



Indigenews

My People International

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Inenimowin...

“The feelings that are in my heart!”

During an unusually warm February week just over a month ago, we gathered together, trainers and a group of registered participants, to talk about what is really going on inside us—what’s in our hearts! We all, trainers and participants alike, talked together about what is going on inside us in the struggle of life. As we continue to discover, none of us is ever finished learning to live to the outside world from the thoughts and issues which our hearts hold close.

For us, at My People, life is about learning to live from the centre of our being; this is the place where our Creator has placed what is most precious. Yet many of us have a difficult time going there. But not in this group. This was a significant time of learning and growing together. Each person brought something valuable to the experience and we were all changed because of it.

At the end of our time together we asked those who had registered for this week of learning an healing, **“What would you tell others about coming to this event?”**

Some of the responses included comments like:

“It was worth coming to, for it helps one to get reconnected to one’s heart. For how can you help someone else unless you are able to go the heart?”

Another registered participant, a person who lives according to the traditional ways of his people, commented that if we ever had this training again in his region, not only would he come, but he would encourage others to come from his community. This individual said not once, but three times,

“If we could take Inenimowin Circle to my community I would urge my people to come—for this is what we need.”

Many of us have learned, because of our pain, to live life without heart, sheltered and closed off from the

pain, but also closed off from people where we can experience things like love and joy.

Through this Inenimowin, as with all the others we have done, we trained a group of leaders—people who are already helping others; we helped them to be better at what they already do.

At the Circle, everyone brings something significant. When we take time to come together and talk about what is going on in our hearts, we find strength to change and courage to help lead others back to their heart. There slowly, gently, they can begin to dream and think what it would be like if they not only survived but also enjoyed a life that was full and meaningful.

One other comment was powerful and encouraging to us. One of the registered participants said,



“This training was so good it could attract 500 people; but if there were 500 people there, it would not be a place to come away and talk about what is really going on inside.”

Inenimowin training takes time and it takes resources. But through it we are helping to build safe places where people can talk about what is really going on inside. From that centre, the deep places of the heart, we bring healing from our Creator/Redeemer—the one who is himself, the wounded healer. After all, he invites us also, to be wounded healers does he not?

~ Ray Aldred~

Notes from the Field...ministry in Muskrat Dam

Linda and I left Sioux Lookout by car March 5th at ten thirty a.m. to go north as far as we could with our little Honda. Our brother-in-law Patrick met us at Lake Windigo about 240 kms north of Pickle Lake over 500 kms north of Sioux Lookout. Patrick met us at the end of the little road that was drivable by car. With his four-wheel-drive we were able to travel over the frozen lakes and tundra until we arrived at Muskrat Dam about eleven hours later.

Linda and I prepared for the arrival of Mervin and Carol Anne Cheechoo with whom we had arranged to do a Parenting Workshop in Muskrat Dam. The folks in Muskrat know the Cheechoo's because of their son, Jonathan, an NHL hockey player and quite a Native celebrity. We thought having Mervin and Carol Anne in to start off and introduce us again to the community would be a great ice breaker—and a good way to draw people out. Of course, we also knew that the Cheechoo's do a great parenting workshop. So we thought the combination of celebrity and quality was something that could really help get things going in a positive direction in Muskrat Dam (Muskrat's hockey players were thrilled that Mervin came out to watch them play on their new rink after Mervin and Carol Anne spoke that first evening).

The Cheechoo's flew in Sunday afternoon and we set up an evening program. This was more of an introduction to the workshop on Monday. We were on the local radio in the afternoon trying to get people excited about coming and then did the evening program. I (Rick) facilitated the evening, did some singing and got a few other local singers involved.

The evening service started off with a motivational talk geared to the youth. It was a moving presentation about how their son Jonathan never gave up on his dream to make it to the NHL. Of course Mervin motivated parents to be involved with their children. They had great pictures and used power point to illustrate important truths. We had the opportunity to connect with many people during the service times as well as in the community after the services and the workshops. The Cheechoo's ended the workshops Tuesday afternoon with a powerful call to better parenting and people responded with commitments to do all they can to be better parents.

God took care of us and we thank Him for the time of ministry at Muskrat Dam. I was able to connect with the Grand Chief, the local Chief and most of the leaders and so many others in Muskrat Dam.

I believe it is because we have been able to be creative in these ways, that the door continues to be open for Linda and me to walk with her people in Muskrat Dam.

~Linda & Rick Martin~

Quotables...

"This training was so good it could attract 500 people; but if there were 500 people there, it would not be a place to come away and talk about what is really going on inside."

~ Inenimowin Participant, February 2010~

Stories of Hope...

... this month, a first-ever youth retreat is the place of beginning for a group of young girls

March 26-28 marked the first annual Envision Teen Girls Retreat, at which I (Summer) partnered with Ipatapiiyoop Youth Ministries in Browning, Montana. Ipatapiiyoop means "to be alive" in the Blackfeet language and the weekend was about giving 8th-12th grade girls an opportunity to know about the abundant life their Creator offers them and to get a vision of the loving way He embraces them. Dancing, art work, facials, yoga, games, music, skits, talking circles, smudges led by a Blackfeet elder, discussions on identity, and of course delicious food, including Indian tacos and ice cream sundaes were all part of experiencing the life-giving greatness of the Creator through Jesus.



One of the most powerful aspects of the weekend was the unity that was formed among the girls. It would have been easy and even common for these girls to separate into groups, leaving some completely out of the picture, but instead they all fused together and accepted one another. They played, ate, sang, and shared together.

These girls allowed themselves to be girls and to be themselves. What more could have communicated love to these young ladies than to be accepted and valued for an entire weekend? However, their growth doesn't have to end with a weekend experience. Two of these girls came to the Ipatapiiyoop youth gathering the next day. In hopes of providing the opportunity to take a journey to get a spiritual vision from the Creator, Envision 2010 was a great start to embracing young ladies on the Blackfeet Reservation with His life-giving love.

~Summer Graham~

Summer and the girls!

Kids Culture Camp and Family Celebration 2010

The annual kids cultural encampment, with family celebration on the final day, is set for August 18-22, 2010. Once again we are privileged to be able to use the great facilities of Intervarsity's Pioneer Lodge, situated in the picturesque foothills of the Rocky Mountains, near Sundre, Alberta.

First Nations kids from their communities, some from the cities, in the 8 to 12 year old range experience a great taste of Native culture, traditions and values among a group of respected elders and young adults who care deeply for them. They experience family and clanship in the activities, the teachings and the friendships that develop during the week together. Traditional teachings bridge the way for contextual understanding of our creation origins, of our Creator and His son, Jesus and how very special each child is, created in the very image of God.

This year's camp will again include horsemanship, traditional crafts (focused around the medicine wheel), drumming and dancing, lacrosse, swimming and some time exploring, discovering and understanding the land. What a great staff is coming together once again to make this the best culture camp ever!

We are limiting the number of campers to 60 to be sure those who come will be well taken care of. Preference is being given to repeat campers in order to optimize their sense of ongoing, caring and vibrant Native and Christian community. The subsidized cost for kids is \$195. The expectations are for a maturing of these children into strong, caring, respectful leaders who will pass on honorable values to the next generations. If you are interested in sending First Nations kids to this camp or sponsoring their week at camp, please see our website or contact me: tim@mypeopleinternational.com.

~ Tim Stime~

Prayer Needs

- ⇒ ...for the Grahams as they move to a half-time role with MPI
- ⇒ ...for children and staff attending Culture Camp 2010 and for the back-packing camp in Montana
- ⇒ ...for Ipitapiiyoop youth ministry on the Rez in Browning, MT
- ⇒ Ray Aldred as he defends his dissertation in the next weeks
- ⇒ For the Mohawk translators in AZ workshop April 19-23
- ⇒ ...Terry & Ray for many writing and speaking assignments.

Inenimowin Reprised...

I felt like this was the best circle that we have had. The presentations were excellent. It seemed that the team was tighter and we all were comfortable with one another. It was a smaller group but all participants expressed how much it meant to them. The five women and the three men all shared how they were so thankful that they came.

In my group we had two aboriginal men from Canada and a non-native man from Australia. They all were involved in discussions and we all learned together. Adrian and I (Rick) worked together as leaders in our group. Adrian was a gift to work with again as usual.

We had a traditional man in our group. It was amazing how he related to what was being taught and he never felt offended by what we were teaching. In fact he asked us if we could come to his home reserve to teach his people there. It was beautiful the way Jesus was presented all week. I believe everyone in our groups saw a Jesus that they really wanted to embrace and love. It was beautiful to see.

The five-day teaching workshop included issues of shame, being alone and worthless. One of the participants in Linda's group shared this at a feedback time.

"... after speaking the words that bound me so tight and for so long, I imagined the chords that chained my whole being were severed and they literally flung off my body like an elastic bungee chord, quickly unraveling, snapping, whipping, and freeing my spirit!"

What amazing words of new-found freedom! When I (Linda) heard this testimony at the end of the five day training, it reminded me of different scripture passages that refer to people sitting in darkness, people who are captives and prisoners to their sin and pain. We all saw people find freedom that week and this makes it all worth it!

~ Rick and Linda Martin~

Celebrating...

The Mohawk Bible translation team celebrated the birthdays of two of its members recently: Josie Horne, 93, and Dorris Montour, 90. Charlotte Bush, a third team member, is following close behind (see photo pg. 4). Please pray for the continued health of these women, who have worked faithfully on the translation of the Scriptures into their beloved mother tongue, Kanien'kéha (Mohawk). Josie Horne has recently retired from the translation work for health reasons, and will be sorely missed at the meetings.

Three other team members will be attending the yearly Mother Tongue Translation Workshop offered by the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the SIL/Wycliffe facilities in Arizona in mid-April. There they will work on the dubbing of videos on the Parables of Jesus into Kanien'kéha, and finalizing the audio recording of the book of Genesis, which the team also hopes to publish before the end of the year. Meanwhile, Harvey Gabriel is forging ahead on the rough-drafting of the Deuterocanonical books, as well as with the checking of the translation by the Canadian Bible Society advisors.

~ Céline Genest~

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Dates and Events ...

Upcoming Staff Events—Dates and Places ...

- April 14—**Atlantic Prayer Breakfast**—Terry Speaking
- April 22-25—**OMSC Mission Leaders Forum**, Yale—Terry and Jeanine LeBlanc attending
- June 2-6—**Edinburgh 2010 Missions Conference**, Edinburgh Scotland—Terry, delegate
- August 18-22—**Kids Culture Camp**—Sundre, AB—Tim, Yin Mooi and staff
- September 9-16—**iEmergence indigenous youth gathering**, Shillong, India—Matt LeBlanc with Dancing the Way
- November 4-7—**Nēstooāāk and Dancing the Way**, St Paul, MN—Terry and MN Team
- November 12-13—**Nēstooāāk and Dancing the Way**, Edmonton—MPI staff and Dancing the Way, Western team

Training Events—Dates and Places...

- April 6-8—**Counselling Skills Workshop**—Neah Bay, WA—Rick and Linda teaching
 - April 10-13—**Ministry Dates on reserve in Nova Scotia and PEI**—Terry speaking
 - April 15-18—**Envision Evangelical Scholars**, North Park University, Chicago—Terry and Ray speaking
 - April 19-23—**Mother Tongue Translation Workshop**, SIL Center, Catilina AZ— Mohawk team and Celine Genest
 - May 10-15—**Teaching (Asset-based Planing and Dev’t)**, Yonge Street Mission, Toronto—Terry teaching
 - May 16—**Native Masters Degree Cohort**, Toronto—Terry teaching
 - May 26-30—**Rising Above**, Winnipeg—Rick and Linda teaching
 - June 7,8—**Presbyterian Assembly**, Sydney, NS—Terry Speaking
 - June 10-12—**NAIITS 7th Symposium**, George Fox University, Newberg, OR— Terry and staff presenting
 - July 13-24—**Counselling Training**, Dryden—Rick and Linda teaching
 - October 16-26—**Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization**—Terry is a delegate
- KEEP YOUR EYS ON THE WEB FOR MORE DETAILS AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS...

More news at...

www.

mypeopleinternational.com
and
www.naiits.com

Our Vision?

Our vision is a simple one. It is that:

“Every Native North American person will embrace a life-giving relationship with the person of Jesus – and experience that relationship in a Native North American Way.”

Our mission?

“To communicate the teachings of Jesus to Native North American people in a culturally relevant way; to encourage Native North American life to be centred in a spiritual relationship with Jesus; and, to facilitate culturally appropriate participation of Native people within the wider community of those who follow Jesus.”

Celebrating...

Josie Horne, 93, and Dorris Montour, 90. Charlotte Bush celebrating two landmark birthdays!

