

INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

Hope for First Nations

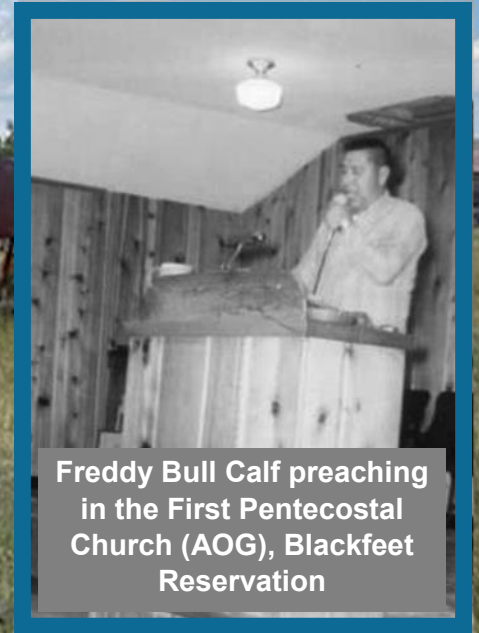
Summer 2024

Volume 23 - Number 2

The Log Church

Blackfeet Reservation, Browning, MT

Pages 3 & 9



Freddy Bull Calf preaching in the First Pentecostal Church (AOG), Blackfeet Reservation





**Indian Ministries
of
North America, Inc.**

*Summer 2024
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Hope for First Nations**

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Native American Flute Music

By Johnny Hughes



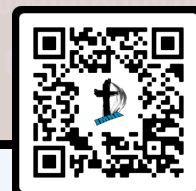
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The Log Church

I have been visiting the Blackfeet Indians in northwest Montana for nearly two decades. Many of them have become family to me. I completed my Ph.D. dissertation in 2014 covering an ethnohistory of Pentecostalism on the reservation. It has been a joy to collect stories, testimonies, pictures, and the history of how the full-gospel movement came to the reservation. I want to share some of that information, especially the story of the old log church, in this article and provide a very exciting update on my most recent Montana trip this past August 2024.

It was in the 1940s that Pentecostalism was first introduced among the Blackfeet Indians in Montana. By this time “Black Robe Medicine Men” (Catholics) and “Short Coat Medicine Men” (Protestants) had been proselytizing in various capacities to the Blackfeet for nearly one hundred years. In the mid-1940s, the Assemblies of God (AOG), one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world, was the first Pentecostal organization to emerge on the reservation through evangelism. As with many grassroots beginnings among Pentecostals across the United States, the introduction of the movement began with house meetings with a handful of members. Eugene Born, an AOG minister from Cut Bank, a neighboring town in Glacier County, and Jack Edgar frequented the small town of Browning and other parts of the reservation for house meetings in which the full-gospel message was preached. James Boy (a full-blood Blackfeet), in a rare interview with Adolf Hungry-Wolf documented in *The Blackfoot Papers*, recalls that

Those two men went around to every community on the reservation, holding services, house meetings. They carried with them one of those old-time wind-up phonographs, and that's how we learned the hymns.

(Hungry-Wolf, *The Blackfoot Papers*, 996)

Eugene and Jack held house meetings in the home of Jim and Mary Bad Marriage who moved to Browning in the winter months from the outskirts of town in Durham, where they also held similar services. James Boy remembers that

They [Eugene and Jack] would go to Jim Bad Marriage's all the time, and that's where I got started. I would sit outside and watch. I liked the way that they that drew us. There were three of us—Jim Bad Marriage, Jess Black Weasel, and myself. We found it to be really happy, so that's what got us started. (Ibid)

Other evangelists such as Tessie Nelson and her husband, who lived in Browning and worked in the oil industry, would follow Eugene and Jack in an effort to spread the Pentecostal experience. By 1950, AOG missionary Rolland Murphy was assigned to the Blackfeet reservation. Rolland was the first resident Pentecostal AOG pastor on the reservation. He was eventually an honorary inductee into the Blackfeet tribe and he learned

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VBS 2024 Hammon, OK

Summer Vacation Bible School at IMNA's Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma, was a party to celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year, we were able to minister and teach nearly 50 children from the community. This was the 5th year that a team from Summit Church in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, has taken time out of their Summer to come and teach the children of Hammon.

Following a week of music, dance, teaching, crafts, and games, the youth were challenged to seek a deeper spiritual walk with Christ. There were a few of them that expressed to the leaders, their desire to commit their lives to walking with Christ.

Over the past few years, many of the children in Hammon have experienced extreme hardships and tragedies in their young lives. It is always a blessing to see God begin to heal, and to see the smiles of happiness and joy begin to radiate through their smiles.

Thank you to the volunteers that assist with the Vacation Bible Schools that IMNA facilitates each year.



friday night ENCOUNTER

GOD IS FAITHFUL - Each month, a team from Indian Ministries of North America travels to Conehatta, MS, to conduct a Friday night service for the community. We had over 100 people in attendance at our August service, surpassing our monthly average of 30-40 people. We praise God and are believing for **REVIVAL!**



“Witnessing my children, along with their youth group, showing compassion and spreading the message of Jesus Christ gave me great joy and a renewed sense of hope for the future.” - Sis Megan

“This trip was special; it touched my heart in a way that I didn’t see coming. I can’t put into words how much this trip meant and how much I needed this trip. We came here to minister, and this church ministered to me instead! The goodness of God!”

- Sis Shelly



1 DAY VBS

Conehatta, Mississippi



Friendly Holiness Church, Poarch Creek, Alabama, was given the opportunity to partner with Indian Ministries of North America and travel to the Choctaw Reservation in Conehatta, Mississippi. We wanted to bless the children and families at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church, so we gathered school supplies to give the children for the upcoming school year.



When preparing for this event, Bro. Johnny told us they average between 20-30 children each month. We were blown away when over 100 people attended the Friday night service. God showed up and showed out as we worshipped and encouraged those in attendance. It was an honor and privilege to pray with the children and their families before the new school year began.

I loved being able to see the kids finally put aside their fear and get up and do the dramas with us and to worship the Lord, it was awesome! – Kenslee

After the service, we played a very competitive game of “glow in the dark kickball.” We loved seeing the excitement and fun on the faces of the children and teens as they played. It was also amazing to see how God literally multiplied the food that we had prepared. When you have 3 loaves of bread to feed over 100 people, there is no other explanation except God!

Saturday, we were able to do a mini-VBS, concentrating on “We are God’s Masterpiece.” It was awesome being able to see the FHC teens and children ministering to the Choctaw children. I trust that it was a seed of encouragement for the youth workers at Macedonia IBC; keep working, planting, and watering those seeds, and God will give the increase, and soon they will be ministering to others as well. We baked cupcakes, decorated back to school bags, and gave out backpacks and school supplies. We look forward to going back to Macedonia IBC in the future, and cannot wait to see what God has in store for them. -- By: Shelly Chavira



Giving a Bible – One of My Favorite Parts of Ministry

I have never counted how many Bibles I've given to others over my lifetime, but I know it is a vast number. My belief is everyone, no exceptions, should have a Bible to call their very own. I remember back to my very first Bible, a picture Bible my Mother read to us, before we could read for ourselves. My memories are full of the Bibles I was lucky enough to call my very own, and those who gave them to me.

We have always been asked for Bibles. We have been blessed to have them donated to us over the years, and as we were blessed with Bibles; we gave them to those in need. We never seemed to have enough to go around. Bibles can be out of reach for most of those we work with. A few years ago I saw a need for more Bibles, different age groups, bigger font sizes, different versions, and different stages, even study Bibles. We cannot do this alone, so I created an Amazon Wish List for those who would like to help us give Bibles to those in need. The first time I made the list, Bibles came pouring in; ones and two, tens and twenties. We even had those who don't order online give us money to purchase them. What a blessing!

I love seeing faces light up when they receive a Bible of their own! A few years ago, I began to keep count of how many Bibles we give to those in need. This year alone, we have given Bibles to 76 people.

That number includes infants, children, youth, and adults. We have given them out during VBS, Back to School events, kids headed to camp and folks new to being a follower of Jesus. I love choosing one for each person and writing their name in it, a Bible for them. Once again, we need more Bibles. If you would like to help us continue to give Bibles to those who need one, scan the QR code for the Amazon Wish List. Amazon makes it really easy: pick one or more Bibles and add them to your cart. Add the quantity you would like to order, choose ship to Becky Hughes in Cleveland, TN and checkout. They will ship them straight to our door. Thank you for all who have donated Bibles over the years and continue to support us, as well as those who are just now beginning. May God bless you richly as you help us spread the Word of God!

GIFT A BIBLE



the Amazon Wish List. Amazon makes it really easy: pick one or more Bibles and add them to your cart. Add the quantity you would like to order, choose ship to Becky Hughes in Cleveland, TN and checkout. They will ship them straight to our door.

By: Becky Hughes



Continued from Page 3

The Log Church

... from the heart
By: Eric Bates

some of the Native language. As church participation and home services grew, Rolland felt the need to establish a permanent structure of worship under the influence of the Assemblies of God, the organization through which he was credentialed.

Around the same time, Blackfeet elder, Tom Jackson, had a vision from God instructing him to donate land and construct a building solely dedicated to full-gospel worship. With the help of Blackfeet

members such as Joe No Runner and Tom Jackson, Rolland Murphy oversaw the initial building of what was known as the “log church” on Moccasin Flats within the town of Browning. The log church was a one-room structure made from local timbers felled and brought in to town from the surrounding mountains. Blackfeet

women peeled the bark and the men erected the structure piece by piece on the property donated by Tom Jackson.

Building this permanent house of worship was an exciting prospect for the Blackfeet Pentecostals who came to gradually understand and adopt the full-gospel movement. Church attendees at this time included notable Blackfeet such as Joe and Tom No Runner, Francis Red Horn, Cecile Big Beaver, James and Margaret Boy, Louis Night Gun, Takes Gun’s, Old Chief’s, Still Smoking’s, Agnes and Alfred Wells,

Running Fisher’s, Sydney Wolf Talk, and other prominent members of the tribe. By 1953, the log building was constructed.

While conducting research for my dissertation, it was a mystery what happened to the wooden church over the years. Some said it fell apart or was moved out of town, others said it burned down. In August 2024, and after all these years, I had the joy of (re)discovering the building! Edwin Running Wolf, a retired employee



of the tribe and Pentecostal, and Loren Monroe, whose father was one of the original Pentecostal ministers on the reservation, took me and my two sons to the location.

Nestled outside the town of Browning in the hillside stood the magnificent structure. One needed a four-wheel drive vehicle to access the area. Edwin said

it may have been moved around six times over the years. It was incredible to see the actual church where so many Blackfeet adopted the Pentecostal way.

As we were looking at the building, Edwin recalled how he was baptized in a trough in the winter and ran immediately out the front door to his home nearby to change clothes. He said it was freezing! There are so many testimonies of salvations, healings, deliverances, baptisms, and so much more in this humble place. It will remain a treasure to me.



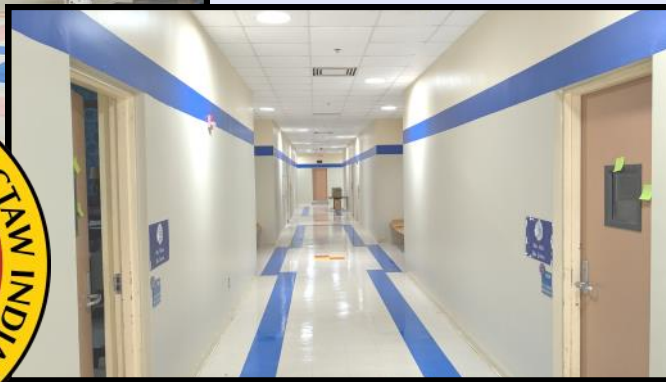
Indian Ministries of North America would like to thank the leadership of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, for their recent, generous financial blessing to support the efforts of this ministry. We have had a wonderful relationship with the Poarch community for over 20 years, and look forward to many more.



HELPING HANDS

Each Summer, Rock Slaughter, Aiken, South Carolina, leads teams of volunteers to the Conehatta community to assist with painting the elementary school. The school is part of the

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Tribal Schools, and Brian Parkman serves as Principal. They painted classrooms, hallways, and assisted teachers with setting up classrooms. We love to SERVE!



World Vision

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS... World Vision, North Texas, partnered with IMNA to bless numerous families and schools with supplies for Fall 2024.



THREE WAVES OF MINISTRY

Recently, we had the privilege of spending some time with missionaries from the Amazon region of South America. Hosted by First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tennessee, the team from Alteco enlightened us about their ministry among the indigenous people of the Amazon. They explained the three waves: European missionaries, Latino missionaries, and the Indigenous missionaries from the local regions. It was a wonderful time hearing and sharing the ministry of both North American and South American Indigenous people groups.



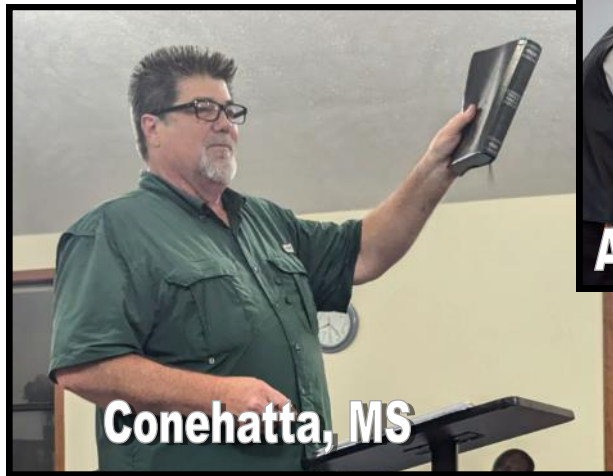
Summer of Ministry

The 2024 Summer has been a very busy season of ministry. We have traveled thousands of miles ministering in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. We have seen the power of God manifested in mighty ways, bringing

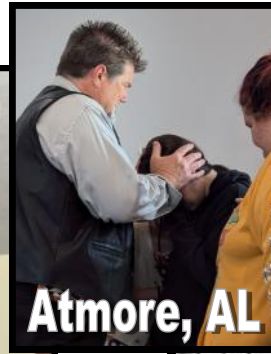
salvation, deliverance, and healing throughout our journeys. It is an honor and privilege to carry the Gospel to a hurting world. **We are open to coming to your church or event to share the ministry of IMNA, minister the Word, or worship with the music of the Native American flute.**



Lawton, OK



Conehatta, MS



Atmore, AL



Shawnee, OK

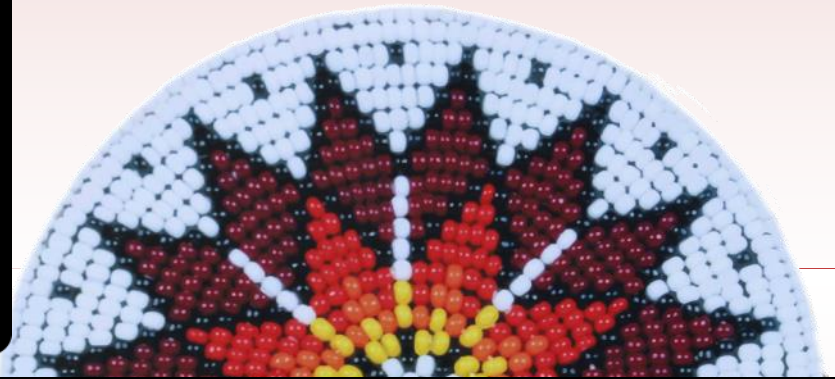


Church of God Heartland Region Summer Conference



MISSION:

To be frontline Warriors,
restoring the broken,
healing the wounded,
and setting the captives free.



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