

INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

Hope for First Nations

SPRING 2023

Volume 22 - Number 1



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Festival



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

*Spring 2023
Volume 22 – Number 1*

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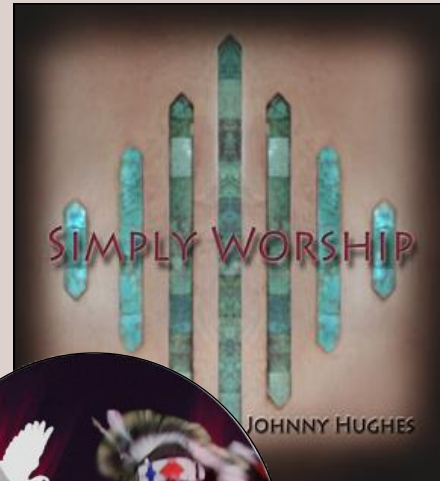
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... from the heart

By: Johnny K. Hughes



Christopher Hughes

It is a parent's dream to see their children succeed, especially when it comes to following their own dreams.

Becky and I have always been thankful for the blessing of two children that love the Lord with all their heart, and have chosen to dedicate their lives in service to Him.

Elizabeth, our first born, works with Indian Ministries of North America as the Operations Director, and she is responsible for completing a large portion of the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the ministry moving forward.

Christopher has always been the fast-paced son that keeps you on your toes. He accepted Christ a very young age, and has focused his life on serving Him. He began playing piano at the age of 7, and then found a love for the guitar. God blessed him with a talent for music, and Christopher chose to use that talent for God.



James, Christopher, and Johnny Hughes
Three generations of ministers / pastors

He began to sing and play with youth camp worship teams, before launching the band, GraFted. It was during this time that God developed the friendship between Christopher and Lindsey Slaughter into the marriage that they now enjoy. Together they have ministered in several churches with their music, youth mentoring, women's ministry, and serving their local church, Rock Bridge Community Church, Cleveland, TN.

At the church, he has assisted with the worship team, served as the youth worship leader, served as a part of the production team, and various other roles when needed.



Proud parents with their son.

Following the transition of the Campus Pastor for Cleveland, he was approached about applying for the position. After much prayer, interviews, and leadership training, the Rock Bridge leadership has chosen Christopher to serve as the Campus Pastor for Cleveland, Tennessee. We are so proud of him and the call that God has given him. We love you son!



A father's blessing prayer from Dad and Grandpa during commissioning



Warriors of the Word

Foundational Biblical Training

By: Fred Carder

God communicates with us in several ways. Some of these are through prayer, our circumstances, and through other people, but the primary way God communicates to us is through His written Word, The Bible. In January, we began an adult Bible study in Conehatta, MS. We started with the history of the Bible – How can we know that the Bible is true? We believe that the Bible is the Holy, Inspired, Inerrant, Word of God – written by men, but divinely inspired by God to tell us who He is, how much He loves us, and how we can have a relationship with Him, as well as guide our relationships with each other.

Developing that understanding in others who may have doubts about the Bible is important. We studied certain facts that we can point to that support this belief.

- 1) scientific and archeological accuracy
- 2) its writers said so, and were willing to lay down their life for its truth,
- 3) its power to change your life,
- 4) its endurance through the ages and
- 5) because Jesus said so.

We expanded on these facts and developed a better understanding of how we “give a defense for the hope

that is within us” (1 Peter 3:15) using the Bible as our tool.

After a couple of sessions on the Bible as a whole, we began at one of the best books on the beginning – the Gospel of John. Chapter 1, verse 1 is a great start, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” In this study of the Gospel of John, we are learning who John was, the purpose of his book, and how his gospel differs from Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We have learned that John, the son of Zebedee, spent chapters 1-11 presenting Jesus as The Son of God and God the Son. John was not too concerned with all the event details or chronological order as much as the other three gospels, but wants us to focus on Jesus, God the Son.

We have studied the WORD in the beginning, John the Baptist introduction of Jesus and his followers’ response as He began inviting them to “Follow Me.” We’ve got much more to go in this powerful look into Jesus as the Son of God and God the Son.



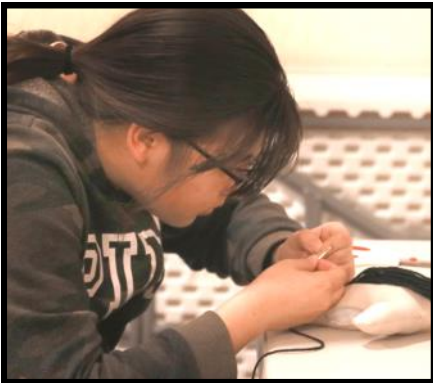


Hammon, Oklahoma

Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring Initiative continues our work through the efforts of Camp Tuesday, a Tuesday after-school program. The youth meet at IMNA's Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma. This semester, under the direction of Betty Eaton and Myrna Campbell Chambers, the youth have been developing their hand-sewing skills by making their own dolls. They sewed the body, added hair of yarn, and designed the clothing. Following the completion the doll-making session, they began working on their own unique piñata creation. Thank you to the leadership for all that you do for the youth of Hammon.



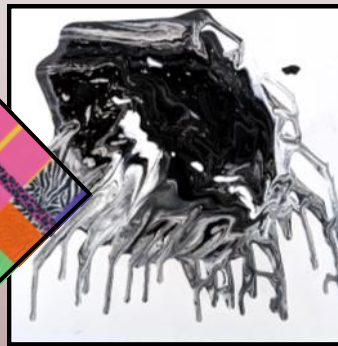
A child's whole world is viewed through the eyes of wonder and excitement...views life through innocence, purity, and curiosity.





Conehatta, Mississippi

The Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring Initiative continues to work with the youth of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Currently, our work in the Conehatta Community is impacting the lives of several of the local youth. Our goal is to give the youth an opportunity to try various activities and life-skills training. We then work with the student to identify the skills and talents that they feel are their strongest. As those are identified, we give them the chance to develop those areas of interest and watch their self-confidence and self-esteem grow stronger.



Fred Carder, left, and David Klocke, right, teach the basics of using a scroll saw. Others assisting with this project were Jerry Hurst, Rodrigo Hernandez, and Blaine Adkins. It is exciting to see the youth experience a new skill.

The youth have been trying various art techniques, woodworking, sewing skills, traditional beading, and cooking skills. We have heard many of the youth express an interest in developing their skills, and using them to provide a revenue source. This type of training is vital for today's youth, and we are always needing more adult mentors willing to give their time to serve the next generation.



Indian Ministries of North America has a real passion to see the youth of today live a more complete and productive life. We have made a commitment to accomplish this through the youth mentoring initiative, *Impact Warriors*. Working with adult mentors, the program strives to build self-confidence and self-worth through projects that will transform their personal life, as well as, their communities. They will also work to transform lives and communities around the world.



Thank you to the ladies from the House of Prayer Church, Blairsville, Georgia, and Janene Carder, Cleveland, Tennessee, for work in teaching sewing skills to the Choctaw youth and adults.



“Transforming Lives and Communities”

Larry Timmerman Gains His Reward

On March 30th, Rev. Larry Timmerman of Cleveland, Tennessee, transitioned to his new home in Heaven. He was an Ordained Bishop with the Church of God, where he served in several positions throughout the years. He was also a former member of the Indian Ministries of North America Board of Directors. His heart to see our Native American brothers and sisters experience the life-changing transformation of Jesus Christ was truly evident. Larry was a true friend to this ministry and to the Hughes family.

Jan, his wife of almost 62 years, reflected about her soulmate, "I never thought I would find a man with so much strength and feeling, a man with such integrity and goodness in his heart...For Larry, "to live was Christ and to die was gain." He would rather preach the Gospel than to eat any day."

LARRY IS MORE ALIVE TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE!

I always knew that I could call on my friend anytime. He was always available to take time out of his day to mentor others and to share his wisdom in ministry. I will miss those times of just sitting and talking over a good meal.

By: Johnny K. Hughes



Larry and Jan
Timmerman

The Full-Circle Blessing

In 2004, IMNA received a phone call from one of our Board members, Tom Swartz, of Blairsville, Georgia. He informed us that a local businessman had agreed to donate a trailer for the ministry. As we arrived to pick up the trailer, we drove out into a pasture and connected to a stock trailer that had been retired from use. We were then blessed to have a friend in Blairsville completely rebuild the trailer by enclosing and insulating the entire trailer.

From 2004 until we purchased a new trailer in 2019, this was the workhorse of our delivering supplies all across the country. We estimate that we were able to use it for well over 300,000 miles.

This Spring, Matt Pankey, of One Lifeline Ministries, Blairsville, Georgia, acquired the trailer from IMNA to use in their ministry efforts. This blessing has made a full circle back to where it started. Praise God!



Board of Directors

Highlight

IMNA added two new members to our Board of Directors during 2022. Dr. Eric Bates and Tim Burton are now serving terms as members of the Board. Each of these men have been closely connected to the ministry of IMNA for the last few years, and have exhibited a true heart of love and compassion for reaching our Native brothers and sisters for Christ.



Dr. Eric Bates serves as the Executive Pastor for Community Family Church, Independence, Kentucky, where he oversees 11 staff/pastors, multi-million dollar budget, 40+ team ministry leaders, 500+ volunteers, and multiple outreach

programs. Bates also serves as a member of the faculty for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy at Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky, where he is the Co-Director of Native American Studies. Bates has had numerous papers and articles published, as well as presentations, on Native American culture and Christianity. Eric, and his wife, Erin, are the proud parents of five children and enjoy their life on their family farm in Northern Kentucky.



Tim Burton, Jr. serves as the Children's Pastor for Summit Church, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Prior to God opening this full-time ministry position at Summit Church, Burton worked for several years in HR Management. He is passionate about

leading worship, reading, and spending time with family. Seeing others come to Christ is a vital part of his life, and he has developed a love for, and relationships with many of the youth in Hammon, Oklahoma, during his oversight of Vacation Bible School at Grace Point for the past few years. Tim and his wife, Melissa, are the proud parents of three children.

Pen the Story



By: Emylia Martinez

We are all living a story today. A story crafted and told by the Author of heaven. The star-scatterer. The mountain-mover. The water-walker. It is a story of being brave and strong and loved. A story of, most of all, love.

In the day-to-day, it doesn't feel like a story. It feels like dishes in the sink. Reports that need to be submitted from 4 calls ago. Another mile behind the steering wheel of the car, but this doesn't change what's real. Beneath the surface of all that ordinary, still shines the glory.

Sometimes the plot is confusing. Or strange. Or sad. Sometimes we want to cut out a chapter with sharp scissors. Sometimes we want to be the editors with the red ink. Sometimes we want to skip right to the end just to make sure it says, "And they lived happily ever after."

But this is not our role. It is not for us to say, "This is what happens next" or "I'm changing the ending." Instead, we are to trust, to wait, to be in the middle of the mystery. There is so much we do not know, that we will not know, but we can be certain of this: the Author is good and we are loved.

Yes, even when the unexpected sentence comes. When we face that dark-as-night period. When the syllables jumble together and we scratch our heads. Even in those places, between those lines, there is a God at work who has always been speaking, always been creating beauty out of the broken.

Jesus is not done with history. He is not finished with the part of it that is our story either. Whatever scene we find ourselves in today, it is not the final page. Hold on, there is a turning coming. There is more than this, more than here and now. We have not yet seen the there and then.

We are overcomers. We are warriors, and whatever the future brings, our God is still holding the pen. He is the only one who gets to write.....

"The End."

TORNADO STRIKES WORLD VISION



On the evening of March 16, a severe storm that included heavy winds swept through the Grand Prairie, Texas, region and directly struck the North Texas World Vision Storehouse causing significant damage. The destruction was severe with at least 25% of the roof ripped off, the Teacher Resource Center (TRC) and office space ruined, and standing water that damaged a lot of the inventory/product. We praise God that all of the workers and volunteers were kept safe. As a partner with World Vision, this warehouse is a major supplier of product that IMNA receives for distribution. We ask that you continue to pray for the entire World Vision, North Texas team and all of its partners.

TORNADO STRIKES CHEYENNE, OK

A Spring tornado struck a portion of the town of Cheyenne, Oklahoma, damaging several homes, along with minor damage to the Washita Battlefield Museum. Unfortunately, one resident lost his life when his home was destroyed.

Indian Ministries of North America, partnered with Operation Compassion, Cleveland, Tennessee, to deliver gaylord containers of bottled water, toilet paper, and paper towels for the community.

IMNA has a close friendship and partnership with Pastors Randy and Amie Broadwater of the Washita Cowboy Fellowship, and through their efforts we were able to make the needed connections with Roger Mills County leaders. IMNA's Grace Point Ministry Center is also located in the same county.



Pictured (L-R): *Becky Hughes, IMNA; Levi Blackketter, Roger Mills County Emergency Management Director; Johnny Hughes, IMNA; Randy Broadwater, Pastor, Washita Cowboy Fellowship; Stockton Smith and Tim Bryan, Roger Mills, County.*



NEW FLOORING DONATION



Thanks to the donation of new flooring from World Vision, North Texas, Indian Ministries of North America was able to bless the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church, Conehatta, Mississippi, with new flooring. The flooring is being installed in the fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms, kitchen, bathrooms, foyer, and the mission house.

Jerry Hurst and Rodrigo Hernandez, of H&H Flooring & Tile, Sevierville, Tennessee, began the installation in early May, and will complete it later this Summer. They laid the flooring in a basket weave pattern and added a Choctaw diamond inlay in the foyer as a tribute to the Choctaw culture.

“IMNA has been a blessing to Macedonia Church. They are truly the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you and may God bless you all,” Darnell Willis.



Brothers in Arms Serving Together

Another successful project of splitting firewood for the Cherokee elders. It is an honor to serve alongside brothers in Christ from various churches, as together we join arms to serve the Cherokee people through the

Cherokee Family Support Services. We were able to split approximately 40-50 truckloads for families. Thank you to the men of First Baptist Church, Benton, TN, and Summit Church, Pigeon Forge, TN.



ABOVE: Pastor Bob Speights, Benton First Baptist and team. BELOW: The full crew from Benton and Pigeon Forge



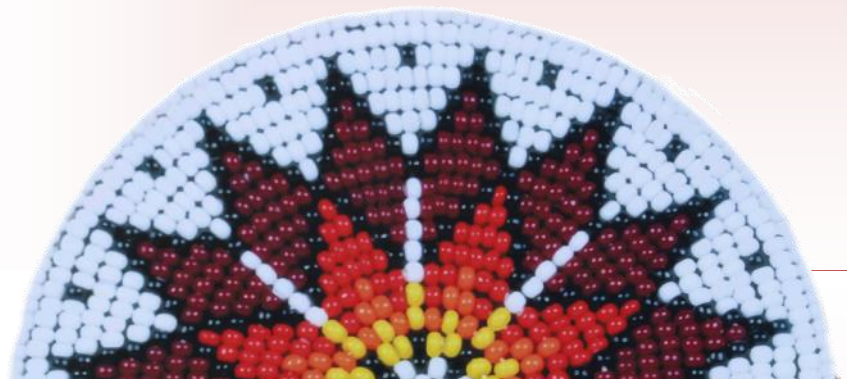
Steve and Shaun of Summit Church





MISSION:

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



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