Verna Clay’s Dream Lives On

The Mission Indian Adventist School has not been in operation since 2009, but the dream of Verna Clay is still alive!

In January, 2010, the Mission Church merged with the Blue Mountain Valley Church, becoming one congregation under the name Blue Mountain Valley-Mission Native American Adventist Church (BMV-M) which meets in Athena.

One reason for this merger was to prevent further disintegration of Verna and Lee Clay’s belief that the Seventh-day Adventist Church should have a presence on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

After much struggle and overcoming near-impossible obstacles, the Clay’s dream became a reality in 1980. Verna worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of the CTUIR for the remainder of her life. She made a positive impact and was honored by a funeral service at the tribal longhouse after her death in 2006.

Today, the BMV-M holds weekly story hours called "A Walk through the Book" for the Native families. Outreach to the community is beginning to take shape with several projects on the reservation, as well as improvements to the Mission church building.

We believe that Verna’s dream is still important, and are working hard to revive the Adventist presence at Mission for the benefit of the Tribes.

—by Alex Salzman, Blue Mountain Valley Mission Church

Growth for the work in Canada

(Excerpts from Indian Arrows of Education, April 2011 News Letter)

We received the wonderful news that ADRA Canada has granted funding for all our proposals for our Gitxsan Reserve projects! One of which is for a large green-house to train Natives and to produce bedding plants for the villages community gardens. Another is for painting and sign-age of our Van with ADRA signs. They are also continuing support for Donelda’s soup kitchen in Gitanyow. What a Blessing!!

An historic first happened in April with the beginning of production of an all native “Talk Show” for the Voice Of Adventist Radio in Canada. “The Creator’s Healing Circle” hosted by Zanna with Co-host Aveline Daniels, will be a weekly, 30-minute. program discussing topics relating to healthy native life-style. There will be guest speakers of the elders, youth, and professionals addressing the topic of the day. The Lord has opened this huge opportunity to us. We feel inadequate and inexperienced, but we know He is able to accomplish and perform His will as we humbly lean on Him to do His bidding.

—by Leif & Zanna Ove, Gitanyow, British Columbia

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 in Native American News 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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