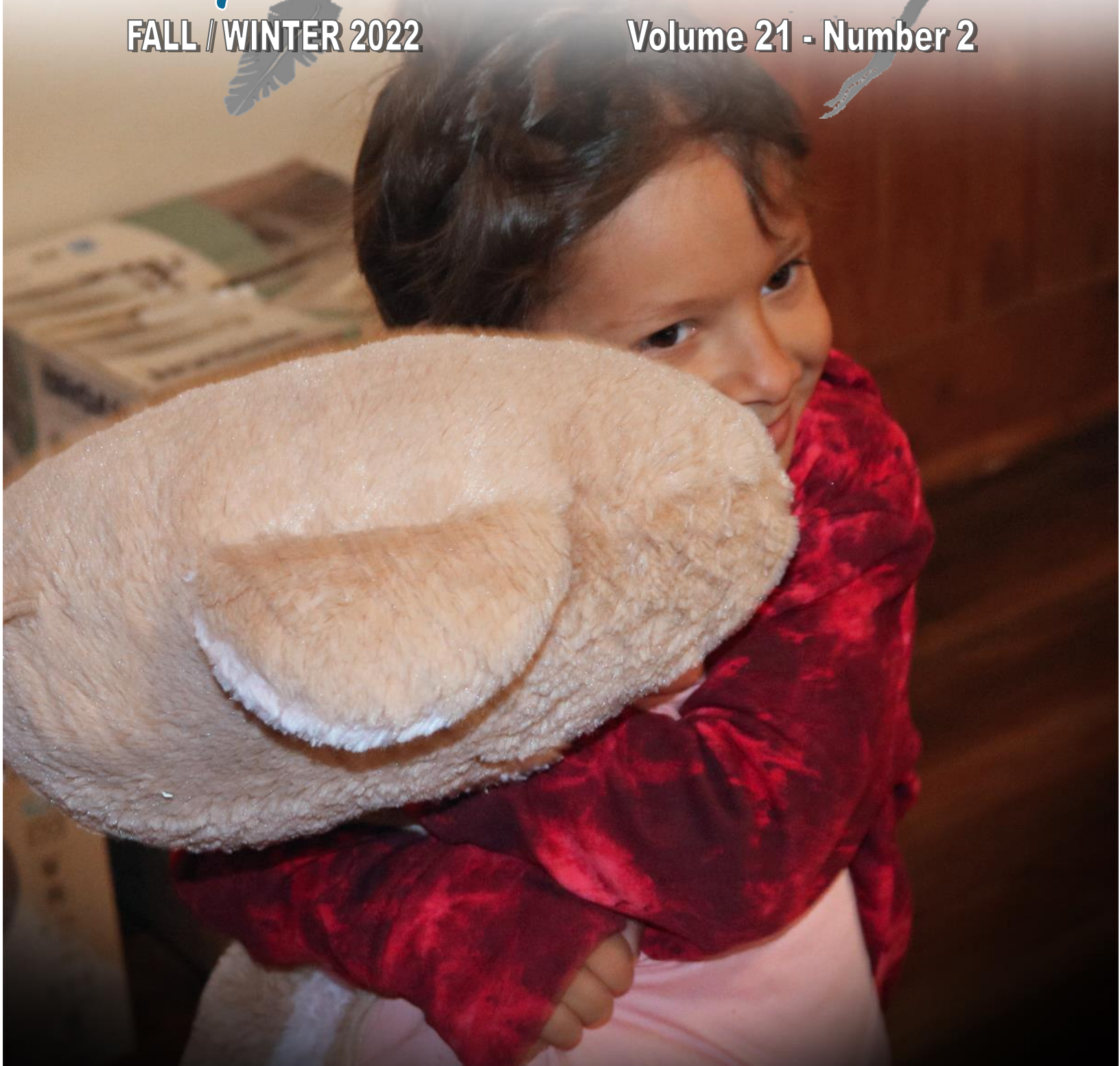


INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

Hope for First Nations

FALL / WINTER 2022

Volume 21 - Number 2



SIMPLY LOVE



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

*Fall / Winter 2022
Volume 21 – Number 2*

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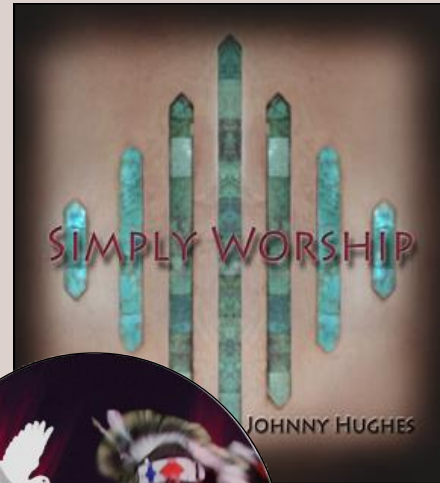
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... from the heart

By: Johnny K. Hughes



This is an update revision of a letter that I wrote several years ago entitled, “Our Children are Dying.”

“Our children are dying” continues to be the cry of many parents, elders and leaders among Native American and First Nations People of the United States and Canada. The suicide rate is three times the National average for ages 15 - 24, and exceeds that in many areas, such as Alaska, where it soars to 12 times the National average. For ages 10-14, the rate is an alarming four times that of the general population. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among our Native youth. Filled with despair, confusion and hopelessness, they see suicide as the only answer to the hurt inside of them. In addition to the feelings brought on by introduced behaviors, physical abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse, and human trafficking, we are now witnessing games on social media enticing and encouraging suicidal actions. Extreme poverty, alcoholism, and drug addictions have led to a life of loneliness and a feeling of absolute worthlessness. A generation that feels so unloved, misplaced and rejected by society is searching desperately for an answer to the pain in their inner being.

“Where is the church?” That is the cry ringing out from ministries passionately attempting to reach this generation and this population with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is past time that the American Church starts turning some of her attention and resources toward our own homeland. We have an obligation to fulfill the Great Commission throughout the world, and we must remember that it needs to start with our own indigenous people. The First Americans are in desperate need of the truth and the hope that a relationship with Christ will

bring. It is time for the church to arise, with the fire of the Holy Spirit and sacrificially lay ourselves over a forgotten people like Paul did over the deceased boy in Acts 20. It is time that the resurrection power of Christ is manifested in a group of people that hold a key to America’s spiritual future.

Several years ago, we stood at the casket of a 12 year old Lakota boy on the Pine Ridge Reservation. He had succumb to the effects of abuse, and chose to end his life. While we worshipped the love of our Heavenly Father, I did not see a tear being shed by anyone, including his family. When I inquired about this, I was told that it was so common in their community, that it was not a matter of if their child would commit suicide, but a matter of when. This broke my heart!

Recently, among our Choctaw youth in Mississippi, a revival began to break out. We have witnessed 30 people accept Christ since March of 2022; however, beginning in September, the enemy went on the attack, and we have seen nearly two dozen attempt suicide. Almost half of those were unfortunately successful, with the youngest being 12 years old.

What will the next story be? Redemption or death? Enough is enough! It is time to put this spirit of suicide under our feet! We need the church NOW! Arise and join together with IMNA, and take these youth from the mouth of the devourer. They contain the seed of the end-time revival and Satan believes he can stop it by killing the seed...**NOT ON OUR WATCH!**

friday night ENCOUNTER



**Christopher
Spence
Lake, MS
First
Baptist**

The Friday Night Encounter worship services, being held the first Friday of each month in the Conehatta community of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, continues to experience a tangible move of God. Since March, close to 30 people have accepted Christ, and many others have expressed that this powerful move is unlike anything they have never experienced in their Christian walk.

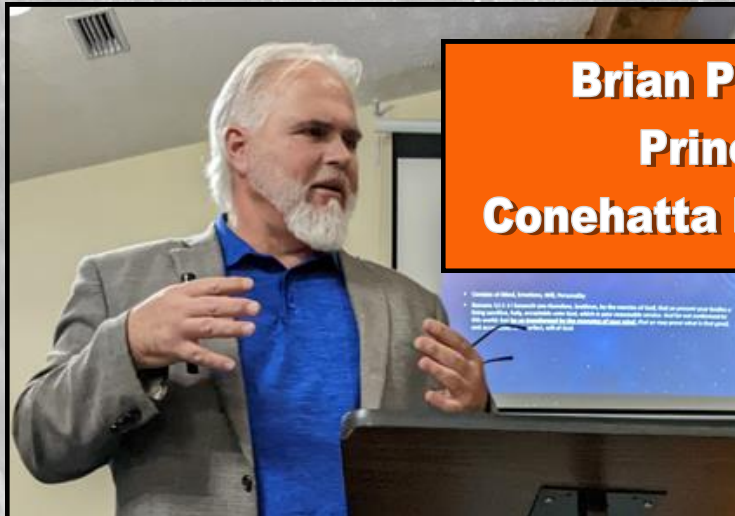
Other churches from surrounding areas have witnessed what God is doing, and they are beginning their own activities and outreaches to further this renewal and revival in their communities.

Satan is fighting this move of God in Conehatta, and has begun attacking with a rash of suicides, especially among the young people. He has lost the war, but continues to try to win the battles; however, God is opening the eyes of the Choctaw people to the blessings that He has for them. Continue to cover IMNA and the Choctaw people with prayer...DIVINE ENCOUNTER!

**Jerry
Millwood
Native
American
Alliance
Ministries**



**Brian Parkman
Principal
Conehatta Elementary**

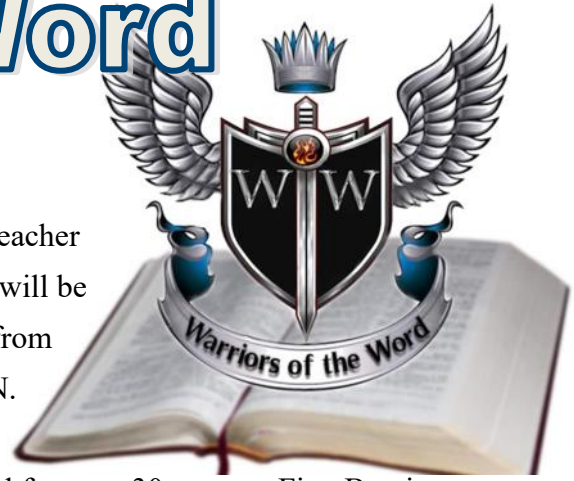


**Bryson Foulks
IM Missionary
Intern, France**



Warriors of the Word

Foundational Biblical Training

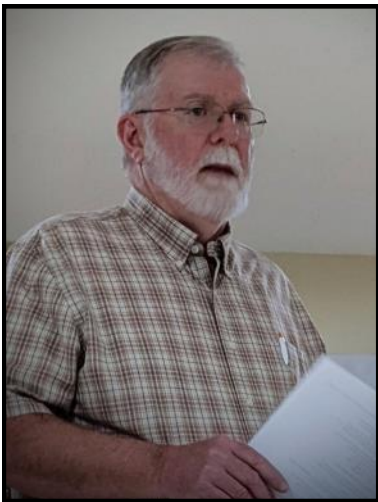


Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. believes education is an important aspect of a Christian's effective growth, including spiritual, intellectual and social growth. Therefore, in January 2023, we will once again begin Warriors of the Word, a program of foundational Biblical training, which is at the heart of the IMNA vision.

The purpose of this program is to equip the children of God with a foundational knowledge of the Bible. There is a deficit of fundamental Biblical training in many of our communities, and our goal is to teach effectiveness in ministry, as well as, living a full Christian life.

Every effort and objective of this Biblically based training focuses on the Christian philosophy of learning. We believe that all wisdom and knowledge comes from God and that His Spirit is ever present to reveal this wisdom and knowledge through studying His Word. The Word of God is the foundation and the final authority in

all classes and programs conducted by Indian Ministries of North America, Inc.



ABOVE: Fred Carder teaches Warriors of the Word.
RIGHT: Students of the class.



The primary teacher of the classes will be Fred Carder, from Cleveland, TN. He has taught Sunday School for over 30 years at First Baptist, Cleveland, Tennessee, and has been active with IMNA for many years, and currently serving as a member of the IMNA Board of Directors. Fred felt the Lord calling him to expand his teaching beyond the Sunday School class, and will now be leading these monthly classes at the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, Mississippi.

Student's Objectives

- ◆ Comprehensive knowledge and ability to share God's Word
- ◆ Become a mature, informed and effective Christian leader
- ◆ Identify and understand personal spiritual gifts and strengths, using them effectively.
- ◆ Commitment to Holy living through the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Commitment to ministering to the spiritual, physical, and social needs of others, leading to a betterment of humanity.



Hammon, Oklahoma



The youth participating in the Camp Tuesday mentoring program have been busy learning and serving. The youth love their craft time and their time of learning to cook and sew. They also made bracelets for other children through Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes.



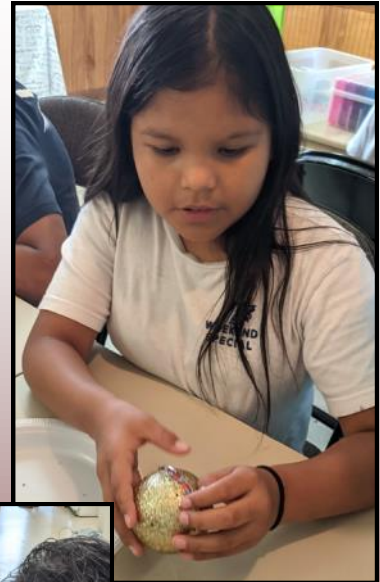
Sharon Marie, with her piano certificate (left) and playing for Christmas. (above) Accompanied by: Kaylee

“Transforming Lives and Communities”



Conehatta, Mississippi

The passing down of our heritage and cultural skills is a vital part of any culture. In light of the fast-paced expansion of technology in today's society, many of our Native people are losing their language and their cultural skills. We are excited to see the elders of the Mississippi Choctaw who work with our Impact Warriors program, teaching these skills. The youth have been learning different techniques of cultural beadwork, as well as traditional cooking, language, and dance.



Filled with Love

For several years, the children that IMNA serves during the Christmas Season receives hand-made stockings filled with treats and gifts. These stockings are sent from Faith Temple Ministries in Wauchula, Florida. Throughout the years, they have blessed children in Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. Pictured here are a few smiling faces of Choctaw students at the Conehatta Elementary School in Mississippi.



The Impact Warriors mentoring program in Mississippi continues to teach life-skills to the youth we are serving. A group of ladies from Blairsville, Georgia, have been traveling to Conehatta to teach the youth the skills of sewing. They are learning that this is a skill that they will be able to use throughout life. One boy stated, "This is something that I could use to sell things." These life-skills are also teaching them self-worth and the confidence for life.



The Meaning of Christmas ...



The Christmas Celebration from the House of Prayer in Blairsville, Georgia. This church has supported the ministry efforts of IMNA for the last 20 years. They were able to assist with the sorting, setup, cooking, serving, and loving on the Hammon community. They were a real example of the hands and feet of Jesus, and His model of love.

The Christmas Celebration in Hammon, Oklahoma, was a great success. It has been an abbreviated celebration since 2019, but this year, we were able to meet for our Christmas luncheon, as well as, our giveaway to support our families.

We had the privilege of having a team of volunteers join us

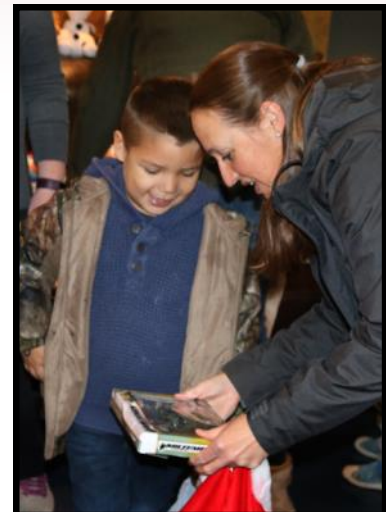


“Please pray for IMNA as they repair historical wounds by creating relationships and sharing God’s unconditional love.”

Vern and Betty Jo Scharer

We worked side by side with this tireless ministry, and saw first hand the love and devotion poured into the Hammon community.

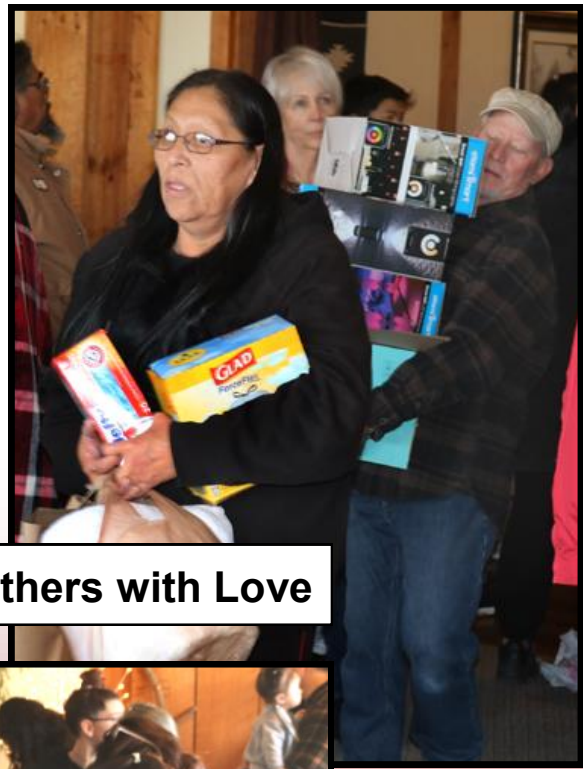
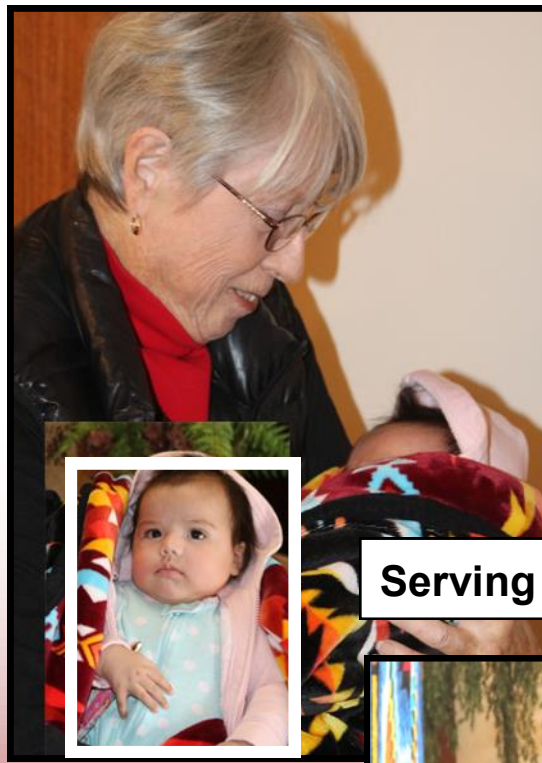
Joe and Linda Nickerson



LOVE

We provided lunch for 100 people, and we had over 150 join in the giveaway. We were blessed to receive a wide variety of new items to be given for the families we serve.

Thank you to the team of men who also gave of their time and resources to do some roof repairs for Grace Point.



Serving others with Love



Household



Hygiene

I spoke with two young boys, about 10 years old, who were only wearing a light windbreaker with a windchill of 13 degrees. I told them to come by Grace Point and I would help them with a coat. To my surprise, they looked me up the next day, and we found them a heavy winter coats with hoods. After hugs and a thank you, they were happy, and I was blessed.

Evelyn Lamar





Each year, IMNA takes teams to assist the Family Support Services of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with firewood for their clients. These clients represent the elders, low-income families, and families of those with special needs. We plan one trip in the Fall, and one in late Winter.

This Fall, we had the privilege of hosting a men's discipleship group representing various churches from Greer, South Carolina. In addition to this trip, a ministry team from Summit Church, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, spent an additional Saturday working alongside Richie Wolfe, the woodyard supervisor, to help build up the holiday inventory. This outreach is a wonderful time of service for the Cherokee families, and it is open for anyone over 18 years old.

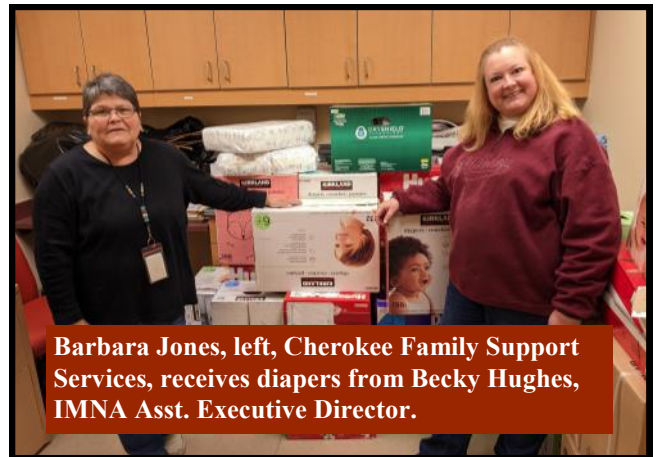
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423.479.3831
or email**

BeckyHughes@indianministries.org



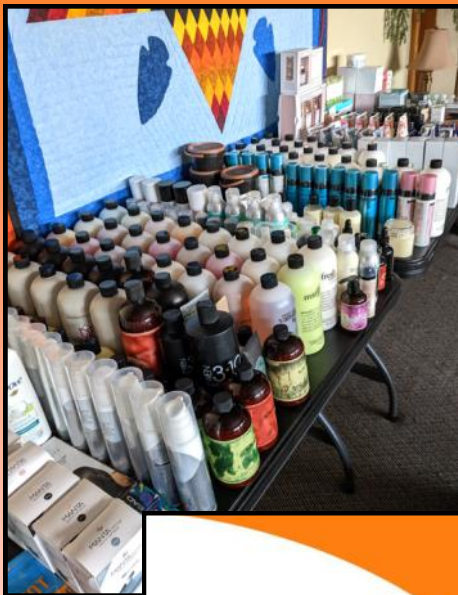
IMNA Assists Cherokee Family Support Services

Throughout the year, IMNA is honored to be able to assist the efforts of the Cherokee Family Support Services in Cherokee, North Carolina. This year we have been able to provide a wide variety of items for families, such as, new clothing items, hygiene items, diapers, heaters, blankets, and toys for their annual Christmas store. In addition, we partner with their firewood assistance program throughout the Fall and Winter months. (See story on previous page). Thank you Barbara Jones and staff.



Barbara Jones, left, Cherokee Family Support Services, receives diapers from Becky Hughes, IMNA Asst. Executive Director.

Blessed to be a Blessing



Thanks to World Vision, North Texas, IMNA was able to bless numerous families this Christmas and into the New Year. In addition to the items shown here, the families received clothing, diapers, food items, a variety of other household items, toys for the children. Many of these items were given by World Vision as well.



Thank you to all of the staff at the World Vision, North Texas warehouse.



World Vision



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