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Indian Church helping Indian Church

When Pastor Pete Reede announced that he intended to follow God's calling into full time evangelism, it left a bit of a shudder in Christ Fellowship Community Church. The fellowship at Hikiwan had suffered from repeated loss of numbers over the recent past. With members lost to death and others moving off the rez to find work, the empty pews far outnumber the occupied ones.

We met with Jay Juan who is pastor of 1st Papago Baptist Church in Sells. He shared that God had Hikiwan on his heart for a long time. Brother Jay has led his church to take a very strong role to help their sister church at Hikiwan with "whatever it takes" to get CFCC through this difficult time.

A delegation from 1st Papago has traveled the long 61 miles to help the Hikiwan church each Sunday.

What a joy it is to see such determined cooperation between Native churches. We believe there is no question that God will strengthen both churches in Kingdom work.

The Pulpit has been covered every week.

The COUNCIL of HIKIWAN

About all Christians have heard of the Council of Nicaea. Christian leaders convened in Nicaea in 325AD and by consensus agreed on theology regarding the relationship of Jesus to God the Father. They began work on the "Nicene Creed", settled the calculation of the date of Easter, and solidified early church rules.

Well, maybe not as historic as the one at Nicaea, but very important was a meeting February 19 at Hikiwan. Representatives

from three Native American churches had their own "Council." Their purpose was to



formulate a plan to see to it that someone appropriate would be available to preach the gospel at Christ Fellowship Community Church until CFCC gets on its feet and can call its own Native pastor.

What are the greatest needs of the people?

We get that question often. The answer is not at all easy. In fact picking a "greatest" need is so hard that the missionaries in the field may be misunderstood as unprepared as they grope for a sensible expression.

One reason is probably that we perceive that the questioner is thinking of a list of things or commodities. Do the people need shoes? Or do they need dental care? Or do they need someone to drill water wells? Do they need hymnbooks, or do they need clothes? Are they hungry? Just what is their greatest plight?

While it is not at all fair or accurate to stereotype...many Native Americans are

poor, very poor. As much as our pocket-books can support our sense of compassion, caring people would desire to somehow reduce their poverty problems. But so many well-meant "donations" of used items go unused on the reservation and may backfire as an attempt to provide a blessing.

Do not send your used church organ when what they need and want is a box of guitar strings so they can worship...their way. Send the shipping money instead, so they can pay their church light bill this month. Used shoes and clothing, or mislabeled surplus new tee shirts sometimes serve to insult rather than bless. Last week a 12 year-old Indian girl spotted a stack of tee shirts that had long been stuffed in a church closet and said, "...these all have someone else's name on them" and threw them

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down in disgust. The Native Americans we work with wear very conservative, dark clothing. Their sizes are hard to match from our closets anyway.

And don't slight them with used or out of date Sunday school quarterlies. Can't an established church afford to sponsor a little Indian church's literature needs? (But ask them or their missionaries before choosing what to order). The people have medical and dental clinics, a hospital, and if needs extend beyond its capacity, they have medical transportation to Tucson. What they don't have are available jobs. There are just almost no jobs on the reservation.

The point is, do not come to the rez with preconceived notions. Do not come expecting to show them how to worship. You may learn more about worship from them than you ever knew. Come to learn how Christianity works in

any culture. And in this culture, deciding to follow Jesus is very costly. As Jesus said, "For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me." Matthew 26:11 NAS

Ah! Here's the real question. Is it the church's mission to solve their plight or to help them reach their potential?

Help the missionaries on the ground who have invested their lives in the Native people. Sponsor them financially and with your prayer. Help them buy food to give away when their neighbors run out before the end of the month. Parts to repair someone's broken pipes when they fail... A new fan belt for their old car...

Help us *be here* to show unconditional love so they can see Jesus.

Listen... Is God calling you to long-term Native American missions?

God has given a Name that I would know

The fine, though eleven year-old, 5th wheel trailer that God has provided for us speaks to my heart every few days. It says, "My, what a good chooser our God is." Thurleen and I knew right away that our original RV was too small for constant and continued habitation. We learned patience as we looked at dozens of larger units for over three years. They either were too expensive, or laid-out wrong for our needs, or simply...well, unattainable.

This one has an open design with seating for up to eleven, yet has a vast amount of storage space. It has office space, good cabinetry, and is pleasantly appointed. There are two nice easy chairs so we can both rest when we are tired.

Just what we needed. Best of all, the trailers VIN number... **The three letters in the VIN number are my initials!**

KrB

"The Trial of Your Faith"

by Thurleen Bain

The trial of your faith is more precious than gold,
If it were not so, you would have been told.

These words, burned into my small child memory are the first lines of a poem penned by my great-grandmother many, many years ago. As a little girl, I would sit with my Grandma Dungy and she would tell about her mother who had died seven years before I was born. The stories would usually either begin or end with the opening of great-grandma's Bible and the reading of this poem. Great-grandma had written other things that were stuck in her Bible, but this was the one that has had a life-long impact on me.

Grandma Nooner, as Great-grandma was referred to by family, was a women of great faith...faith that was deepened with the many trials and tragedies in her life. She was a woman of prayer. She had a deep and personal relationship with a Holy God, her Abba Father. She knew how to "pray through" and depend upon God in all of her circumstances. What an awesome heritage Grandma Nooner passed on to her descendents. *1 Peter 1:7 kjv*, "That the trial of your faith being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ".

In memory of Alice Victoria Thurmond Drennan King Nooner
27 FEB 1860—4 APR 1939

Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory prayer is prayer for others, on behalf of others or pleading the case of another who desperately needs God's intervention.

Two ministries we know who must

remain nameless and unidentified because of the sensitive and dangerous area where they are serving, is in need of prayer intercessors. Their work with unreached people groups is precious to the Lord. Consider interceding for them...but be prepared for spiritual warfare.

Be a "Missionary by Partnership"

At home, you can help fulfill the Great Commission. Join us in taking the Good News of Christ to Native Americans.

- Be our prayer partners
- Contribute financially

BY MAIL

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In Illinois: PO Box 542
Vienna, IL 62995

In Arizona: PO Box 13143
Casa Grande, AZ 85230

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Praise Report

A Time to Plant, and a Time to Harvest

Pastor Pete often shares in his testimony about an old missionary couple who stopped across the fence and shared Jesus with he and Nora. Pete told him he didn't want to hear about their Jesus, but the missionaries asked if they could pray for them. Pete said they could. The old gentleman reached across the fence, put his hand on Pete's shoulder and prayed for them...here at Hikiwan. It was years before Pete and Nora gave their hearts to Jesus, but they never forgot the missionaries...and a seed was planted.

January 29, we got to share in the joy of the harvest! One of the young ladies from Thurleen's class gave her life to Jesus. Seed had been planted in her life before we first came. Our job has been to water and cultivate...cut off some thistles and remove some stones...and let the love of Jesus sprout the seed! Please join us in praying for her as she faces the extreme challenges of following Jesus in this desert land.