OSBURN
I was talking with our treasurer in Osburn on Sabbath following VBS. He, of course, wanted to know the numbers -- how many attended? I quickly tallied the attendance, but realized it’s so much bigger than the number of kids attending.

It’s training and equipping the teenagers with valuable experience for a lifetime of ministry. It’s mentoring a mom whose boyfriend is in jail due to domestic violence; assuring her she’s valuable in God’s sight and praying with her each morning when picking up the kids (also gifting a Bible). It’s reconnecting with moms who attended Osburn VBS themselves as children. It’s inspiring children to utilize their creative talents and in our case to make healthy choices in terms of nutrition, exercise, water, etc. -- choices not often modeled here in the Silver Valley where alcohol, drugs and promiscuous lifestyles are prevalent.

It’s including the developmentally challenged young lady who doesn’t have a lot of fun things in her life. It’s building and strengthening bonds between church folks and community folks who are on the borders of our church fellowship.

Bottom line, it’s such a privilege and honor to work with these precious lambs of God’s vineyard.

PLUMMER
The above items also related to Plummer. In addition, we had unsolicited opportunities to work with the press -- both The St. Maries Gazette and the Tribal newspaper.

The nine-year old boys had settled in and were challenging authority on Tuesday. I sat them down on a log separating the grassy area from the recreational equipment. I told them the choices they’re making today impact the direction of their lives. I challenged them to make good choices and to become Godly leaders for their tribe. They acted nonchalant informing me that they were headed to football camp the next day and it really didn’t matter. However, one of the nine-year old boys was at VBS the entire week. When his mom interviewed me on Friday for the tribal paper, she indicated that she had given her son, Brylan, a choice between attending Creation Camp or football camp and he had chosen Creation Camp! Praise the LORD! She expressed that Creation Camp was very nostalgic for her reminding her of the Youth Camp experiences she had experienced as a child. She insisted that her brother attend the parent’s program so he could enjoy the experience. God alone knows the impact that VBS is making on these children. I so look forward to seeing their smiling faces on the streets of gold!

—by Diana Pierce, Osburn, Plummer and St. Maries churches

News from Gitwangak
July went by so fast! It was cooler than usual, so the gardens didn’t grow as fast as the weeds. We spent a lot of time pulling thistles and weeding. The women picked strawberries and raspberries. Leif mowed half of the hayfield when the swather broke down and we had to order parts. It rained before we were able to get it baled, and there were showers almost every day thereafter. So the hay was only good for mulching. He finally got it baled and hauled off the field. Lemuel spent a lot of hours in the villages tilling their community gardens.

Leif had to stay home to take care of the hay in case there was a dry day. Our pastor Charles Aguilar asked if we could bring our new members to Hope Camp-meeting to be interviewed, so I took Gilbert Good and Donelda Turley to their first camp-meeting experience. They were so excited and Blessed!
Greenhouse frame

Volunteers assembled the framework for the greenhouse. It was amazing how much was accomplished in the short time the Edmonton group was here. The fellows assembled and erected the 200 ft. greenhouse framework in one day! Women weeded gardens, picked berries, and helped haul wood. They also helped in the village community gardens. We are so Grateful and Thankful for their hours of service! We praise the Lord for sending us such abundant help!

In the midst of all this activity I was able to contact 147 reserves, that requested our Radiant Native Health magazine. We will be printing a Canadian issue in Canada this next issue, which will be mailed to these reserves. This, too, will be funded only by donations the same as the magazines printed in USA.

—by Leif and Zanna Ove, of Gitwangak, Canada

Does your Church Minister to Native Americans
We’d love 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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