



THE JESUS WAY IN INDIGENOUS CONTEXT >>>

indigeneNews

More IP Connecting: Sioux Falls Seminary

AFTER 15 years of ongoing partnership through an initial symposium and then 10 years of the Wiconi immersion program, Indigenous Pathways has taken another step in ministry partnership with Sioux Falls Seminary. September 13-15, Terry LeBlanc and Casey Church, together with Sioux Falls Seminary faculty Doug Anderson, Larry Caldwell, and Corky Alexander, delivered a mini-symposium on Indigenous mission and ministry to a receptive audience of about 35 practitioners. By all accounts, the event was a huge success!

According to one participant, “My commitment to seeing Indigenous peoples become whole followers of Jesus was ramped-up even more than ever! I fully support Indigenous Pathways’ efforts in ministry and training. You are a unique group of people! Count me in!”

Thank you to our readership and supporters for making this possible.



Sioux Falls Seminary students reflect on Indigenous missions presentations.

A MARTIN WITH 50

Fender®

Tim Cofield, a musician friend of mine from Tennessee, called me this summer with an amazing question. I could hardly believe my ears. I had never had anything like this ever happen to me before. He told me that someone from Nashville had fifty new Fender guitars to give away and asked if I could help him find a home for them? Fifty new guitars! Unbelievable!



I love guitars and I know the beauty they can bring into a life and so did Tim. He wanted to start gifting these guitars in Muskrat Dam, Ontario, which is Linda’s home Cree community.

The idea behind the guitars was to encourage young people to get involved

with something inspiring, to bring hope to the youth of isolated First Nations communities. There is a lot of pain, turmoil, and depression and, of course, suicide in so many of these places. Muskrat Dam is no exception. Music is a tool that can help change things. It is a healing tool for the mind and soul. IN fact, that is

Tim’s story and, in many ways, mine too. Through music and worship we can “push back the darkness and bring in the light and hope of God.” (For the rest of this story go to www.mypeopleinternational.com/news.html)





I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF ONE...

...because I know One woman who is transforming her family with love. She had the courage to come to Inenimowin Circle and share her story of being sexually abused by her father and spending much of her life addicted to drugs. But her story has changed and now she is walking with Her Creator through His Son, Jesus, and rebuilding trust with her relationships in her family. She is breaking old patterns and not taking “too late” for an answer.

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF TWO...

...because two nights a week we sit in safe talking circles with men and women who are processing what it looks like to walk with Jesus in the trials of their everyday lives. They are trying to flesh-it-out so the Creator’s Written Word is reflected in them. They are being supported and learning to understand the abundant life Jesus offers.

Read more on Creator’s life-changing power seen in the lives of Blackfeet People in Montana and how it all begins with One: www.mypeopleinternational.com/news.html

Reflections on 150 Years of Canada in Eastern Ontario

Where are we now and where are we going?



FOR EUROPEAN SETTLERS and Indigenous Hosts, finding a smooth path towards reconciliation through the tangled web of our mutual history can be a difficult process. Given our Settler legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery (*see YouTube: 2015 Sacred Circle: Bishop Mark MacDonald on the Doctrine of Discovery*), the ongoing journey to deep understandings, re-thinking our assumed narratives, seeking justice and mercy and following the Jesus way is a challenge.

The latest Nestooak in Eastern Ontario was a time of heavy reflection and tough questions. We began with the detailed recounting of Host-Settler relations from the early days to the present: The blanket exercise is a strong visual tool that literally walked us through the history of relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people here in Canada.

That pesky Doctrine of Discovery....(To see the complete story go to www.mypeopleinternational.com/news.html)



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PINE LAKE POWWOW & RECONCILIATION EVENT ▶▶▶



INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS held its first traditional event at Pine Lake in early September in Central Alberta. Modeled after Wiconi's long-running "Mni Wiconi" (Living Waters)

Family Camp and Traditional Powwow held each July in Oregon, this camp in Pine Lake was co-sponsored by the Salvation Army,

Focusing on "A Journey of Reconciliation", the gathering featured singer/songwriter and NAIITS Boardmember **Cheryl Bear**, Wiconi's Director, **Casey Church**, and **Terry LeBlanc**, Indigenous Pathways Director. The three of them led workshops looking at First Nations traditional worship, land and sense of belonging, and on reconciliation.

Brian Brightcloud served as the powwow MC, and his son, **Adam Murry**, as arena director. In colorful regalia Casey and Lora Church were the lead men's and ladies' dancers for the powwow. The head of Canada's Salvation Army, **Susan McMillan**, gave the closing keynote address Sunday morning.

The Pine Lake camp/powwow was a good start for what we hope will be one of many more to come.

A Day of Meaningful Conversation

PANULUANAN (Ata for "place of learning") began when the elders of an Ata community in the Philippines saw the value of intentionally passing on their culture and practices to their young people. In a series of community consultations in 2016, the elders and leaders expressed their desire to pursue their long-awaited dream of a cultural village where the Ata tribe can reclaim and preserve their culture, as well as strengthen their community relationships. In the long term, the community also hopes to develop Panuluanan into a source of livelihood. iEmergence (iE) has been deeply involved with this project from the start.

This October, Indigenous Pathways Director Terry LeBlanc, along with iE partners Miriam and Erica from Canada and the USA, were able to meet and interact with the Ata community and witness the progress of this great project. Local foods and dances were shared as well as glimpses of their rich culture and their vision and dreams for their peoples. Their elders and Mi'kmaq elder Terry were able to share their worldviews, values, and challenges with one another, as they respond to the myriad of social and economic changes facing the Ata community. (To read and see more about this unique place of learning project in the Philippines go to www.iemergence.org)



NAIITS goes "Down Under"



NAIITS IS GOING "DOWN UNDER". After piloting three courses in July 2017, NAIITS will offer a Masters in Theological Studies-Indigenous degree in partnership with Whitley College at the University of Divinity/University of Melbourne, beginning March 2018. In addition, we'll be launching an Indigenous PhD program with Whitley.

"We are excited to be partnering with Whitley in Australia,"

stated Terry LeBlanc, NAIITS Director and Indigenous Pathways Executive Director.

Whitley College seeks to "equip men and women for leadership and service in the church and society" and their motto is "Equipping leaders for a different world". Together with NAIITS, they will be preparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous students within an Indigenous and biblically framed worldview.

FROM THE DIRECTOR ▶▶▶

As I write this note, I am with Matt and others of our team working with *iEmergence* overseas. Over the years, many of the Indigenous people we have been meeting with these past few weeks have come to be just like family to us. We treasure the sense of community that we feel with each of them, and have come to value their willingness to learn with us, knowing that we also learn from them.

More than once this past week and a half our conversations together have focused on the seemingly regular news of unrest and conflict in the globe. It feels odd to us here at the moment because we have been recent witnesses to small yet significant movements toward reconciliation—sometimes of people conflicted with themselves and at other times quarrels with others. We have been talking and studying scripture concerning our identity as Indigenous followers of Jesus and as reconcilers with God. We have been encouraged to once again discover Jesus as the reconciler of all things and all peoples.

The theological work we have been privileged to undertake over the past twenty or so years in North America has found a resonance with the Indigenous folks of the Philippines and here, today as I write, in West Papua. In fact, one of the main purposes of this visit is that several of

our Indigenous family here and the Philippines have stepped up to ask for training in our NAIITS graduate studies programs so

that they might become more effective in ministry among their own peoples. Please pray for them as we work out the details to make this possible. Pray in particular for Kharla, Rode, Timmi, Denny and Nas as we prepare applications and accompanying materials.

As the stories in this issue make clear, we are privileged to call many Indigenous peoples—among them Filipinos and Papuans—more than friends; they are like siblings, nieces and nephews to us. This is a great blessing of trust and friendship and bears testimony to our growing Indigenous ministry network!

Thanks for being in this adventure with God and with us through your financial support and prayers. This month, we have brought you here to our family in S.E Asia as witnesses of God's work!

—Terry LeBlanc

