

SHINING THE LIGHT

Ministering on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota—home to 40,000 Lakota Sioux—hasn't been easy for Charity Hill. In the 25 years since she and her late husband, Frank, planted The Native Voice of Deliverance, the couple and their five children have been threatened with death, harassed and confronted with an attempt to burn down the small church.

But despite the challenges, the Hills have seen people come to Christ and find deliverance from alcoholism and depression. A descendant of 19th century Sioux warrior Chief Red Cloud, Hill ministers in a region where only 5 percent of the population embrace Christianity. Many follow traditional spiritual practices. Hill says spiritual warfare is constant, but she teaches the Lakota that the answer to life's problems can be found only in Jesus.

Although her husband died in July 2005, she is determined to continue conducting church services, leading the ministry's annual camp meeting, counseling the hurting and interceding for the Lakota people. "I

have a heart for my people," she says. "I do not give up on them." Yet she admits, ministry is more difficult without Frank. "What's victory without a battle?" she says. "The anointing doesn't come easy."

—KATHY NAUGLE

