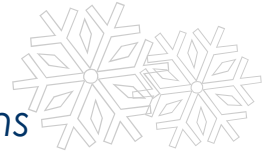
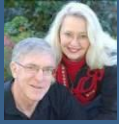




Normans



Serving with First Nations to Reach All Nations



PARTNERING TOGETHER

NAIM as an organization has been actively seeking ways to partner with our First Nations friends. As we review our ministry here in Tacoma, it seems the Creator has directed our path in a way that has led to a web of fruitful relationships. Recently we were invited by a Tacoma Church called 'The Crossing' to attend an early morning prayer meeting focused on ministry with and among Native Americans. We spent the first hour in prayer and then the following groups shared their respective ministries. Each one is involved in some aspect of sharing Jesus with First Nations people and cooperating together.

- **The Crossing** – the local hosting church which has a street ministry that involves reaching out to numerous First Nations people
- **NAIM** – our personal outreach to Natives in Pierce County and beyond
- **Firestarters** – a Native Prayer Network organized and run by First Nations friends, Gary and Pat Walker
- **Many Tribes** – an outreach to tribes across Turtle Island (the Native term for America) organized and run by our friends, Corb and Jan Morgan. Jan is a First Nations woman from California and we serve on their board. They also lead our local Wisdom Circle where we study Creator's Book.
- **Circle of Healing** – a ministry to those recovering from alcohol or post traumatic stress syndrome related to military service. This is led by Native friends, Twobears and Ieeta Lees. They were married in our backyard a few years back.
- **Tacoma First Nations Gathering** – our local outreach led by a team of Native and non-native Core Group members, of which we are a part. This is geared towards cultural affirmation while building relationships and doing acts of service that provoke questions to which Jesus is the answer.
- **El Shaddai** – a church and also food coop that is pastored by an African American couple who minister to all of the above groups by supplying food for local outreaches. The wife is half native. We do weekly pick-ups for them.

In addition to the above we attend a congregation on the Puyallup Tribal grounds that is pastored by a full-blood Native American. Dave drives the bus for Sunday morning pick-ups and both of us are helping with the children's program called Creator's Talking Circle.

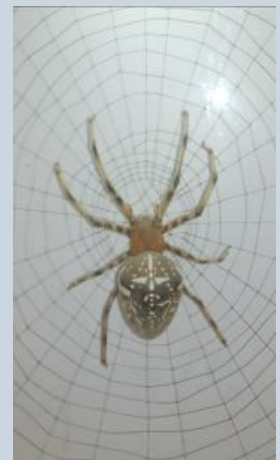
Hopefully this helps paint a picture of what 'partnership' looks like in Native ministry. The one area of partnership that I have purposely left for last is your partnership with us in prayer and financial support. At this time of year we are once again reminded that none of this ministry would be accomplished without your participation. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



December 2008

Our ministry is solely funded through, and fully accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries

A Web of Relationships



Sharing Jesus in partnership with our Native brothers and sisters because of you



WCGIP in Israel 2008



The Okinawans



The Papua New Guineans



Moluccans



Worshipping Jesus

Following is an article that was published in the BC Christian News, November 2008, page 7. It sums up our perspective of the World Christian Gathering where we volunteered our services from July – September. I wish you could have experienced it with us.

Natives worship in Holy Land

The **World Christian Gathering of Indigenous Peoples** took place in Israel during September. **Diane Norman** of North America Indigenous Ministries (NAIM) wrote this account.

"HOW CAN I capture even a glimpse of what we have experienced during this world gathering of indigenous believers in Jesus?

There has been incredible variety in dance and worship forms. From youth to elders, in all shapes and sizes and colors. From the quiet, serene synchronized movements of the Okinawans, to the exuberant, joyful, spontaneous jumping and shouting of the Papua New Guineans.

From the single man who removed his shoes because he was on holy ground, and then sat cross legged on the ground, singing in his own language as tears rolled down his cheeks, to the energetic, colorful and wildly entertaining Moluccans.

The only commonality has been the consistent worship of Jesus, the One who values each culture and takes pleasure in the creative expression of each group or individual. It's not the drum; it's the heart of the drummer. It's not the dance; it's the heart of the dancer.

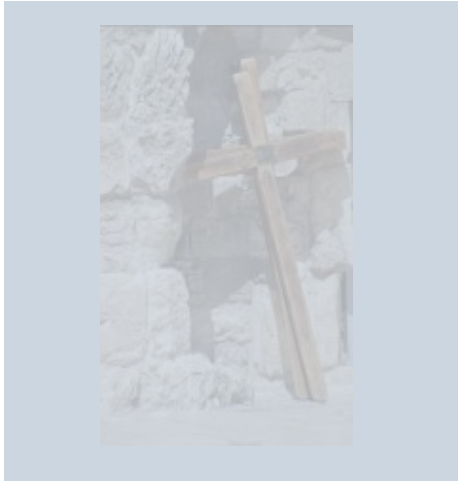
Many times I was brought to tears and humbled by the deep devotion of the indigenous peoples."

"One time I was standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, at sunrise. An elderly Navajo man was leading us in worship. All of his songs were directly from scripture, set to the music of his people. Near the end of our time, he just broke down and cried because of the freedom he was experiencing, allowing him to worship the Creator in his 'heart language.'

At that same service, just as the sun was rising, we watched a Native woman in her beautiful coastal regalia fall to her knees next to her canoe as she worshipped. A few minutes later she was on her face before the Lord. This woman was in the very first NAIM Trails camp which Dave led almost 20 years ago. Later during the conference, she shared with him how significant his counsel had been to her as a young woman seeking her identity at that camp. Today she is married to the hereditary chief of his tribe, and they both are spiritual leaders.

Still another time, we witnessed 50+ people being baptized in the Jordan River – Native believers from all over the world being baptized by other Native leaders, some quietly with tears and others exuberantly with a victory cry."





“ One of the highlights was at the Garden Tomb, where all 437 delegates met and held a worship service. At this point in previous World Gatherings, a cross was set up and participants were given an opportunity to leave their hurts, their losses and their pain at the foot of the cross. At this service, however, the aboriginals from Australia did a dance without any words, all to the music of the didgeridoo. It depicted them picking up the things which had been taken from them, and reclaiming them and using them to bring honor and glory to their Creator. How appropriate that at the place where Jesus was crucified and buried and rose again, these people – who have suffered so much and lost so much – should resurrect their culture and their language and their dignity, and use it to honor the One who created them in the first place.”



Family Update and Prayer Requests

1. Daughter, Kirsten, and her family have purchased a home only five minutes from us. Pray for them as they settle into their new home. Also, pray for both Mike and Kirsten as they adjust to new jobs. Grandson Howie, age 16, studied for one quarter in Vienna, Austria, but is home again and preparing for the wrestling season. Grandson Seth, age 14, continues to try to stabilize his diabetes. He is also active in wrestling. Grandson C.J., age 12, is the artist of the family. He is in the upcoming play at school. Granddaughter Kaya, age 5, enjoys kindergarten and is becoming quite the reader.
2. Son, Karel, and his family are in Nicaragua serving with Alongside Ministries. Pray for them as they continue to adjust to the hot weather, cultural differences, language barriers, new job responsibilities, etc. Granddaughter Addy, age 4, is learning Spanish quickly and loves the new animals like geckos and spiders. Rylee, age almost 2, had the hardest time adjusting to all the changes, but seems to be doing better. She has become quite the swimmer.
3. Son, A.J. and his family still live in MN. A.J. just took over a new role within T-Mobile with added responsibilities and Lindsay continues her role at the Evangelical Free Church Headquarters in the missions department. Little Andrew celebrated his first birthday on October 31. Pray especially for Lindsay as she works, takes care of her family, and finishes this semester of her PhD studies. Following this semester she will be taking a break from her studies. We have been so blessed with our wonderful children and grandchildren!
4. Praise the Lord for safe travel: Dave and I recently returned from a one week whirlwind trip to MN where we got to celebrate my parent's 60th wedding anniversary, my 40th high school class reunion, and grandson Andrew's birthday. We also spoke at our home church and taught a third grade class on Native American culture in the elementary school where my sister teaches.
5. In the midst of a struggling economy most missionaries are feeling the pinch also. Pray with us as we prayerfully consider ways to expand our support base.



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Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, but the feelings of gratefulness that we have for you remain all year. Without your prayers, financial support, and encouragement we would not be able to carry on. You are an incredible gift to us!

Merry Christmas and the best to you in the New Year,



Love + Diane



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