



Indigenews

My People International

Spring 2007

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Enennehmoon Circle

March 17-24, My People International presented Enennehmoon Circle, a seminar training people for small group ministry focused on healing from sexual, physical or emotional abuse. The Aldreds, the Martins, the Stimes and volunteer Marlene Wiebe taught participants how to create a safe place for people – a place to share their pain and begin learning to trust again through a healing journey with Christ. Here are some of Ray's reflections:

The vision for this conference was simple: to provide an environment where we could come together to talk about what is really going on in our hearts, feelings and attitudes, reflecting on how they shape our actions and character. It was a resounding success!

On the shore of Lake Winnipeg, the group shared their lives with one another and took decisive steps to move closer into the light. It was like the Bruce Cockburn song, "Another step deeper into darkness, closer to the light."

Augustine wrote about a hole in the middle of our soul that only the Creator can fill. Perhaps in this context we could say as well, there is a hole in the middle of our soul that only God can heal.

Jesus waits for us there. He is not the pain; He is not the hole in the middle of our soul. But He is the one who waits for us to go there. As we approach our own wound and encounter Jesus, we see the light and feel Him healing us. At *Enennehmoon*, we were on the road to becoming wounded healers by feeling the pain of our own wounds and learning to walk in the light.

Walking in the light is often thought of as a pain-free experience. We assume that abundant life means being free from pain, having lots of money and being completely happy. As great as it is to be pain-free, rich and happy, there is a deeper joy that is not stifled by adverse circumstances.

This is what *Enennehmoon* focused on - helping leaders learn to negotiate the pain in their soul and encounter Christ, so that we might lead others there as well. It means learning by



experience so we can take others to the place we've already gone.

At the end of the training, we celebrated the healing that is in Christ by doing a round dance. One participant commented that it was like we were celebrating our 'Indianness' or who God had made us. In the light of Christ's love, we find an intimate place where the false shame of the world melts away.

- Gina Merritt

National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

Ottawa, ON

Terry was the featured dinner speaker in the nation's capital May 2nd as Canada's 52nd National Prayer Breakfast got underway. It was a powerful time of bridge-

building between Native and non-Native peoples as Terry spoke on "Reconciliation through the person of Jesus."

When the invitation was extended last year, Terry had asked for tickets enough to invite other Aboriginal leaders. In all, 18 Native

Christian leaders attended. This provided a great opportunity for multiple conversations about our faith in Native context.

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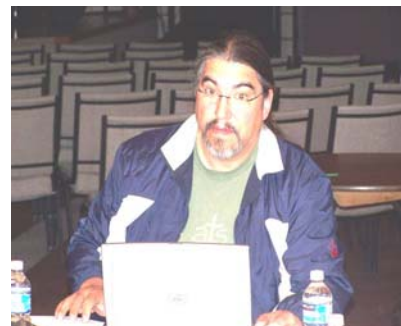
Parliament, cont'd

Terry had also arranged for Ray Aldred to speak at one of the day seminars and for long-time friend and Mohawk Bible translator, Mavis Etienne, to be on one of the panels on the day before. Each shared from their hearts and experience and, at the end of his presentation, Terry received a standing ovation.

While in Ottawa, the Aboriginal Ministries Council of which Terry, Ray and Adrian are members, had opportunity to meet with various members of parliament bringing the message of reconciliation into these conversations as well. The message was well received and plans are in the works for further conversations.

Be in prayer for them.

- Terry LeBlanc



Staff Profile: Terry LeBlanc

Terry serves as Ministry Director of My People. Besides supervising the staff, directing *Dancing the Way* and filling in as interim Executive Director, he works with Native leadership and with non-Natives working in Native ministry throughout the US and Canada.

While Terry is Mi'kmaq/Acadian from Restigouche, Quebec and Campbellton, New Brunswick, he spent most of his growing up years in Toronto. He left Toronto at 17, ending up in Manitoba where he met his wife, Bev. Four years after their marriage, Bev encountered Christ, and began praying for Terry. He came to faith a year later.

Terry has been in full-time ministry since 1979, and was ordained in 1983. During the early years of his ministry, he concurrently pastored a small, rural church; managed an open custody facility for Native young offenders; and, over fifteen years, served as Executive Director of Youth for Christ in two different cities. He was on staff with World Vision Canada for nine years, serving as manager of Aboriginal programs.

Among his numerous other activities, Terry co-chaired the 2nd World Christian Gathering on Indigenous People. He serves on the boards of: the Aboriginal Ministries Council of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, InterVarsity Canada, Wiconi International (a US based Native ministry), and his local church. He is the founding Chair and current director of NAIITS (North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies).

Terry writes regularly for various publications (see "Native Suicide: A Challenge for the Church" in *Faith Today*, Nov/Dec 2006) and has contributed to a Study Bible/commentary (*Faith in Action Study Bible*, Zondervan). He has received a Canadian Church Press Award for his writing. Terry also speaks at conferences, colleges and churches, his teaching on contextual ministry and reconciliation taking him across North America and abroad, including to such hot spots as Rwanda and South Africa. He will receive his PhD in Intercultural studies in Theology of Mission from Asbury Theological Seminary next spring.

In his younger days, Terry worked as a mechanic and earned a pre-med degree. During the early years of his ministry, he helped support the family by driving semis. He is an avid hunter, likes to fly airplanes, ride his horse, and play fetch with his dogs.

Terry and Bev have three grown children: Jennifer, Jeanine, and Matt, and this fall will celebrate their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary.

- Gina Merritt



Teaching on the Hopi Reservation

Taking a shuttle ride from Phoenix airport to Flagstaff, I was driving through the countryside, looking at the blooming cacti and listening to the eagles, "Desperado, why don't you come to your senses?" I guess that is a good question. People keep asking me why I keep doing what I do, speaking to small crowds and talking about culture and trying to bring the gospel into particular contexts and the answer is that I am a follower of Jesus and the gospel only makes sense set in a particular setting, among real people, trying to figure out how they could express their faith in Him.

I was teaching for one week at the Discipleship Training School run by Will and Millie Toms and part of the ministry of Youth With a Mission. I didn't know what to expect, but it was good. We spent the first three days talking through the stories of scripture and thinking about what is involved with taking the gospel to our aboriginal people. The gist of the teaching is about taking the gospel story in, and having the gospel story take us in and shape us. We were not a large group, but it was an encouraging time with deep conversations.

On the last two days we took a trip to Hopi land and I visited Old Oribi, the longest inhabited village in North America. People have been living there since at least 1100 AD. It was incredible to see the civilization that predated the coming of the Europeans to North America. About 25-30 Hopi and others gathered on Friday night to ask about Christianity and culture. It seems that the gospel has tended to be presented as something that replaced whatever was before it, instead of being a gift to heal and fulfill. So, it has been presented that you could not be Christian and Hopi, one or the other, but that is changing.

I spoke about how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and true Holy People point others to Jesus, this is how we know they are true Holy People. Anyway, it seemed to have a positive impact.

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Some Ministry and Staff Highlights

Scripture is coming alive in Mohawk!

The rough draft of the whole Mohawk Old Testament has been completed.

Many books have been finished but after nearly 7 years of work (a short time in this type of endeavour) the whole of the scriptures is at least in rough draft form. The team of Mohawk men and women under the facilitation of Céline Bastien Genest has done an amazing job!

In late March, Rick and Linda Martin traveled to Waskaganish in northern Quebec and presented "Dealing with the Pain of Our Past: A Journey into Hope," a powerful workshop on abuse issues. Area churches of different denominations participated. The Martins will return in August for follow up.

In April, the Martins presented the same workshop, along with a youth outreach, on the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska. Several people

were greatly impacted.

In May, the Martins presented a suicide prevention workshop in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. In mid-May Linda conducted a four-day training session teaching people how to counsel those who have been sexually abused. Again, people were greatly impacted.

April was a full month as Terry spent time teaching on the LCO Reservation in the middle of the month. It was the fifth year he has gone to teach among the Ojibway people there.

Terry also spent one day in a guest lecture at Covenant College in Strathmore, AB.

Also in April, Terry and Gina had the pleasure of visiting with old and new friends at dessert evenings in Hampton, Iowa, and Long Grove,

Illinois. Guests viewed our new My People DVD and were led in a fish dance by our Menominee friend, traditional dancer Art Shegonee.

Thank you to Rich and Sondra Potter and Dave Fitch for your hospitality.

This spring, Adrian has spoken at a dozen churches, two colleges, and for other organizations about the continuing stand-off in Caledonia.

At 3:00 p.m. on June 24, Adrian's church will hold a special event, a combination strawberry festival/corporate repentance/communion service. Special guest will include Cindy Ruakere (Maori) from New Zealand and Gavriel Gefen, a messianic Jew from Jerusalem. All are welcome:

Faith Victory Church
2147 Chiefswood Road
Ohsweken, Ontario
Six Nations Reserve

Prayer Needs

Please pray:

For an adequate number of gentle horses for the kids camp.

For this year's Dancing the Way tour beginning with the June 1 travel day through to its completion on June 16—for all the dancers, for boldness in the words and songs we share.

For the health of the Mohawk translators.

For the Enneymoon Circle participants—that they would use what they learned and experienced in their own ministries.

For the summer holiday season—on every holiday for the past year, there has been renewed confrontation at the disputed land in Caledonia. For peace, safety and reconciliation as Canadian holidays approach—July 1 (Canada Day), August 6 (Summer Holiday), and Sept. 3 (Labour Day).

For the people in Muskrat Dam as they build a new church. Rick and Linda and volunteers will be supporting the effort!

For Jim Zurham, a US volunteer, that he would have a speedy recovery from what appears to have been a stroke.

“Person-Centered Discipleship — Keeping the Message Real!”

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*Remember to check out
stories and links on our
website!*

www.

mypeopleinternational.com

Hopi cont'd from p. 3

I shared part of my own journey, about asking Jesus to put his spirit in my Spirit. At least two people asked for prayer—to have Jesus put his spirit in their spirit. Pray for them as they begin the journey.

People on the Hopi reservation are seeking truth about God. They are seeking for unity and praying for one another as they seek to be the best Hopi, following Jesus, they can be.

- Ray Aldred

Dates and Events ...

Dancing the Way Tour

June 3	Racine, WI--Fellowship of Christian Believers, 10:30 a.m.
June 5	Red Lake, Minnesota, next to the trading post, 6:30 p.m.
June 6	Minneapolis, MN--Little Earth Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
June 7	Cloquet, MN--Fond du Lac Tribal & Comm. College, 7:00 p.m.
June 8	Watersmeet, MN--Watersmeet High School, 7:00 p.m.
June 9	Hayward, Wisconsin, The Landing, Hwy. CC, 6:00 p.m.
June 10	Hayward, Wisconsin, Church of Love and Compassion, 10:30 a.m.
June 10	Hayward, Wisconsin, Hayward Wesleyan Church, 6:00 p.m.
June 11	Cass Lake, MN--Great River Pizzeria, 6:00 p.m.
June 13	Ramsey, MN--New Life Church, 7:00 p.m.
June 15	Madison, WI--House of Prayer; teaching 3:00 p.m., service 7:00 p.m.

Other Events

June 20-24	“Rise up Mighty Warrior” – Outreach and Gathering, Edmonton, AB
June 24	Hudson, ON—evangelistic outreach to Lac Seul Native community
June 25-29	Terry on Eastern Canada reserve ministry trip
July 12-15	Rick counseling at Rock Ness Family Camp, BC
July 30 – Aug. 3	Youth Culture Camp – Alberta

Upcoming Dessert Evenings – Mark the Date(s)! (all evening programs begin at 7:00 p.m.)

Sept. 27	Spokane, WA – First Free Methodist Church
Sept. 28	Shoreline, WA (near Seattle) – Bethel Lutheran Church
Sept. 29	Burnaby, BC—TBA
Oct. 11	Winnipeg, MB – William & Catherine Booth College
Oct. 12	Steinbach, MB – 55 Plus Steinbach
Oct. 18	New Brighton, MN – New Brighton Family Services Center
Oct. 19	Kitchener, ON—TBA
Oct. 20	Brantford, ON—TBA
Nov. 1	Grande Prairie, AB – Venue TBA
Nov. 2	Edmonton, AB – Community of Hope
Nov. 3	Calgary, AB – Emmanuel Community Church
Nov. 8	Ottawa, ON—St. Alban’s Anglican Church
Nov. 9	Brinston/Iroquois—Community Christian Reformed
Nov. 10	Pembroke, ON—Wesley Community Church
Nov. 11	Winchester—Harmony Community Church (NOTE: Men’s breakfast @ 8 a.m. Nov. 10)