

On the Rez With The Maraleses February 2024

Greetings to all of you who partner with us in serving the Lakota people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The last couple of months have had their difficulties but our Heavenly Father continues to be faithful to provide and protect us through it all. We've had some really cold days, battled sickness, and mourned with those who've suffered loss, but God is good through it all.

Please keep a couple of our church family in prayer. Kate, a Lakota elder who is part of our church, whose sister went to be with the Lord a couple of weeks ago, and Nadine who is battling cancer. Also, another member of our church, who is a member of the tribal council and is constantly persecuted for following Jesus.

Towards the end of January, I spoke at a men's retreat in Oregon. I'm very thankful to my good friend and brother in Christ for making that possible, as well as another good brother, Jaime Asbridge, for flying out with me. I spoke three times. The first was on presenting yourself to the Lord as an instrument of righteousness, then on prayer, and lastly on Biblical praise. It was a powerful time where we all got challenged, touched by Jesus, got set free from some things, and just loved on each other as the family of God.

Around that time, a Lakota brother, I had started to disciple some years back, contacted me. He had gotten shot and nearly died. He messaged me from the hospital. We started talking again and I visited him once he got back to his dad's house. Lewis Crazy Thunder and I prayed with him and encouraged him in the Lord. Please pray for Harold to stay free from drug addiction and alcoholism, and to surrender fully to Jesus the way he says he wants to.

We've also had some powerful times in the jail. We've had four different men come up for prayer, wanting to follow Jesus. One is a member of a feared gang on Pine Ridge, called the Wild Boyz. They are the only "home grown" gang here and are known by their bear claw tattoos. He isn't the first member of that gang we've ministered to, so we know the Lord is targeting them. Jake came up after the message saying he wanted to change his life, be a good father to his kids, and get off drugs and alcohol. I explained again how he needs to give his life completely over to Jesus, let the Lord lead him, and ask for His Holy Spirit. He did it without me leading him as soon as I finished talking. Praise the Lord! He's been really attentive and come up for more prayer since. He got out last week so pray he follows through and contacts us. The others were James and Joseph. We don't always give names and rarely put pictures on our newsletter due to the type of persecution we face. There are members of the tribal council and others, who are always accusing us and all churches/missionaries of exploiting the people for money and looking for reasons to kick us off the reservation, so we have to be careful and above reproach.

On the home front, all is well! Everly is doing great! She is thriving in Jiu Jitsu and is growing into such a smart, kind, creative girl. Currently, she'd like to be a Chemist or Astronomer when she grows up.

Thank you for your continued prayers & financial support!



Everly as "Lumiere" for the Daddy Daughter Dance

Giving Information

- Donations can be made by check, cash, or debit/credit card and are tax deductible.
- Checks should be made out to FIRE International with our name in the memo line and can be mailed to PO Box 5306, Concord, NC 28027 using the remit envelope.
- You can give securely online at www.fire-international.org. Be sure to put our name in the comment box.



