call He was placing on my life became evident, I was unsure how I would ever accomplish the task. Stepping into the shoes of my father, James Hughes, to carry his vision to the next level was a daunting undertaking. The same passion that he had for seeing our Native American brothers and sisters come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ was burning inside of me, but how could I do this?

At a women’s conference in Atlanta, Georgia, Sister Annette Watson of Florida shared with 500 women about stepping into their destiny. I felt a stirring inside me, but I said to myself, “This is a women’s conference.” Then Sister Watson called me forward to share a word from the Lord. With tears streaming down my face, she began to say, “I see the desires of your heart and your destiny has arrived. It is time for you to step out and do the work I have called you to do. If you step out now, all of your uncertainties will become substance under your feet. Woe to the one who doesn’t answer My call.”

These words struck a chord in my heart and that stirring caused me to step out into nothing and find God settling under me and carrying me into my destiny. Deuteronomy 32:11 says, “As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings… Isaiah 40:31 says, “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (NKJV)

The eagle has long been a symbol of power and courage. Many cultures around the world hold it in high esteem. Every Native American tribe holds the eagle in a position of high honor and respect. Because the eagle could fly to such heights that it could not be seen, many tribes believed it was sent from God to carry their prayers to the heavens. The Bible holds many references to the eagle and its wisdom and strength. It is a majestic bird like no other.

The eagle builds its nest in the high places and when it takes flight, it drops into the flow of air and rides the winds across the sky. Because of its size, with wingspans of 6ft. or more, it must soar and not flap its wings extensively. It would exhaust its strength if it relied just on its own ability. Much the same way, we must realize that to reach the full potential of God’s plan for our lives, we must launch into the flow of the Holy Spirit. We cannot accomplish the fullness of life under our own power.

Is God stirring your nest?
Are you ready to soar with the eagles?
Drop into His flow, and let’s go!
The first stop on the Christmas trail for Indian Ministries was at our Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma. There we ministered to our friends among the Cheyenne people. We were accompanied by a group of volunteers from Mena, Arkansas, and we would like to thank Pastor Mark Lyle for his work in getting this group together.

On Friday night, we were blessed by the ministry and music of Alex Castaneda of Hammon. He is from Colombia, and along with his wife, Carolina, has been ministering to the Latino families in the Hammon area.

Saturday morning, James Hughes, founder of IMNA, brought a compelling message to the congregation of 60 or more. Following the morning service, we were able to bless the people with a Christmas meal and then distribute the gifts to the families. We distributed new shoes to all who needed them, warm clothing and household items, along with toys for all the children. Thank you to the people of Hammon for allowing us to serve you, thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted, and thank you to all who gave to make this possible.

Above: Lindsey Slaughter excited about the new shoes for this little Cheyenne man.

Below: Happy Feet

Above: These are just my size!

Below: Becky Hughes, left, along with Lindsey, fit new shoes for this young boy.
Indian Ministries of North America was privileged to be able to contribute to the 2014 Christmas party for the Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma. We provided shoes, books, snacks, sweaters, and toys. This was the first year that IMNA has been able to work with the school, and we were very excited to be able to assist in blessing the students for Christmas.

Riverside Indian School is the oldest Indian boarding school in the US, being founded in 1871 with only eight students. By 1893, the school had sixty students from the Wichita, Caddo, and Delaware tribes. Kiowa students began attending in 1922 after the closure of the Rainy Mountain Indian School. By 1929, the school had grown to include 155 students. Students from the Navajo Nation began attending in 1945, further expanding the representation of the tribes in the school. Today, the school’s campus covers more than 135 acres, and offers outdoor basketball, skating, movies, and weekend picnics for the students. The school has over 500 students from over 100 different tribes, and continues to grow.

Above: IMNA Director, Johnny Hughes, left, stands with young men from the Wichita Dorm. They were up early to assist with unloading. Right.

The Mission of the Riverside Indian School is to...create and maintain a safe, positive learning environment to ensure the holistic development of each student and staff member through cultural, spiritual, physical, technological, and academic experiences.

The Vision

We, the Riverside Indian School community, envision all students as effective communicators, complex thinkers, self-directed learners, quality producers, and conscientious achievers by effectively communicating Riverside’s mission to the communities; perpetuating a future-oriented, holistic, essential life-skills curriculum; providing a safe and supportive environment for living and learning; and providing success and promoting lifelong learning through creative technological endeavors.
IMNA had the privilege of serving a Christmas Celebration for the Choctaw people of Conehatta, Mississippi. With the help of volunteers from Ohio, North Carolina and the Center Hill Baptist Church, of Hanceville, Alabama, we were able to feed over 200 people on Friday night. Each child received a new backpack with supplies, along with new toys and books.

Saturday morning, clothing and household items were distributed at the Conehatta Elementary School, followed by a youth rally that night. Numerous young people came forward for prayer and 6 accepted Christ as their Savior.

We were also able to bless the Bogue Chitto Community with the surplus gifts from Conehatta.
Each year IMNA supplies toys, clothing and food items to the Cherokee Family Support Services during the Christmas season. This department opens a Christmas Store for the needy families on the Reservation, and we were able to make two deliveries to Cherokee this year. We supplied food kits, crackers, bottled water, children’s books, new shoes and toys to be distributed to the various communities they serve. Thank you to all of our partners who gave of their resources to assist with this project.

IMNA partnered with Pastor Tom Comacho of the Blue Ridge Vineyard Church in Asheville, North Carolina and the Snowbird Community to supply gifts for the Cherokee people of that community. Snowbird is nestled in the Smoky Mountains outside of Robbinsville, North Carolina. IMNA has been working with this community for several years, through the Church of the Lamb. At the celebration, Pastor Tom lead a devotion for the people and challenged the children about literacy. Thanks to Better World Books, every child was able to receive several books of their choosing. In addition, through our partnerships this year, the families of the community were blessed with bottled water, crackers, new toys, stockings filled with gifts, bags of groceries, and a turkey for each family. They were also blessed with new shoes, socks, gloves and other clothing items.

Please keep the people of Snowbird in your prayers.
IMNA would like to thank all of those who made it possible for us to serve over 4000 people this past Christmas. Through the generosity of many individuals, churches, businesses and the corporations above, Native American families were truly blessed and the love of Christ was shared.

To God be the Glory!

Praise God for breaking through in Hammon, Oklahoma! January 1 - 3, Western Oklahoma hosted a Cheyenne Gathering at IMNA’s Grace Point Ministry Center. Karen Johnson of Victorious Life Center and the Bible instructor at Grace Point, spearheaded the event.

The speakers and musicians were a strong representation of Native leaders from across the state. The Masters Touch from Oklahoma City and the Impact Center worship team from Lawton lead the worship. They were joined for the weekend event by Pastor Ponce Leon of Anadarko, Peggy Rakes of Weatherford, David Bearshield of Carnegie and Bishop Ezra Randle and his son from Elk City.

What a way to start the New Year! Rejoicing, flagging, networking, prophesying, declaring, ‘His Kingdom Come, His will be done.’ A release of God’s healing river and setting His standard as the Lion of Tribe of Judah and unfolding His amazing love and grace. We set the standard for the Lion of Judah with banners and we saw the healing River released over the people.

Pastor Leon taught on the Kingdom of God and I released a prophetic word that lined up the days. The weekend closed out with Mary Seraop of Grace Fellowship in Anadarko sharing a teaching on emotional healing and the unconditional love of God. One young man had been considering suicide and came forward and God saved him from death.

The atmosphere was changed, cleansed and filled with love. Several people commented that “something new has taken place” and they felt welcomed and loved. There was an incredible presence of the Holy Spirit in the house and the people were excited for what God was doing and was about to do.

Thank you and God Bless the Cheyenne nation for their generous blessings of food throughout the weekend. Events are also being planned for Feb. 14, March 26-27, and Easter weekend.
At the January meeting, the Board of Directors for Indian Ministries of North America, elected Clayton Williams to serve. He is a member of the Choctaw tribe, and along with his wife, Becky, currently resides in Grand Prairie, TX. They have two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren. Clay is an Ordained Bishop with the Church of God, and has served with the Southwest Indian Ministries as their Youth Director and Administrative Bishop, overseeing 46 churches.

While at SWIM, he became closely associated with IMNA and our ministry. Together we expanded the annual Teen Camp and established NativeFest, a weekend gathering of youth from across the Southwest. He has continued to stay connected with IMNA and currently is our Registered Agent in the state of Texas.

He served many years as a school teacher and basketball coach in Texas, New Mexico and in the Navajo Nation Schools. He and his wife are currently the managers of the Robinson Road Self Storage and are evangelizing, teaching and training leaders in various churches, on and off the Reservations.

“Clay and Becky have truly become like family and their dedication to the ministry has been unshakable. They truly believe that God’s call on their life is to reach the Native American people with the Gospel and to instill in them the value of living a holy life. They are dedicated to witnessing a revival among the Native people, especially the youth, and they have lived a sacrificial life to see that come to fruition. We consider it an honor to have Clay serve with us.”  
Johnny Hughes

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**Members who were re-elected or returned to serve on the Board of Directors were:**

Chris Allen, Fred Carder, Ken Davis, Rodney LaVallie, and Tommy Walker (returned), all of Cleveland, TN, along with Troy Dailey of Sevierville, TN.

*Thank you to these, along with Becky Hughes and Larry Timmerman of Cleveland, TN, and James Herring of Acworth, GA, for their service and commitment to the mission and vision of Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.*

**IMNA Officers:**  Johnny K. Hughes, Executive Director / President; Becky Hughes, Asst. Executive Director & Board Secretary; Rodney LaVallie, Vice President

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**THE MISSION:** To be frontline Warriors impacting lives, restoring the broken, healing the wounded, and setting the captives free.

**THE VISION:** To encourage, empower and equip First Nations people to impact their community for Christ, through relationship, discipleship and continuing education.
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