

February 2010  
Newsletter



AT WORK ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

Please pray:

For the well-being of the  
Lakota people.

For additional strength,  
wisdom, and discernment for  
Pastor Charity.

Needs:

Financial donations to River  
of Joy that will help us further  
the Gospel on the  
reservation.

**River of Joy**

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## Oglala Sioux Tribe Suicide State of Emergency

On December 10, 2009, Theresa Two Bulls, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe declared a state of emergency relative to the suicide rates on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

From November 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009 the Oglala Sioux Tribe Ambulance Service reported 17 calls for service involving suicide, either attempted or successful. From October 1, 2008 through August 1, 2009, the Ambulance Service answered a total of 96 attempted/completed suicide calls. With a population of approximately 35,000, these rates are astonishingly high.

President Two Bulls asked all spiritual leaders, clergy, community leaders, student councils, parents/grandparents, tribal employees, peers and counselors to join together to change this trend.

Pastor Charity Hill of Native Voice Ministries, has taken this call seriously. "It takes the Lord and those who are born again to pull together. This is an opportunity for us to present the Gospel." Pastor Hill is working to unite pastors around the reservation to spiritually combat this growing problem.

On one of our ministry trips to the reservation, another pastor told us of an elementary school youngster who confided that he was thinking about suicide. Recently, another pastor told us of a teenage girl who had recently taken her life several months after her boyfriend had been killed in a car accident. It came without warning and her family was devastated.

Clearly, the Lakota people are in pain. Please pray they come to understand that Jesus is Lord and Savior of all, and they are dearly loved by Him. Young ones, so valued by the Lakota people, must find salvation and hope.

