

January 2010
Newsletter



AT WORK ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

Please pray:

For the spiritual, emotional, and physical healing of the Lakota people.

Needs:

Walmart gift cards of any amount.

2009 In Review

It is wonderful to look back over the year and see what God has helped accomplish. In looking over 2009, we have found many reasons to be thankful.



GenPro Energy Solutions of Piedmont, SD generously donated the Skystream 3.7 Wind Turbine to River of Joy. Several kind donors provided the necessary installation funding.

When the wind turbine installation is completed for Pastor Stanley and Sylvia Hollow Horn at the Wounded Knee Church of God, their electricity costs will decrease for both their church and home.

Besides the wind turbine, we further assisted Pastor Stanley with the purchase of a new fuel pump for his church van, a gasoline gift card, a Walmart gift card for Pastor Appreciation Month as well as several financial donations to his church.

For Pastor Charity Hill of the Native Voice Ministries, a church in Wolf Creek, we have purchased Walmart gift cards for grocery purchases, Pastor Appreciation Month, and as a Thanksgiving Blessing. We purchased propane for her on three occasions, paid an electric bill, and restored her phone service.

We have provided the Fast Wolf Family with Walmart gift cards several times including Thanksgiving and Christmas. In addition, we purchased each of their 12 children a Christian book for their birthday.

As you might have noticed, we frequently purchase Walmart gift cards. The reason is there are no large stores on the reservation and few outside of it either. However, Walmart has several stores one located in Rapid City, SD (north of the rez) and one in Chadron, Nebraska (south of the rez). Because Walmart offers food and household items at reasonable prices we are able to provide more for less dollars.

Our 2009 Ministry Trip (July 25 – August 2, 2009) to the Pine Ridge Reservation included many activities:

- Attended Pastor Charity's four-day annual camp meeting. It was a great time being in God's presence as well as meeting other Native people from Pine Ridge and those who traveled to the meeting from other states.
- Visited the Wounded Knee Visitor Center sponsored by the American

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Indian Movement (AIM). As we talked to the workers we felt led by the Holy Spirit to ask them if we could pray for them. They were surprised but willingly accepted the prayer.

- Attended Pastor Stanley's church service and spent time learning of their needs and discussing ways in which we might assist them.
- Visited with Oyate Concern, who have a children's outreach ministry in Oglala, and helped sort and organize their books for the Christian pre-school started this past fall.
- Visited with the Fast Wolf family and delivered much needed paper products – plates, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.
- Visited with Pastor Eric Sutton at the Oglala Re-Creation Center learning of the ways they meet the needs of the youth and adults in Oglala.
- Visited with Pastor Glen Robinett of the Lakota Baptist Church learning of the difficulties of ministry in the town of Pine Ridge.



2009 Ministry Team at the Camp Meeting
(L->R: Cheryl Tacconelli, Kathy Naugle, Kelly Boos and Freda Burggraf)

Administratively, we updated our logo and brochure. Our website has been updated, a River of Joy PowerPoint presentation finished, four articles written for Pastor Charity's use, and the establishment of this monthly newsletter.

Donations

Your financial and other donations to River of Joy are always tax-exempt and we provide a thank-you letter documenting your contribution. Eighty percent of your financial donation is used directly for purchases like those above. Of the remaining twenty percent, we donate ten percent to other ministries as River of Joy's tithe, and the remaining ten percent is used for office supplies. If we have more funds than needed for office supplies, the excess is also used for direct ministry items. Unlike large ministries, we do not use any donations to fund salaries or other personal benefits.

You may also designate your financial and other donations for a particular need. In that case, 100 percent of your designated donation will be used as you have directed. We always appreciate your generosity and never take it for granted.

May you be blessed in 2010.

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