Walk Through the Book, In Mission

It is Saturday night and we just got back from an amazing evening! Our family has been attending the Mission church for about the last six years. When we first started coming it was just our family, another family of four and an older couple that would attend consistently. Others would occasionally attend worship services at Mission but several of the people who were coming got old, burned out or moved away so eventually it was just our family and an older couple.

We did not feel that just the few of us could get things going. The school closed down and before long a bright idea came. We should merge with the congregation that started us in the first place, the Blue Mt. Valley Adventist Church. This merger took place in the beginning of 2010. This essentially closed the Mission Church for the time so we could catch our breath, get up some speed, and generally clean up the place.

Our time with the Mission Church has been a great experience. I can say I’ve learned a lot. It has been great working with the members at Blue Mt Valley and getting to know everyone.

After our summer VBS there were plans to carry on an outreach as a follow-up but that never happened until now. A student at WWU, who coordinates volunteers for outreach, organized a team of eight students who came down to help us out. Altogether, there were about 26 adults and 26 kids that showed up today!

There were so many kids there, due in part to my Mom calling many individuals on the telephone a week before the event. We had also painted and placed a sign outside the church announcing “Walk Through the Book” - Saturday 2:30-4:30 Then on Friday, one day before the outreach, several of us went door to door at the trailer park across from the church and gave our personal invitation cards to people with kids. That process was greatly sped up by some kids who recognized us and said, “there are kids in that house,” then took the card over and handed it to them. This once-a-month program, “Walk Through the Book” involves singing, crafts, games, a snack and of course a Bible story.

Things are definitely coming together. So long as we maintain our focus on God, there is no chance of this project failing.

—by Andrew Hendrickson, age 17, who lives in Mission with his family and has been a part of the Mission Church

Reopening of the Historic Fruitland Adventist Church

Friday, November 19, 2010, marked the beginning of the reopening of the one hundred fourteen year old historic Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fruitland, Washington, only 11 miles from the Spokane Indian Reservation.

Three Adventist couples that have moved into the Fruitland Valley invited their neighbors to a Friday night soup and bread supper with singing and praise time afterward. Mike and Marilyn Shuler and Earl and Sheryl Mixey from the Davenport church along with retired Pastor Len and Barb Tatom from the Oregon Conference along with seven adults and three children from the community attended the candle lit service.
One neighbor brought his guitar and led out in the singing. His wife brought her tambourine and joined in on one song. There was praise, prayer and scripture readings between songs. Retired Pastor Len Tatom presented a short Bible study on righteousness.

Everyone later commented on how they enjoyed the service and were looking forward to returning at 6 p.m. another Friday night. Pastor Len Tatom is the former Native Ministry director for the Alaska Conference. Mike Shuler is the director of A Voice for Jesus, Native Ministry. His wife, Marilyn, is native Alaskan.

The Davenport Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pastor Clinton Schultz is sponsoring this outreach.

—by Sheryl Mixey, Fruitland, Washington

Gitanyow Independent School

**November 2010 Newsletter**

My, November went by fast! The Lord blessed us with a written agreement with the Gitanyow Independent School, letting us use their 24x40 ft. building for a Soup Kitchen and Story Hour, rent free, if we fix it up at our expense. So we have spent several days tearing out rotten rafters, soggy insulation and ceiling boards in order to mend the leaking roof. Leif made new rafters and pushed them up under the sagging, metal roof, causing the water to run off outside the building instead of inside. One of the village Elders volunteered to take down the light fixtures and bulletin boards, while we were away. We were very grateful for his help!

The Story Hour attendance in Gitanyow this year is double from what it was last year averaging 20 or more kids, because we moved it from Wednesday afternoons to Tuesday’s. The children are enjoying learning each week about a different organ or system in their bodies.

Leif got all the water boxes installed and covered. I helped him fill in the big 7ft. Deep and 8ft. Long hole he dug to put in a water shut-off valve for the Girls Dorm. What a muddy job! We were also able to get our carrots and parsnips dug and in the cellar before the ground froze.

We have been having Home Church twice a month with our Native interests, with attendance as high as 9 including 5 children. The other Sabbaths we took them to Hazelton to church. They enjoy that also.

The SULADS Executive Director, from Edmonton came over and spent a few days with us formulating an activities program for the up-coming year. He went with us to meet the Gwangak Bank Counsel and Youth Activities leaders as we shared plans and goals for the coming months. It was a very positive and progressive meeting. Lemuel (our SULADS volunteer) has been very busy volunteering at the local Youth Center every afternoon or evening, which is having a very positive impact on the village.

One afternoon Leif, Lemuel and I went ice-skating on our pond! It was only the third time in my life I have been on ice-skates. The last time was 20 years ago for both Leif and I. We were surprised we could still do it! Lemuel had never skated before, and only fell, gently, twice. It was so much fun we want to go again soon!

Pastor Charles and the Spring Creek SDA school children of Terrace came to Gitwangak Elementary school and gave a short musical program and gave each child a fuzzy animal and a Bible story book. They had lunch with the native children, then drove to Gitanyow Independent school and sang for them and gave them gifts. All the children enjoyed the interaction. What a fun day! It was snowing hard on the way home....what a beautiful experience. We all felt sooooo Blessed!!!
We praise the Lord for opportunities to serve Him here on the Gitxsan Reserve.
—by Leif and Zanna Ove

**Radiant Indian Health**
According to Leif and Zanna Ove, Radiant Native Health can use operational funds to help keep this in print. You can contact them through email: leifzannaove@yahoo.com, or through the magazine Web site. Go to http://www.indianarrowsofeducation.com/rnhvol3no5.pdf.

**Does your Church Minister to Native Americans**
Then people need to hear about it! Please share what is going on in your church or district. Submit your stories about working with Native Americans to Native American News. We will publish them each month. Keep your stories coming and we’ll keep sending them out. For back editions, go to: http://www.uccsda.org/Communications/Native-American-News.
—by Kathy Marson, Upper Columbia Conference Communications Department

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