



On the Rez With *The Moraleses* August/ September 2025

Grace and peace to all of you who partner with us in serving the Lakota tribe of Pine Ridge Reservation. Summer has come and gone. A lot has happened so I will do my best to give the highlights. We have experienced both loss and gain throughout this time and God has remained faithful through it all.

In August we visited our friends, the Ziebart (who blessed us with the trip), in Oregon for a much-needed vacation. We also were able to share at Risen Life Church and we had a blessed time with our brothers and sisters there. We are thankful for our good friend Philip Butler, who serves as an elder there, and Pastor AJ for making that possible. Through the amazing generosity of the Zierbarts, as well as the giving of members of that church, we were able to make a down payment and finance a newer vehicle, which we desperately needed.

Soon after getting back, I found out that the 15-year-old I've been training in boxing, but had moved to the city for the summer, had moved back. We had started training a few others but they didn't last, so I was happy to have him and another back. Boxing has really been an open door to instill discipline and work ethic into these young men.

I had written about the 15-year-old, Xander Goodlance in our last newsletter. Just seven months ago, he was 260lbs., drinking, smoking weed, and suicidal. We prayed and spoke life to him. Today he weighs 190lbs, has stopped drinking and smoking, won 8 amateur bouts (I got to corner him for 2 and he got fight of the night), and now wants to be baptized. When we started 2 years ago, he had refused to come to our church service, and didn't want anything to do with God. He's been to church a few times now. He's seen God answer prayer in his life. He's had a couple of slips, but we've worked through those, and he's more motivated than ever. Just today he said "Elliot we've come so far! Me and you, and Lewis (the Lakota brother who helps me train)."

I'm so thankful to others who have helped us like Bryan and Lynne Stephens who purchased boxing gear for him and 3 others as well donated money to pay for us to have a professional boxing trainer come and help take him further in his training. We are also thankful for one of the sisters in our church, Jen Irizarry, and her mom, who've also helped with gear and food. Jen was his teacher in middle school when Xander was a bit of a trouble maker. So much change has happened. Keep him in prayer. He comes from a really troubled home. He lost both his parents to drugs and alcohol. But God is working and he is a changed young man. We are going for Silver Gloves in November, so keep that in prayer as well.

In September, we had some amazing guests as well. Tina Barry came and helped in various ways, like cutting the hair of students in our elementary school, Oyate Hope Academy, and coming into the jail with me and Heidi (one of our church board members, worship leaders, etc.), to minister to the ladies. It was a powerful time and there were definitely tears and several women prayed for, who wanted to follow Jesus.

The next week we had the 33rd Company from Mercy Culture Church, with a team of seventeen. Too much happened that week to give details but they did jail ministry with both the men and the women. God moved in both services and several made professions of faith in Jesus so keep that in prayer. They went out into the communities to preach the gospel and pray for whoever would receive them. There were healings and several made professions of faith. Sadly, most of those seem to not have followed through, so far at least but we keep praying. The ones that did are meeting for Bible study and discipleship. Please keep Wes Jr, Charles, Crystal, and Lucille in your prayers.

The team also ministered with our Lakota brother, Pastor Harrison No Neck, and his wife, Ladonna, in the Kyle district of the reservation. They saw more miracles and professions of faith while there as well as when they went to the Pine Ridge district to minister with another Lakota, George Dreamerr, in the community there.

The team was a real blessing to our church and community. They did a couple of sessions on evangelism and discipleship at our Sunday gathering, which were really edifying. They also joined us for our men's and women's Bible studies, and brought much edification and encouragement in those settings as well. They ministered to our students at our Oyate School. They joined us in our open gym time and ministered to young men and women playing basketball, as well as kids at our playground. We look forward to having them again next year. God alone knows all that was accomplished through their team during their short stay with us.

Lastly, at the end of September, our church family experienced a loss of a dear sister, Nadine. Nadine was 59 years old. She had battled cancer two years ago and overcame. Unfortunately, the cancer returned aggressively and she went to be with Jesus within a couple of weeks of being in the hospital. It happened quite suddenly and we are still wrapping our minds around it. However, we are so thankful that she is more alive now than ever before and we will see her again! Please keep her family and our church in your prayers.



Left- Us with the Ziebart in Oregon; Right- Elliot, Xander and Lewis

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.
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