

November 2009 Update from *All Nations Native Ministries*

Wow, this year has really flown by. It seems as though we blinked and now the holidays are almost upon us. We want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

For those who are receiving our newsletter for the first time, we would like to tell you a little bit about how All Nations Native Ministries got started. In early 2003, God spoke telling us to "step down" from our responsibilities within the four walls of our home church. We didn't know what the Lord had in store for us. But, soon, we felt our hearts being tugged in the direction of Native American ministry. After much prayer, and with the blessings and support of our pastors and elders, we began attending Native American gatherings (powwows) throughout the state, during the months of Sept. - May. At first, we felt the need to learn about the culture and to connect and build relationships with the people we met. The Lord soon began giving us opportunities for one-on-one ministry, and months later, we felt lead to start providing a Sunday morning worship services for those attending the weekend gatherings. God has been faithful to lead and guide us in this part of the ministry for 5 years now.

Also in 2004, we helped to pioneer and plant The American Indian Christian Circle (church) in Thonotosassa, Florida. We meet two Sunday nights per month and, at this time, are averaging between 50 & 60 people. We are blessed to be serving the Lord among this group of people and to witness the transformation of lives as spiritual growth takes place.

Another aspect of the ministry is serving on the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) for the United Methodist Churches of Florida. We have been on this committee for the last 4 years. As part of serving, we help to plan and host a gathering, in Leesburg Florida, where Native Americans can come together and learn more about "walking the Jesus Road" in a way that is culturally relevant.

We also travel on short term trips, mostly in the summer, to reservations and native communities and serving, as the Lord leads us. God has placed a special love in our hearts for this people group and a strong desire to see them set free to worship and serve Him in a way that is compatible with their culture and traditions and to see them turn around and reach others.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned that we were gearing up for our annual gathering in Leesburg in April of this year. We had an amazing turnout of 150 people from several states and representing 20 different native tribes. Here are just a few of the comments we received.

"We want to thank you for the wonderful conference. Our experience was fulfilling, the fellowship was marvelous, the teaching was superb and the connections have just begun to bear fruit".

"Thank you for the dances, the worship and the excellent teaching from the Word of God".

"Wow! It was great. I felt the Spirit and God's love for the whole three days.... and IT WAS REAL!"

It is an honor to plan and be a part of this gathering each year and to see God work in the lives of those who attend. We are excited to see what He will do next year in May 2010. All are welcome! Let us know if you are interested in attending.

2009 has brought many new opportunities. Over the summer, we were blessed to minister at the United Methodist Women's Missions conference in Lakeland Florida. Our worship team, Sacred Thunder Drum, and several others from our little American Indian church shared through cultural information, music, dance and teaching from the Word. We thank the Lord for this open door.

In October, we were asked to be a part of the Feast of Tabernacles celebration at Christian Retreat in Bradenton, FL. Jeff and I shared a song immediately following the blowing of the shofar to open the service. We sang "Call to Creator". It is sung with hand drum and rattle and beckons the presence of the Lord to come. Later in the service, our whole team played the big drum and sang, and our dancers danced. It was good to join in this celebration. There are many similarities between the native customs (feasts and celebrations) and the Hebrew customs. God is drawing

the Jews and the Native Americans together for His purposes in these last days. We don't understand all that He is doing, but we are blessed to be a part of His plan. Many people came up to us afterwards and shared how God had touched them during our time of sharing and we have been invited back for next year's celebration.

We continue to go where we are invited, which includes churches, schools, outreaches, native gatherings, conferences, and home groups. If you know of a group that would like us to share, please feel free to give them our information. You can get in touch with us at our home number 941-954-0664, through email at allnationsnativeministries@verizon.net or through our home church at the address at the bottom of this newsletter.

New Opportunities

We have several new ministry opportunities coming up. In December, we will be joining with Afterlife Ministry in Lakeland, FL in an outreach to the homeless. Jeff and I will be ministering through music and Sacred Thunder Drum will also be playing. We are looking forward to this outreach. We pray that many hearts will be touched and much healing and deliverance will take place in the lives of those attending. We have also been invited to minister at a missions conference at a church in Gainesville, in February. There are other invitations/opportunities coming up that are just in the planning stages, so not many details for those.

Last April at our gathering in Leesburg, our guest speaker was Jonathan Maracle (you can check out his ministry at www.brokenwalls.com). Jonathan shared with us his vision to have a Christ-centered Native American music festival in the heart of Indian Country (Oklahoma) and asked us to pray that the Lord would help him put it together. He also asked us if we would come and minister, if and when it happened. Well, we received a phone call from Jonathan a couple of months ago and things have "fallen into place" for this event to happen in June 2010. We are very excited and honored to be asked to be one of the drums that will be sharing. They are expecting thousands of people to attend. The event is being called "Sing to the Mountains" and it will be held in Meers, OK, which is right in the middle of Kiowa and Comanche communities. We will be ministering with native artists/ministers who are well known throughout North America. This is an awesome opportunity and we are blessed beyond words to be invited. Please pray for us, concerning travel details and the necessary finances needed. If you have any ideas about how we can get 15 people, camping gear/belongings, and a very large drum out to Oklahoma, in an inexpensive way, please let us know.

Prayer Requests

We so appreciate all the prayer support we receive from those who the Lord has called to intercede for this ministry. Below are a few requests and thank you again for praying for us.

- 1) Please pray that God would speak to us concerning the powwow ministry. Invitations have all but dried up in this area. We are not sure if we should try to revive this part of the ministry or just let it go. Invitations do seem to be coming from another directions and maybe we would not be able to do it all.
- 2) Finances - In these hard times, we know it is difficult for God's people to continue to give beyond their tithe. Please pray that the Lord would place us on the hearts of those who have a desire to reach Native America for Him, and also have the means.
- 3) Outreach to the homeless in December. Pray that many lives will be healed and delivered by the Spirit of the Lord.
- 4) "Sing to the Mountains" - Please pray for all involved in the planning and preparation of this event. Nothing has ever been done like this before in Indian Country. Pray that it will be a huge success and that many lives will be touched by the Spirit of the Lord. Pray for God's wisdom and provision for our group as we make our plans to attend. Pray for grace and traveling mercies and that His anointing will be upon us as we minister.
- 5) For continued guidance and direction for All Nations Native Ministries as we endeavor to hear His voice and follow.

6) Please continue to pray for our little Native Church. Pray for the leadership, for unity and that we would lead the people in the way God wants and be good examples of Jesus to all those who attend. Pray that the Lord would add to our numbers. Pray for true conversions for those who don't know Him and steady and lasting spiritual growth for those who are already believers.

We so appreciate all who have expressed an interest in reaching Native America with the "good news". We value your prayers, words of encouragement, financial support and all that you do to make this ministry possible. Please know that you play an important part in God's plan.

Love and special blessings to you all,

Jeff and Vickie

For tax purposes, make donation checks payable to: Fellowship of Believers 3333 12th Street Sarasota, FL 34237 and designate for Native Ministry.

"with Your own blood You bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation and race." Revelation 5:9