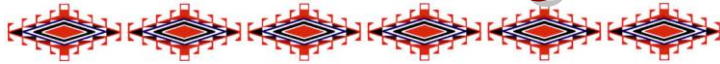


Normans serving with



~Serving With First Nations to Reach All Nations

NAIM
NORTH AMERICA
INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES



Winter 2007

Sitting contorted in the chair with pillows supporting her arms and neck, Elaine looked up as I walked into the prayer and share group. Her doe eyes, gentle smile, and godly countenance hid her intense suffering. I've known Elaine, a gifted musician, for two years and although I knew she had some physical problems, I didn't know the extent of her deep pain. "Elaine," I said, "were you in a car accident? What's the source of your back pain?" She hesitated and reluctantly responded, "Yes, I was in an accident back in the '90's."

It was 11:00 p.m. and the frosty chill of the night air penetrated my bones as I helped Elaine into the car. As we began the journey home, I said, "Elaine, I'm sorry if I made you uncomfortable with that question." "It's alright," she said, "I just don't want people to see me as a victim." Then it all came tumbling out – years of childhood abuse, both physical and sexual. She became the brunt of her mother's mental illness, continuing the cycle of her own abuse. Elaine was her scapegoat. Her father escaped to his job. "Had she ever confided in anyone," I asked? One time to a youth worker at her church. The next week a counselor showed up and wanted Elaine to share with him, but she was too afraid. Too scared of what the results would be if her mother found out she had told the truth. She clammed up. She felt like she deserved the treatment she received because she was such a bad girl - all she had ever been told at home.

Elaine has limited resources. Her ability to work has been greatly compromised. Her savings have been depleted for normal living expenses while she's been unable to work. She has had eleven restorative surgeries due to the abuse. Presently she cannot drive or sit at a computer. She cannot lie down in bed. She sleeps in that twisted position.

And hardest of all, her parents were faithful attendees at church during all the abuse and claim to be believers in Jesus. Elaine's only consolation throughout all those years was her own relationship with Jesus. She's amazing. There's no hint of bitterness or resentment. She's just concerned for the future. Four days ago she received a certified letter in the mail saying that she had 20 days to vacate the small home she has been renting. The new owners want to rent it to family members. If you think to pray for my dear friend, Elaine, she, and we, would appreciate it.

Once again we have been privileged to witness the love and power of the Scarred One – power to forgive and to live in freedom in spite of the pain and consequences of other's sins.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to NAIM that allow us to continue ministering here.

Humbly,

Dave + Diane

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