

INDIAN MINISTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA INC.

Hope for First Nations

Spring 2017

Volume 16 - Number 2



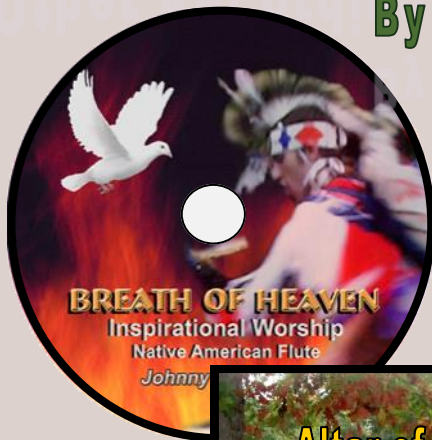
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*Spring 2017
Volume 16 – Number 2*

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By; Mia Matinez

... from the heart

Last fall, I was presented with a possible opportunity, and if everything worked out like I was trusting, it would mean packing up and moving from Hammon, Oklahoma, to Cleveland, Tennessee, to fulfill an internship with Indian Ministries of North America for a few months. However, while trying to make the plans, something always seemed to come up; either I had a job, or was taking care of family. I felt like the more I prayed for this opportunity, the more the enemy would try to discourage me. I almost gave up, but Johnny asked me to continue to pray, along with him, that a door would open. I prayed so much that I felt like I was getting on God's nerves, but then, everything lined up and I was finally able to sit down with my mother and we picked a date to fly to Nashville, Tennessee. It seemed as though the enemy just would not stop the hindrances, for on January 6, 2017, my parents drove me through snow and ice covered roads to get me to the Oklahoma City airport.

This internship with IMNA has been a tremendous blessing. It has stretched me to get out of my comfort zone and work more for the Lord. I have been given the chance to share what the Lord has done for me, but above all, it has made me more grateful for all that IMNA does for our Native people. To be able to work alongside them has been a real joy, and to all who have made this internship possible, I say "Thank You" for one of the greatest opportunities of my life.

In the midst of all the work and thousands of miles of traveling, I have been able to strengthen my relationship with God. For years, I have just been going through the motions. I was no longer that teenage girl with a heart on fire for the Lord. I had let the troubles of life dim that flame, but I never forgot what it was like. One night before bed, I felt the Lord calling for me. I could feel Him. I began to cry and could feel His warm embrace. He wanted to ignite my heart again, and the connection I once longed for was being made new. Joy filled my soul that night.

A few days later, I asked Johnny if he could baptize me, and on May 11, I was baptized in a mountain river in the Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. There was not a big congregation there to witness the event. The water was not warmed up with a heater, and no music was playing; yet somehow, in its smallness, it was enough.



Mia Serving Others



Johnny Hughes celebrates with Mia following her baptism



Impact Warriors is a mentoring initiative that began in October 2012. This initiative was birthed from the annual summer youth program, RELEASE, that Indian Ministries of North America, Inc. began in 2009. IMNA is committed to see a transformation in the lives of today's youth and in their communities. Our mentors work with youth on a weekly basis, and help them with:

Life skills
Self-worth
Community involvement

Tutoring
Social Skills
Handcrafts

Feeding the Poor and Hungry

The Impact Warriors of Conehatta and Tucker, Mississippi partnered with Open Arms Ministries in Philadelphia, MS, to feed the poor and homeless during the month of March. Youth and adults from each location assisted with preparing and serving those who attended the Tuesday night gatherings. One elder stated, " It is very important that our youth learn to serve others in need and not just be served."



“Transforming Lives and Communities”

In April, IMNA sponsored a weekend event at the Conehatta Elementary School in Mississippi.

The Saturday event featured The Burnin Bush and his



ABOVE: Erik Bledsoe leads worship prior to ministering the Word in Conehatta, MS.

Christian Rap along with his two sons’ hip-hop. Following Bush, Erik Bledsoe blessed those in attendance with anointed worship and a timely Word.

Prior to the ministry portion of the event, volunteers from the Center Hill Baptist Church in Hanceville, AL, and the Southside First Baptist of Gadsden, AL, prepared a meal for the people along with other activities for all the youth.



ABOVE: Darlene and Laken working it along with Stephen, The Burnin Bush. **BELOW:** Face-painting by the Center Hill Baptist Church volunteers.



The Burnin Bush



Scenes from the Conehatta Elementary Spring Festival where the children dressed in their traditional attire, danced, recited Choctaw language, and traditional food was served.



The Race is On!



Earlier this year a challenge was put forth to the two Impact Warriors locations in Mississippi. The Choctaw youth from the Conehatta and Tucker communities were challenged to build their own pinewood derby car, decorate, and be ready to race.

Under the leadership of Johnny Hughes and David Klocke, the youth learned about the aerodynamic shape and weight placement for their design. They were assisted in using the appropriate tools to cut and finish their cars. Soon the car bodies were decorated, the wheels were added and each car was weighed to make the race even.

The Choctaw Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America partnered with IMNA to provide the track and to conduct the race at our Spring gathering at the Conehatta Elementary School. You could see the excitement in the eyes of the youth as they approached the starting line with their cars. Now, the race was on! Side by side, down the track they raced. Finally, three people remained and when all had cleared, the Conehatta team had the First Place car. Second and Third Place went to the Tucker team, with Best of Show Car going to Conehatta.



Above: Mia Martinez assists a young girl with a craft.

Below: Ms. Carol and Brandall assist two children.



IMPACT WARRIORS



Scenes from the design and construction of the pinewood derby cars. Overseen by Johnny Hughes, David Klocke, and other adult leaders.



Winners of the Derby: (L-R) 1st from Conehatta, 2nd & 3rd from Tucker, Best Car, Conehatta

Raising the Roof

Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma, was in need of a large outdoor covered area to protect work crews from the elements. Thanks to the team from Community Family Church of Independence, Kentucky, the dream and plans came together. A 25' x 35' roof structure was added across the back of the current facility. The team of six joined together and had the structure completed within 3 days.

In addition to the new cover, an 80 ft. long wall received a new coat of stucco. This was the opportunity for some to learn a new skill and to be able to teach one of the young Cheyenne men how to apply the stucco finish. A special thank you to the entire team and to all who provided the materials for this new project.



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A New Coat of Love

Thanks to a team from the All Nations Church of God in Cleveland, Tennessee, IMNA was able to bless the Ramirez family of Hammon, Oklahoma, with a new coat of love for their home. This family has been instrumental in the recent impact that IMNA has been having there, and their love for the Lord and their community is contagious.

Battling the onset of inclement weather, the team from Tennessee joined members of the Ramirez family and tackled the task at hand without delay. After a full day of scraping, the house

was ready to receive its fresh coat of green and white. Most of the team tackled the trim and detailed brushing and then out came the sprayer. Within 2-1/2 days, the entire house was completed.

Earlier that week the Ramirez family had butchered a hog, and following the work on the house, the team was treated to a dinner feast at the Grace Point Ministry Center.

A special thank you goes out to Pastor Mike Whitmire and the entire All Nations team for the work that was accomplished.



BELOW: *The Ramirez home and its new coat of love.*

RIGHT: *Members of All Nations Church of God tackle the small farmhouse and breathe new life into its appearance.*



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Unity ...



Community Awakening

Everyone exclaimed, “I can sense a shift in the spiritual atmosphere.” That’s what was spoken following a series of planned and spontaneous worship services at the Grace Point Ministry Center in Hammon, Oklahoma. We have been believing for a spiritual awakening in the community for many years, and we feel that the shift has begun.

The March events all started with a community cookout and singing festival in the town park (See photos on previous page). Area churches were invited to participate in the event and featured musicians were: Paradigm, from Shiprock, NM, and The Master’s Touch, from Oklahoma City. Over 150 people

turned out to eat and worship our Lord.

Following the Saturday event, a service was scheduled for Thursday night, but the Holy Spirit showed up during a fellowship dinner on Tuesday night. These two nights set the tone for a powerful breakthrough to begin.



IMNA Itinerary

Fairview Church of God
Morning Service
Ranger, GA
May 7

Vacation Bible School
Grace Point
Hammon, OK
June 19-22

Shady Grove Methodist
Homecoming
Blairsville, GA
July 9

Mission COG
Evening Service
Florence, KY
August 20

Lee University
Global Perspective Trip
Navajo Nation
May 15-25

FIRE Services
Community Fellowship
Hammon, OK
June 23 - 24

Vacation Bible School
Grace Point
Hammon, OK
July 17 - 21

Woodsplitting
Family Support Services
Cherokee, NC
Sept. 6 - 9

One Full Basket
Women's Gathering
Cherokee, NC
May 19

First Baptist Church
Morning Service
Hammon, OK
June 25

Vacation Bible School
Macedonia Indian Baptist
Conehatta, MS
July 24 - 28

Mission Conference
Princeton Pike COG
Hamilton, OH
Sept. 21 - 24

Impact Warriors
Youth Mentoring
Choctaw, MS
May 20-23

Warrior Leadership
Summit
Roach, MO
June 26 - July 1

Kilough Church by Lake
Morning Service
Dawsonville, GA
July 30

Tent Revival
All Nations COG
Hammon, OK
Oct. 8 - 13

Cooper City COG
Morning Services
Cooper City, FL
June 4

On Eagles Wings
Hutchcraft Ministries
Cherokee, NC
July 5 - 7

Impact Warriors
Youth Mentoring
Choctaw, MS
August 5 - 7

Woodsplitting
Family Support Services
Cherokee, NC
Oct. 18 - 21

Revival
Bluewater Pentecostal
Bluewater, NM
June 14-18

Burn 24-7
Fields of the Wood
Murphy, NC
July 8

Pleasant Hill COG
Morning Service
Carthage, MS
August 6

Community Family Church
Evening Service
Independence, KY
Nov. 5



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