



Indigenews

My People International

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Lausanne III, Cape Town and Ministry in Africa

Thanks to a gracious gift from the Maranatha Foundation of Ontario, it was possible for Terry to attend the 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization. He was joined by Ray Aldred and board member Wendy Peterson.

Terry had been appointed one of the 50 official delegates to the Congress but it was really the unsolicited offer of Miller Alloway and the foundation that made attendance possible. Thanks Miller!

A smaller gift, nonetheless significant, made a brief pre-conference trip to Uganda possible for Terry, Wendy and Matt LeBlanc. There, they visited with Charles and Betty Mukasa, a young couple pastoring three small churches of primarily young people in the Kampala area. Charles and Betty welcomed the small team as old friends and, during the days we were there, talked about what a more contemporary partnership for ministry in their community—particularly for iEmergence—might look like.

Pray for us as we consider what, if anything, we might be able to do to connect Native North American people with our Ugandan brothers and sisters for ministry. (see "Lausanne" p. 2)

Why the Future is Today...

Project Teen Canada has been charting trends in Canadian teen behaviour since the 1970s. For the first time ever, in a just-released companion study, the report offers a special focus on Native youth, contrasting on and off-reserve Native teen thoughts, attitudes and behaviour with youth from the mainstream of Canadian society.

One of the co-authors of the study, James Penner, agreed to provide us with a copy of the results of the research as soon as they were compiled. It arrived just prior to the Christmas break!

The results are not unexpected. In fact, the research data confirms what some of us have considered characteristic of the beliefs and behaviours of our youth in key areas of life for some time now—Native kids are different—and in some very significant ways. Another way



Meeting old friends at Lausanne III Front row l to r: Terry LeBlanc, Ruth Padilla DeBorst, Rene Padilla, Elise Padilla, Matt LeBlanc. Back Row l to r: Ray Aldred, Richard Twiss

to say it, made clear in the study, is that Aboriginal young people—on or off-reserve—continue to see the world and their lives differently than young people in the mainstream society.

I first met James Penner when he came to our camp in 2009 to meet with me. He was curious what made our camp different—what we were about. I talked about the need for connectedness to family and culture where Jesus was central. It took only moments for me to realize that his work with Dr. Bibby was hugely important if we were to get a clearer perspective on Native kids' values and beliefs. Among other things, it would help ensure our programs of ministry were meaningful and well targeted toward the needs of Native families and their children.

As I read through the stats from the report on Aboriginal teens and youth from Reginald Bibby et al at the University of Lethbridge, I was grateful this past year to have the opportunity to spend time on three specific occasions with our son Matt who has been giving leadership to the iEmergence ministry targeted to youth and young adults. There I witnessed first-hand some of the implications of James' work.

(see "Future" p. 3)

Ministry Positions Available...

The demands on staff and staff time are increasing significantly. As a result, we have two positions available immediately.

~See inside, p. 3 for more details.

Lausanne... (cont'd from pg 1)

Crucial to making any decisions for change is that the new initiative(s) address themselves to the overall vision and mission of the organization. When iEmergence, for example, came forward to ask MPI to provide oversight to its work, we asked some hard questions about how it fit. You can understand why the project teen Canada report with the newest statistics on Native youth and young adults is so important— in very real ways it vindicates and undergirds the decision made to say “Yes!”, to the request of our young people.

The same is true as we consider how to continue connecting and training Native North American peoples for the ministry needs of our own people while considering the call of our friends in Uganda. What has all this to do with Lausanne III you might ask? Well, the Cape Town Commitment that has emerged in draft form considers the nature and speed of global change right at the outset of its call to commitment to renewed mission observing that...

...almost everything about the way we live, think and relate to one another is changing at an accelerating pace. For good or ill, we feel the impact of globalization, the digital revolution, and the changing balance of economic and political power in the world. Some of the things we face cause us grief and anxiety -- global poverty, war, disease, the ecological crisis and climate change. But one great change in our world is a cause for rejoicing – and that is the growth of the global church of Christ.

—from *The Cape Town Commitment—A Declaration of Belief and Call to Action*

We are convinced that the time the iEmergence team has spent in the Philippines, NE India, Uganda and South Africa this past three years gives legs to the vision of MPI to mobilize our own while simultaneously affording opportunity for participation in global mission. We're excited by that—but most importantly excited that it is the young generation taking up the call. We know you are too!!

~With notes from Wendy and Matt~

Notes from the Field

"We have been amazed at how God has answered prayer and provided people in the community to help us take steps to establish a youth ranch ministry in the area in the future. Too many kids are being sent off the reservation to get help and so many people would love to have a place local, where the kids can stay plugged into their community. Just last week a tribal councilman/state congressman met as part of a steering committee for us and gave us his support to help in any way he could as we pursue foster care licensure and seek land for the youth ranch here on the reservation. This was an amazing connection that only the Creator could orchestrate."

~Summer & Wes Graham~



"The adventure of going to India was unforgettable. The most memorable was the last night of the gathering when all the tribes were represented on stage and we played our instruments together. Wow... It was so amazing. People had different tongues, different cultures, different ways of worship but all had one reason—glorifying and worshipping God. Some were dancing, others singing and chanting. It was so cool that it felt like Heaven.

I can say that through TCG I have already experienced a portion of Heaven. It I was deeply touched as I listened to a pastor telling the In our place tribal people are discriminated and this made me feel less of a person, so sometimes I don't want others to know that I am tribal. Through TCG, I have learned to be proud of my tribe, of who I am, of what I am capable of doing and of where I came from. I've learned that we can come to God just as we are without trying to be somebody else. I've also learned from Uncle Terry that we should not forget our past and where we came from. Most of us are only concerned about the future and we tend to forget where we came from and who we really are.

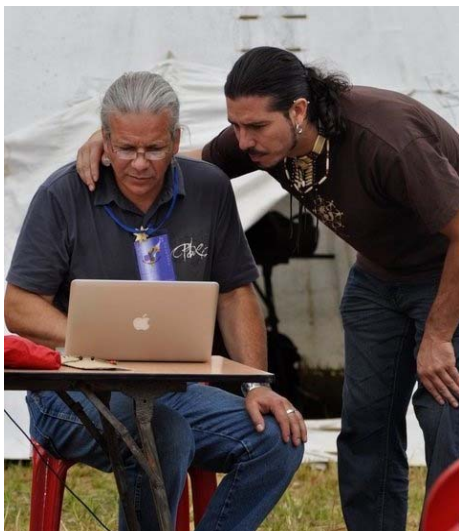
The feeling of being part of TCG was so beautiful. Nothing beats the joy of doing something for the Lord. I hope this is just the beginning of a wonderful walk towards doing mission work and partnering with iEmergence."

~Jefferson Bringas, Obo Manobo, Cotabato Philippines—iEmergence~

The Future... (cont'd from pg 1)

The words of our own iEmergence team member Michelle Nieviadomy, Cree from Saskatchewan, gave support to the report's observations when she returned from the first Tribal Christian Gathering sponsored by iEmergence in India this fall and noted...

"...as I reflected on my own journey of discovering who I was as a "Red Indian", I was reminded about the time in my life



Terry and Matt LeBlanc at the first ever Tribal Christian Gathering in India...

where I loathed the word "Indian" and refused to even say it. It was humbling for me to remember where I once was and what I once believed about myself as a Cree woman. I was grateful for the place the Creator has brought me out of that has allowed me to see the beauty of the Indian people, both in India and in Canada ... there was freedom to be Cree, to be Khasi ... There was freedom to be as Creator made us to be and not to be anyone else. As I watched and admired the people who I have come to know in India, the people had such a hunger and faith for Jesus, I felt new hope arising within for the Red Indian. I opened my heart to envision something more for my people."

We'll spend a bit of time in the next months digesting the content and seeing what it means to us and our ministry in the days ahead—but I am confident that the future is now as we work with Indigenous youth and young adults.

~Terry LeBlanc~

Reality for Aboriginal Youth¹

- ◆ Young Aboriginals have lives rooted in distinct cultures—complete with their own names and languages. High levels of bilingualism speak of cultural retention.
- ◆ Aboriginal young people are not lined-up evenly with other Canadian young people [including new immigrants] when they come out of life's starting gates.
- ◆ The religion of most Aboriginals has an important component of spirituality that is grounded

Prayer Needs

- ⇒ For the staff as they meet in January for refreshment and discussion on the direction for MPI for the coming year (s)
- ⇒ For Bev LeBlanc as she goes in for surgery at the end of January—successful surgery and a speedy recovery
- ⇒ For the start of NAIITS' first cohort in the first-ever all Native offered MA in Intercultural Studies in early February.
- ⇒ For all the speaking and teaching engagements staff have ahead of them—they are increasing in number and variety
- ⇒ For the many students beginning study in the New Year with the NAIITS programs in theology, biblical studies and mission
- ⇒ For the Kids Culture Camp planning—this is the third year of a full partnership with ICVF and the Edmonton Native Healing Centre—the last two years we have been full—this year we are considering a young leaders training program to begin the camp.
- ⇒ For Terry as he begins to edit the submissions to the Edinburgh 2010 conference's Mission and Power volume due in December 2011.
- ⇒ For the 8th World Christian Gathering on Indigenous Peoples January 8 through 16, 2011 in New Zealand. Pray for the evolving vision and mandate which will be central to the discussion for the WCGIP's continuation as the Vision Keepers meet during the conference events.

Coming Right Up...



Inenimowin Circle

May 15-19, 2011
Small Group Training for Healing
Camp Arnes, Manitoba

Call Marlene Wiebe at 204 632-5100 or
e-mail: inenimowincircle@shaw.ca

Listening to First Nations Voices

Presbyterian College of Montreal, (Monday and Tuesday) www.presbyteriancollege.ca or contact Jill Foster at jillf@magma.ca



Ministry Positions...cont'd from the front page

We currently have the following positions available:

- ◆ NAIITS Student and Faculty Services coordinator
- ◆ Executive Assistant for MPI

Please inquire by email to Terry terry@mypeopleinternational.com or, give him a call at 780.727.4522.

Please note that neither position necessarily requires a move and can be undertaken from a home office for the most part.

My People International

Phone, Fax, email and website

Ph 780-727-4522

Fax 780-727-4523

office@mypeopleinternational.com

www.mypeopleinternational.com

www.naiits.com

Ground Mail

P.O. Box 295
Evansburg, AB T0E 0T0
Canada

P.O. Box 130061
St. Paul, MN 55113-0001
USA

Dates and Events ...

More news at...

www.mypeopleinternational.com

and
www.naiits.com

Our Vision?

Our vision is a simple one—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."

Upcoming Staff Events—Dates and Places ...

- January 7,8—*Hockey Ministry with Moose Factory Youth*—Moose Factory and Woodside Church—Rick and Linda
- January 8—16, 2011—*8th World Christian Gathering on Indigenous People*—New Zealand—Terry and Bev attending
- January 14—*Aboriginal Culture Orientation for Teachers in Training*—Kings University College, Edmonton—Adrian
- January 24,25—*Listening to Native Voices*—Presbyterian College, McGill—Ray and Adrian
- January 27-30, 2011—*MPI Staff Meeting*—Evansburg, AB—ALL Staff
- February 4-6—*Youth Retreat*—Dryden, ON—Linda Martin
- February 7-9—*Native Theology of the Land*—George Fox Seminary—Ray Aldred
- February 10,11—*The Oka Crisis, Relations with First Nations*—U of Montreal—Celine Bastien Genest, Francine Lemay
- February 24—26, 2011—*IVCF board meeting*, Toronto, ON—Terry attending
- February 26, 27, 2011—*North Burlington Baptist Church Orientation trip*—on-reserve with Terry
- March 4,5,6—*Muskrat Dam Jamboree*—Muskrat Dam, ON—Rick and Linda
- March 11—13, 2011—*Mennonite Spring Conference*, Winnipeg, MB—Terry speaking
- March 19, 2011—*Men's Breakfast*, Evansburg, AB—Terry speaking
- April 6—9, 2011—*Wheaton College Theology Conference*, Wheaton, IL—Terry presenting
- April 13,14—*Mennonite Youth Conference*—Kelowna, BC—Adrian Jacobs speaking
- April 20, 2011—*Chapel Speaker*, North Park University, Chicago, IL—Terry speaking
- April 21— 26, 2011—*Consultation on Integral Mission*—Oxford Centre for Mission Studies—Terry is a delegate
- April/May—*Ipaitapiiyoop Teen Girls' Retreat*—Heart Butte, MT—Summer Graham, organizing
- May 7—*Unbound: The Bible in Global Contexts*—Calgary—Ray Aldred (NOTE: this is open to the public—email for info)
- May 10—12, 2011—*Refresh Conference*, Wycliffe College, Toronto—Terry speaking

Training Events—Dates and Places...

- January 16-23—*Counselling Workshops*—Waskaganish, QC—Rick and Linda
- March 21-25—*Counselling Workshops*—Moose Factory, ON—Linda and Rick
- May 1-7, 2011—*Asset-based Planning and Development*, Yonge Street Mission, Toronto, ON—Terry teaching
- May 15-19, 2011—*Inenimowin Circle*, Camp Arnes, MB—MPI Staff
- June 9-11, 2011—*NAIITS 8th Symposium on Mission and Theology*—Staff
- June—*Waskaganish Youth Conference*—Waskaganish, QC—Rick and Linda