

INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

Hope for First Nations

Summer 2023

Volume 22 - Number 2

Flames Unite

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Summertime VBS

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Alaska - Land of the Midnight Sun



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

*Summer 2023
Volume 22 – Number 2*

Founder

James A. Hughes

Executive Director / President

Johnny K. Hughes

Asst. Exec. Dir. / Board Secretary

Becky Hughes

Vice President / Prayer Coordinator

Benita Earl

Directors

Eric Bates

Tim Burton

Fred Carder

Rodney LaVallie

Tim Melton

Robbie Slocumb

Special Projects Coordinator

Rock Slaughter

Operations / Mentoring

Elizabeth Hughes

Office

Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.

P.O. Box 3472

Cleveland, TN 37320

Physical Location

911 Keith St. NW

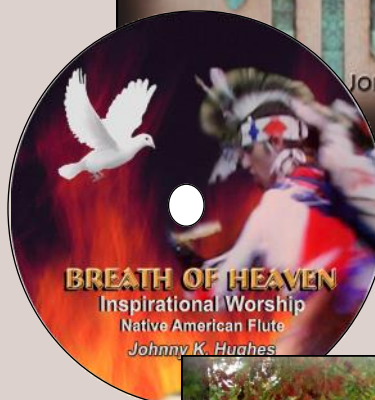
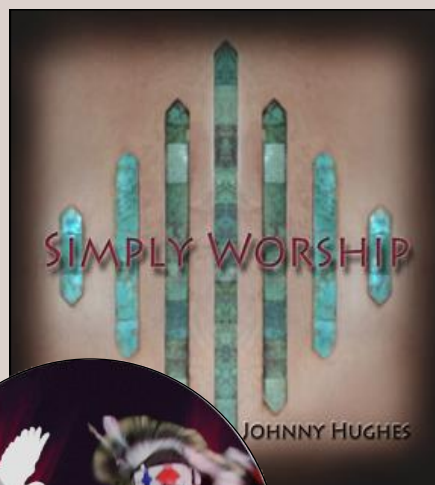
Cleveland, Tennessee 37311

Phone: (423)479-3831

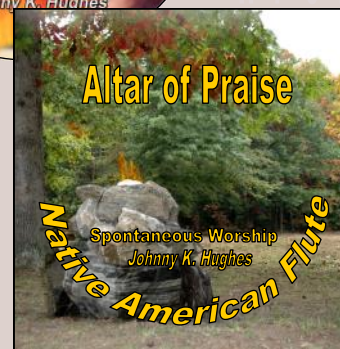
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... from the heart

As the morning clouds lifted and the rays of sunshine began to penetrate the foggy landscape, we could see the majesty of the Alaskan mountain ranges emerging from their nighttime shadows. There was still a crispness in the June air, snow covered the towering mountain peaks, and the waves on the water danced to their own music. The wildlife began to stir in the water, in the sky, and on the shore. It was truly breathtaking to experience life in the midst of this pristine region and to observe the creation of our Heavenly Father.

It has been a dream of Becky and I to visit Alaska for many years, and this Summer we saw that dream unfold with a 12-day journey on sea and land. What we believed would be a once-in-a-lifetime trip, will not be our last visit to this majestic region.

We witnessed God arrange divine connections to cross our paths on the ship, on the streets, and in the marketplace. We were able show His love through smiles, conversations,

and prayers for staff members and employees. We were able to locate churches which may allow us to minister to the Native Alaskan people in the future.



Johnny & Becky Hughes

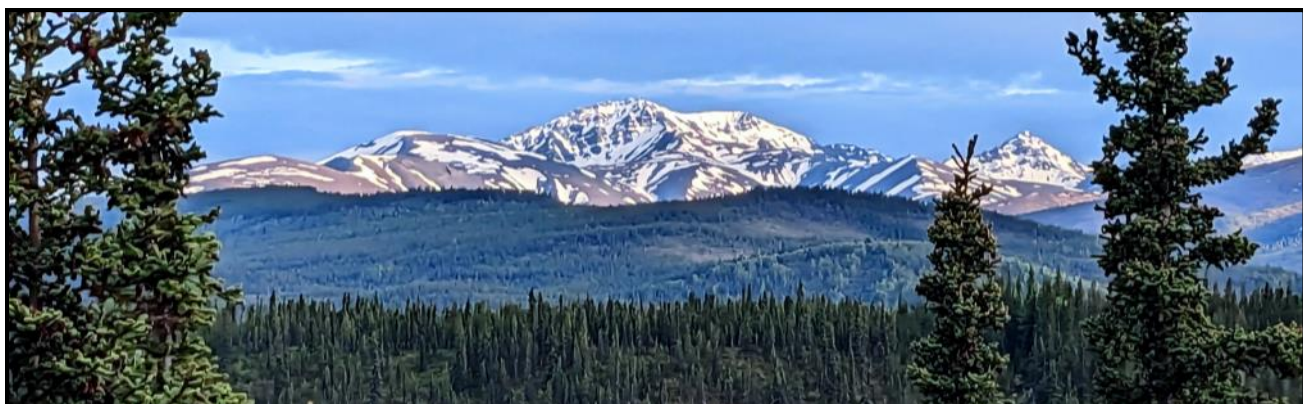
Along with the beauty of Alaska, we also learned about the tragedies of historic past events, and witnessed firsthand the toll that modern-day drugs and alcohol is taking on many of the residents of these beautiful towns and cities. We saw the same common plights of the Alaska Natives that wreak havoc on most of the First Americans

and First Nations people of Canada. The mission field of reaching these people groups is enormous, and we continue to pray for more workers to sow and reap in this harvest field.

“If there is a spruce tree standing in the forest, and next to it a cedar, and there is hemlock there as well...If one of them falls down, then all of their roots get weaker. That is the same way it is with us.”

*Delores Churchill
Haida Weaver*

As the above quote by Delores Churchill, an Alaska Native weaver, so poignantly explains, when one of our brothers or sisters fall down, and we do nothing to sustain or hold them up, we all become weaker. It is through the strength of our Heavenly Father, and the strength of the Church body, that we are able to stand against the attacks of the enemy. TOGETHER WE CAN!



Vacation Bible

Macedonia IBC, Conehatta, MS



Once again this year, a team from the Christ First Ministries of Cullman, Alabama, travelled to the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, Mississippi to conduct a Vacation Bible School. Over thirty children experienced the excitement of living a life for and with Christ. According to Pastor Phillip Ashley, “The children learned the importance of putting on the whole of armor of God! They were eager to learn and really enjoyed the music, games, and craft time. The smiles on their faces were the proof!”

Grace Point Hammon, OK



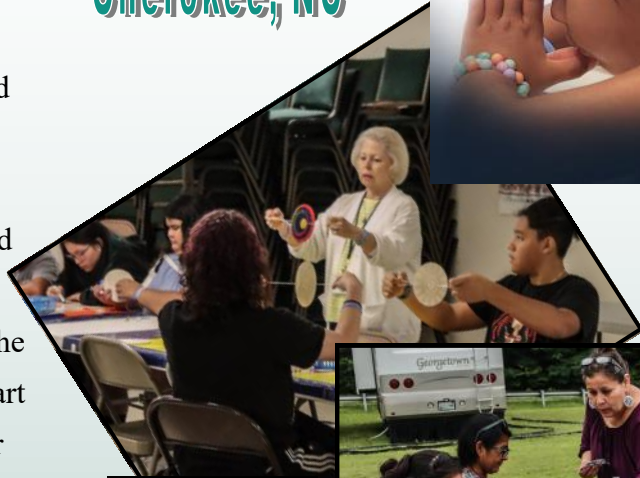
Schools 2023

Cherokee Pentecostal Church,

Cherokee, NC

FOLLOWING JESUS CHANGES THE GAME!!

We said it loud and proud as our Cherokee children learned how following Jesus would keep them through all of life's twists and turns. Riverland Hills Baptist Church has been coming to Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness for several years, and ministering for Vacation Bible School. As always, they did an amazing job. From the sweet smiles to the decorations, the awesome crafts, and snacks, the heart of each person on the mission team shines bright for Cherokee. I asked a group of kids what their favorite things were about this year's VBS. They all agreed! It was the lessons, the crafts, the music, and the wonderful people of Riverland Hills Baptist Church.

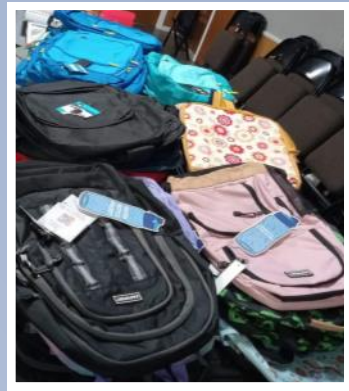


READY, SET, MOVE!

The VBS team of the Summit Church, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, once again excited and challenged the children of Hammon, Oklahoma. The week at IMNA's Grace Point Ministry Center was filled with the laughter and rowdiness of over 30 children. They danced, they sang, played games, and created crafts, but the most exciting part was watching them listen to the Bible lessons, and learn how to be ready, to get set, and to move with Christ.

This year we averaged approximately 30 children each day. This is the fifth consecutive year that Summit Church has led the Grace Point VBS. The children are always excited when they know the time is nearing for their return. The church has a real heart for the youth of Hammon, and a desire to see them grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. IMNA depends on church partners to see the vision fulfilled in all of the areas that we minister.





The Back-to-School Friday Night ENCOUNTER was a night of teaching on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher. Learning to follow His teachings and lessons will get you through the new beginnings of another school year successfully. Following the worship service school supplies were provided by IMNA, Lake First Baptist, and Conehatta Elementary School.

friday night ENCOUNTER

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE --

A ministry to the homeless residents of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is under the direction of Devon Fobb, Choctaw, and Kristopher Redbird, Cheyenne-Arapaho. The vision of these two has become reality, as each month, a group of primarily Native American brothers and sisters, join together to feed hundreds of the homeless a fulfilling meal. They also provide personal items for each one, and IMNA is honored to partner with this ministry to provide supplies for the ministry and personal items for the people. It is a blessing to see the love of Christ manifested through the continued labor of love of this group. They are eager to not only meet the physical needs of the people, but to share the Gospel and to pray for all. Keep this ministry in your prayers as **TOGETHER WE CAN!**



Conehatta, Mississippi



The Choctaw youth of the Impact Warriors's Youth Mentoring Initiative in Conehatta, Mississippi, continue to develop their woodworking skills with the scroll saw. Under the direction of David Klocke, right, they are learning the techniques to produce quality work. In addition to the woodworking, they continue to develop their sewing skills, beadwork creations, and other life skills



Hogan Facelift



Johnny Hughes, Rock Slaughter, Melody Heffline, and Ashley Slaughter took time out to give the Southwest Indian Ministries' Youth Camp hogans a facelift. Each one received a new coat of paint and a geometric design created by Johnny. This was a blessing to the ministry facility for their hospitality and accommodations for the team.



Macedonia IBC gets New Look

Teams have been completing renovation projects at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, Mississippi. A paint team from South Carolina completed giving a fresh coat of paint to the exterior, classrooms, foyer, fellowship hall, and restrooms. In addition to the painting, new flooring was installed in all of the same areas, including the addition of the missionary house.



Conehatta Elementary gets Facelift

Each year, getting a new school year started with excitement and enthusiasm is a challenge. There are many, very important aspects of creating a great school atmosphere that have to be in place and ready on Day 1. You only get one chance at a first impression and the overall success of a school year is affected by how the students and staff feel when they walk through the door on the first day. The students and staff of Conehatta Elementary are so blessed and thankful to be able to return to school and enter into a building each August that is clean and has had a fresh coat of paint on the wall. Indian Ministries of North America sends a team each Summer to work in Conehatta, and they always come to our school and ask what can they do to help. Not only is this team of volunteers willing to serve, but they are skilled laborers and demonstrate a Spirit of excellence in their work. I am personally so blessed by these brothers and sisters, not only for the work that they do, but they have prayed over me, the staff, and the school. They have even conducted worship services at the school. Thank you so much to each team member. God bless you all!

BY: BRIAN PARKMAN, CES PRINCIPAL





World Vision Provides New Flooring

The North Texas warehouse for World Vision supplied IMNA with new flooring to be installed in the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church (See previous page). In addition, they also provided flooring for the proposed new building for Canaan Baptist Church. Both churches are located in communities for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.



RIGHT: Members Canaan Church unload truck with flooring

Grace Point Ministry Center Projects



A team recently returned from IMNA's Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma, where we completed several projects. Rock Slaughter, IMNA's Special Projects Coordinator, along with a team from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and members of the Friendly Holiness Church in Atmore, Alabama, worked on replacing roofing, repairing an exterior wall, rebuilding the entryway awning, and several paint projects. We also replaced all of the storefront windows and conducted a service for the community.

Rock Slaughter, right, works to repaint the wall in the Grace Point sanctuary.



Repairing the awning over the entryway.



Ronald Rolin and Duck Weaver, left, along with Randall Ward, right, work to replace roll roofing on a portion of Grace Point Ministry Center.



Flames Unite

After eighteen years had passed, I once again found myself standing on the Church of God's Southwest Indian Ministries' Campground in Manuelito, New Mexico. Viewing the area from a new perspective, yet still with nostalgic eyes, I welcomed what the Lord had in store for each member of this team. The week was filled with service projects of painting on the campground, community visitation to spread the Gospel, and conducting services in local churches throughout the area. The team consisted of a small group from Indian Ministries of North America and a group from the Cherokee Pentecostal Holiness Church in Cherokee, North Carolina. This was the second summer that IMNA had the privilege of leading a group representing another tribe to the Navajo Nation to share the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy

Spirit flowed seamlessly within our group, and we definitely exemplified one team, in one accord, to see God's will and purpose fulfilled.

We began the week conducting services with Pastors Dennis and Cheryl Thomas, at the Manuelito Church of God, on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We continued with a revival at the Iyanbito Gospel Lighthouse with Pastor Mark Thomas. On Sunday morning, the team split to also conduct a service at the Gallup Church of God, with Pastor Harry Begay. A mighty move of God took place in each service. Multiple people were saved, healed, delivered, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of each

service, we were blessed by the singing of both the Cherokee and Navajo ladies singing in their Native language. At one point, they joined together to sing Amazing Grace simultaneously in their language, along with myself doing the American sign language. It was truly a beautiful moment of praise to the Lord.

By: Ashley Slaughter



“It was so beautiful to see the Cherokee and Navajo people join together to bring deliverance, through Jesus Christ, to troubled souls. Words can't describe how it felt to see people who had been tormented for years set free and receive the joy of the Lord”
Lisa Paul



LEFT: Janice Pheasant, along with her mother, Linda Swimmer, of Cherokee, NC, pray with a Navajo lady to break the bonds of alcoholism and fear off of her sons.






It is difficult to summarize all the ways in which God guided us and blessed our team with opportunities to speak and pray with the Navajo people. I think we were as blessed as they were. God just wants our “yes”, to step out in faith, to open our mouth and speak His truth and demonstrate the power and love of God.

We will be continuing with the mission in our own town and the people of Cherokee. I am learning more and more how to be sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit, to operate in the spiritual realm, and to use the gifts that God has given us to be a powerful and effective Christian. I can see that we are stronger, functioning together as a team...the body of Christ in action. We learn from and encourage each other in order to be more effective.

We have grown closer and stronger as a team. Our theme song on the trip was “Don’t Tread on Me” by We the Kingdom. We often listened to it in the van on our way “to battle.”

“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. *BY: Sherry Kimmel*

Ashley Slaughter shares her testimony of God’s miracle working power. Following a tragic car wreck, medical science says she should not have lived....but God!

Her testimony instilled the hope of God, faith in God, and revealed the mercy of God, to all who heard it.





Tim Melton



Darryl Kimmel



Rock Slaughter



Cheryl Thomas

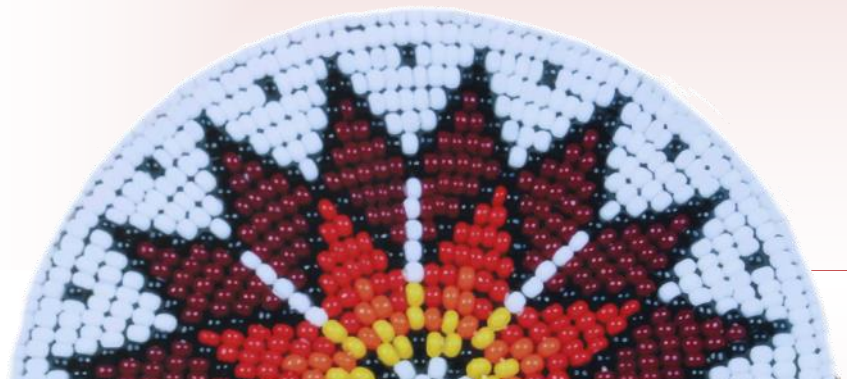


Mark Thomas



MISSION:

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



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