

Normans serving with



~Serving With First Nations to Reach All Nations

NAIM
NORTH AMERICA
INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES



December 2007

Many Native Americans consider Thanksgiving Day a day of mourning. The first officially mandated Thanksgiving took place in 1637 to celebrate the "victory" of the Puritan militia and their Narragansett allies massacring 700 Pequot Indians. Thanksgiving is a reminder to them of all that they lost when the first immigrants came here.

That was the sentiment of my good friend, Jeri Nordstrom until just a few years ago. It wasn't that she did not believe in the Creator or his Son Jesus. It wasn't that she was not thankful for her salvation. She was used to special days being set aside for sacred festivals of thanksgiving to her Creator, but she rebelled against a mandated, government dictated day to give thanks, in light of the above history.

To quote one of our Native acquaintances, Randy Woodley, "We all know that many of those who claimed to be Christian did not act it, that their greed for more land and their false notions of superiority did not reflect Jesus. But...there were times of peace and friendship that did reflect Jesus." And that happened for us this past Thanksgiving.

We celebrated together with Jeri and her family and also a group of Maori Christians from New Zealand. It had to be one of the most memorable days of our 23 years of ministry. Jeri shared some of her cultural dances and stories and the Maoris entertained us with many of their cultural songs and dances.



The facial expressions may look like this group of young people are just playing around, but this is part of their cultural war dance, used to intimidate attackers. Most of these young people were into drugs and alcohol until they were taken in by Dramatic Influence. They live with godly Christian mentors for nine months, pick kiwi to earn money, and learn their cultural dances, then for the next three months they tour the US and Canada sharing their story. Not all of them have decided to put their trust in Jesus (yet), but they are on a journey. All of them have stopped using drugs and alcohol.

This same group of young people shared at our December Gathering of First Nations people. The grandpa, 78 years old, who travels with them gave a powerful testimony and call to each one of the 120 people gathered there, to put their trust in Jesus and follow Him.

We are so grateful to each of you that has played a part in keeping us here in ministry. You have prayed for us, supported us financially, and encouraged us with your words of wisdom and acts of service. We've been so privileged to share in and learn from other cultures because of your faithfulness.



Our good friend, Jeri

Dave and Diane Norman
311 138th St. E.
Tacoma, WA 98445-1306
253-536-7428
norman@naim.ca

Gratefully celebrating peace and friendship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave + Diane".

Dave and Diane Norman

NAIM Ministries
PO Box 151
Point Roberts, WA 98281
604-946-1227
office@naim.ca

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