

INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

# *Hope for First Nations*

Fall / Winter 2021

Volume 20 - Number 2



**SEWING LOVE**

*One Stitch at a Time*



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

*Fall / Winter 2021  
Volume 20 – Number 2*

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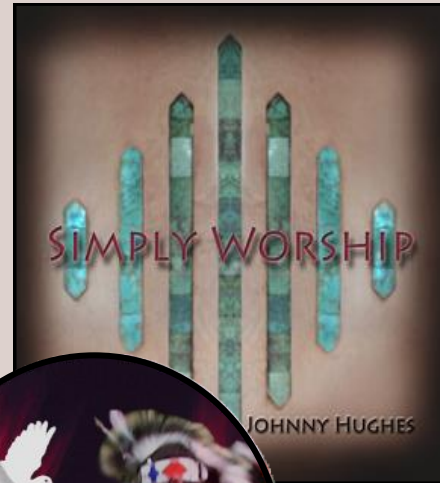
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# ... from the heart

by Johnny Hughes

When I was 5 years old, God gave my Dad, James, a vision that has forever impacted the lives of all my family. In this vision, he saw a multitude of Native American faces, from many tribes, looking at him. It was then that he heard God speak into his spirit, "Take my gospel to your people." The year 2022 will mark 55 years since that vision and mandate was given.

As far back as I can remember, my life has been influenced by our Cherokee heritage. My sister and I grew up with a great respect for that heritage, and following God's call on our lives, we began to minister on the Cherokee Reservation of North Carolina, followed by ministry to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. After approximately 10 years, that ministry vision seemed to be waning.

We moved to Cleveland, Tennessee in 1974, and our lives seemed to be taking another direction, but God never forgets or recalls a calling that He has put forth for your

life. Fast forward to 1998. My Dad met Doug Cline, the overseer of the Southwest Indian Ministries, who invited him to come to Gallup, New Mexico to preach a Navajo campmeeting. This was the first time that our ministry had traveled west of the Mississippi River.

God breathed on the embers of that original vision, and a flame once again erupted. I traveled with Dad to the Southwest in 1999, and the direction of my immediate family's life was changed forever. We saw God birth Indian Ministries of North America in our hearts and now 55 years from that original visionary call, the mantle has been passed to me. IMNA is truly a family calling.

Today, I, along with my wife, Becky, and our daughter, Elizabeth, work full-time for the ministry. My son, Christopher, and his wife, Lindsey, work as our missionaries to Cherokee, North Carolina, leading worship, youth, and ladies' ministry events. My dad and mom, James and Imojean, continue to follow God's call.

Dad says retirement is only a word, and that he will continue to answer that call to carry the gospel to his people, as long as there is breath in his body. To God be the Glory!

If God has revealed a calling in your life in the past, He will never recall it. He is waiting on you to step out in faith, which many times looks like nothing, and feel the substance of His foundation under your feet.



# Blessed to be a Blessing

As followers of the teachings of Christ, we should count it a privilege to be able to bless those who may be in need. God blesses His children to be a conduit of those blessings to others, and when we are obedient in this principle, His blessings are abundant.

At this year's Christmas Celebration at the Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma, IMNA volunteers were able to bless the residents of the town. Gifts of

clothing, food, household items, hygiene products, and a variety of other gifts were spread out along Main Street for anyone in need. There was a designated section for the children to choose their favorite new toy and to be blessed with stockings filled with treats.

We are so honored to be involved in the Hammon community, and to be able to minister and share in the everyday lives of our friends. We pray for blessings, increased favor, and a spiritual awakening to become evident in the hearts of residents. As an ambassador of Christ, our work is not in vain. When we bless those in need, we lend to the Lord, and He will repay (Proverbs 19:17).

**Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.**

**LUKE 6:38**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Partnerships and Kingdom connections are vital parts to effectively form relationships in communities. It is through these relationships, orchestrated by God, that we earn the right to speak into the lives of the people.

lock-ins, and family festivals. We have also held community benevolent distributions and multiple Christmas Celebrations. Each month, the church allows us to conduct our youth mentoring program from their facility, teaching life-skills to the youth.



IMNA has been partnering with the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta, Mississippi, for over 8 years. During this time, we have been able to minister in their Sunday services, conduct revivals, Vacation Bible Schools, youth

During our December visit, we once again blessed the church members and community residents with a selection of Christmas gifts. To God be the glory for Kingdom partnerships!



Indian Ministries of North America was able to join the

Eastern Band of Cherokee's Christmas distribution to bless the Lakota people of Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

*“For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to Me.” Matthew 25 NKJV*

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## **FEEDING THE MULTITUDE** **M**atthew 25 is lived out loud through the ministry efforts of Feeding the Multitude.

IMNA was blessed to be able to assist with their Thanksgiving and Christmas Celebrations for the homeless of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We were able to supply new socks, personal hygiene products, coats, underwear, and tee shirts for those who attended. Thank you to Devon Fobb and Kristopher Redbird for their vision and heart to serve the homeless of OKC. Thank you to Sonya Orange for her assistance with the distribution of the products. Sonya previously served as a mentor with IMNA’s Impact Warriors youth mentoring.

### **REFLECTION**

Kris and Devon invited me in January 2019 to come help with the monthly feed downtown. The first time I worked with Feeding the Multitude (FTM) I was humbled by the experience of reaching out to our homeless community. It was so cold, and I was impressed by the FTM on how they provided food, drink, supplies, bibles, and an encouraging message from the Bible to encourage and invite our homeless people to know the Lord. When I drove home from my first FTM feed, I felt so heartbroken for our homeless brothers and sisters, but I also felt very blessed that I could do my little part to feed those in need. I was also thankful for the many volunteers that make up FTM. Most of the team members are from many Native American tribes in the urban area and Kris and Devon are the team’s humble coaches. I am so appreciative of the different ministries and families that donate food, clothing and other items to FTM. Our native ancestors always helped each other to survive when they lived communally in camps and villages. I feel like FTM contributes this same type of love and care by taking care of our homeless community in Oklahoma City. I am forever grateful to be a part of FTM.

*Sonya Reeder Orange, Kiowa-Caddo-Creek*



# HOW IT ALL STARTED I was a lost soul, drug addict, no place to go but to live on the streets, under bridges, anywhere I could



find a place to lay my head. I remember God had places of refuge set up, places that gave you a hot meal, clothing, and places to stay. Well, God found me and delivered me from drugs and things that are involved with that lifestyle to survive.

Twenty-eight years clean, God spoke to my heart to go downtown, set up near the city rescue mission, and give back by taking a hot meal and clothing. I shared my idea with my friend, Kristopher, who sings with the gospel group The Master's Touch, and has been traveling for many

“...For this is My way to reach the lost and you will be My servants...”

years sharing the gospel through song. We then prayed and asked God what we needed to do and He responded, “Go and Feed The Multitude, and I will supply the needs. For this is My way to reach the lost and you will be My servants. Bringing My Spiritual food and physical food to the lost. By doing this, we are letting the people know that there is a better way of life through My Son, Jesus. Show My love unconditionally, as I have shown you. Be an example for those to follow, plant My seed of faith and I will save them.”



**Devon Fobb**

It all started on January 8, 2017, a Ministry that I thought would last a year has been going on for the past 5 years. FTM-OKC, has gained many faithful workers from various Native churches throughout Oklahoma. We are not funded by any organization, but by the donations of faithful volunteers and churches, even churches and ministries from out of state. One such church that was there in the beginning, Yellowhill Baptist Church Youth, from Cherokee, North Carolina, made the journey to Oklahoma City with their youth. They brought a trailer loaded with all kinds of items to keep the people warm and filled.

Donations began to flow in: a generator to keep the food hot with roasters, tents for us to serve under, tables, heaters, and many other items that we use to serve the people. We are thankful for all the ministries that join in with FTM. Indian Ministries of North America has donated all types of clothing, heaters, tents, jackets, undergarments, shoes, socks, and this list goes on. We appreciate every one, and the ministries or individuals who have donated to



Feeding The Multitude – OKC. We look forward to 2022.

***Devon Fobb,***  
***Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma***

# Workshop for Youth Warriors



The Impact Warriors Youth Mentoring program with the Choctaw youth in Conehatta, Mississippi, are soon going to have a new training workshop. Plans were made a couple of years ago to construct the workshop, but due to the pandemic, it is just now getting completed. The structure is built from shipping pallets and mostly repurposed material.

This is the third pallet structure that IMNA volunteers have constructed. We are excited to get the youth started on using their workshop. They will be learning woodworking, construction, arts and crafts, beading, and several other areas of entrepreneurship and life-skills.



## Construction Scenes



*“Transforming Lives and Communities”*



# Sew Love, Reap Reward

A group of young ladies, at the Camp Tuesday Youth Mentoring program in Hammon, Oklahoma, are learning the skills of sewing. Under the direction of mentor Betty Eaton, the girls have been making pillows, ribbon aprons, and a variety of other items. Betty has been mentoring youth in Hammon for many years, and we are honored to have her working with our program.

Mentors Jacque Rivera and Myrna Campbell Chambers are also assisting with the after school program. In addition to the sewing, youth are also learning the skills of clay craft, cooking, and other life-skills. Tragically, we lost one of our mentors, Dane Kauk, this Fall to an automobile accident.

*Beautiful Things Come Together  
With One Stitch At A Time*



**LEFT:** Betty Eaton with one of her students showing their ribbon aprons. **ABOVE:** A student adding ribbon to her apron.

# Worship Through the Arts

The year 2021 has been an interesting year to say the least. One Full Basket has had some changes, but I'm excited to see how God is going to use these changes to impact the lives of the ladies that I have the privilege to work beside. We have begun incorporating various forms of art expression with clay and paint. I am hoping to add other mediums as we continue on this art worship experience.



Noqwisi (pictured right) had the opportunity this summer to be a part of the acting crew in Cherokee's live production of Unto These Hills. God continues to open doors for her, as she grows in faith and expression. She and her pastor's wife, Rebekah Dove, are training in sign language expression and beginning to utilize black light techniques.

Please continue to pray for all the ladies and that this time of worship will be uplifting,

to not only them, but their families and communities.

*By: Lindsey Hughes*



**Cherokee, North Carolina** Page 9

ᄎᄎᄎ WMC  
"One Full Basket"

# Words of Inspiration

By: Mia Martinez



So much power and peace are released in our lives when we remember who our God is.

**Deuteronomy 7:9 (NIV) says...**

**“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”**

Did you catch that? Our God is faithful.

Faithful to His Word. Faithful to the generations. His legacy is a covenant of love that extends to all generations. He goes before us. He gives us grace for what we face today, and then He gives us faith and hope for what's ahead.

Now, walking this out can be hard when the present and future is filled with uncertainty. We can find

ourselves facing waves of intense anxiety and fear. I've experienced this, but I want you to know that your struggle doesn't mean you are alone or without hope.

God meets us in those places. His promises pull us out of the panic. He releases strength in our weakness. He brings peace in the storm. And that's how, as scripture shows us in James 1:2, we can count it all joy when we face trials. Not because of the trial in and of itself, but because we serve and worship a God who is with us and for us in the midst of it all.

We can believe Him for the next moment. We can lean upon His faithfulness. We can stand upon His legacy of love and know that He will never leave us or forsake us."

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**Y**ou have given so much to this, and I just hope you know that your work is not in vain. It might take a little longer to arrive where you want to be, but you are still free to take this day by day. Even when the world seems to be moving on without you. Even when you are weary of waiting. Even when you are having to watch others reach the same exact heights you were reaching for, you are not a failure. You are not behind. You will still arrive where you need to be in time. Your story is just going to look a little different. You are going to look back in this season and realize there is no way you could have predicted these outcomes. But you will rise, anyway. You will find a strength you did not know you had. You will find that even when things did not go according to plan, it did not hinder you from traveling the course. All along, you were being prepared for something so much greater than you. And no matter the additional time it took, it was not too late for you.

# Donovan "Dodie" Crowe: A Servant

**SERVANT:** a person who performs duties for others; a devoted and helpful follower or supporter.

The personification of this definition of servant is Donovan "Dodie" Crowe. He is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and has worked for over 22 years supplying firewood for the elders and low-income families. This service is offered free of charge through the tribal Family Support Services division.

When Dodie started working with the program, they had an old pickup truck that they drove into the woods and cut the trees. Using a sledge hammer, wedge, and go-devil ax, they would split the load of wood by hand and deliver to their clients.

"It was serving the people that kept me going," stated Dodie, "They were the reason that I got up each morning and headed to the wood yard." He added, "I knew that when I delivered a load of wood, I might be the only person that elder or shut-in would see or speak to that day."

The wood season in Cherokee runs from October 1st through May 1st. The last few years, along with his partner of 13 years, Richie Wolfe, the two have delivered

over 500 loads each season.

Each Fall and Winter for the last 8+ years, Indian Ministries of North America has assembled teams from all over the Southeast to travel to Cherokee, North Carolina to spend 3 days splitting firewood alongside these dear friends. Whether it's running a chainsaw, driving the excavator, or sitting on a stump in front of one of the hydraulic splitters, it is a blessing to serve the people. Dodie adds, "It is the friendships that I have formed with my clients and the groups, like IMNA, that I will cherish forever."

Due to some health issues, and recent loss of his sight, Dodie has had to resign his position at the wood yard. His jolly personality and friendly spirit will be missed by everyone. Our prayers are with him for the a miracle to regain his eyesight. Please remember Donovan Crowe in your prayers and for Richie Wolfe as he continues this important service to the Cherokee people.



*LEFT: Donovan Crowe, along with Doug and Laura Payne on a previous IMNA woodsplitting project.*



Summit Church of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, lead the Fall trip for splitting firewood  
We are planning the dates for our February 2022 trip now and details will be available by mid January.

**Contact the IMNA offices at 423.479.3831 or email [BeckyHughes@indianministries.org](mailto:BeckyHughes@indianministries.org).**

## Laying down the wood

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