Mission Opens Doors to Community

Thanksgiving Dinner
The "Pilgrims" and the "Indians" got together for our third annual Thanksgiving dinner on the Coeur d'Alene reservation this past month. The dinner was jointly hosted by the Living Hope Adventist Church and the Living Water Native nondenominational group in the Old Fire Station.

Approximately seventy-five precious souls broke bread together and gave thanks to our Lord and Savior for His goodness and mercy experienced during the past year. Native Frances White, from the Adventist church, led out in the "giving thanks" segment harking back to the first Thanksgiving on American soil. The atmosphere was especially spiritual with numerous people sharing spontaneously.

Interestingly enough the meal ended up being vegetarian as the turkeys took more baking time than estimated! It is so heart-warming how the Lord is putting a love for our members in the hearts of the Natives. He truly is worthy of all praise and thanksgiving!

Baptism
A precious young lady, Dalene Barton, daughter of Ray and Sherylee Barton, was baptized in a horse trough this last Sabbath in the basement of our borrowed church. Church planters are quite adept at creative problem solving!

The borrowed church where we’re currently worshiping, awaiting the construction of our own facility, has no baptistery and the waters of the Coeur d'Alene River are frigid at this time of year.

Ron Bayless and Rudy Heicksen went the extra mile by carrying canning pans of boiling water from the kitchen into the fellowship room to fill the horse trough. Judi Heicksen cleverly disguised the outside of the trough to look quite fitting for a young lady. We’re delighted to welcome Dalene as the newest member of the Living Hope Adventist Church family!

Wondrous Ways of the LORD
Petite eighty-year-old Bonnie has lived on the Coeur d'Alene reservation for a number of years attending church with her Lutheran husband and oblivious to any Adventist presence in the vicinity.

When Bonnie’s husband of sixty-two years passed away in Feb. of 2011, her sister came for a visit. On their way home from Coeur d’Alene one Sabbath after attending church, they noticed the sign on our property proclaiming "Future Home of the Living Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church," complete with a phone number.

Our treasurer was so delighted to receive their call of inquiry. Bonnie glows as she takes in the joy of fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

—by Diana Pierce, pastors wife from Osburn, Plummer and St. Maries churches.
SULADS Reunion

The following story was taken from the November, 2011, issue of Indian Arrows of Education Newsletter

During the first week of November, Limwel spent time helping six native friends from three villages get their paper work ready for a trip to the States. Limwel and Alta were heading to Los Angeles area for the SULADS Reunion and he wanted to take these six friends along. They each had to have their passports or birth certificates with their status cards and several official documents. Two Hereditary Chiefs were included in the group with one being an alternate driver of the GMC Van that ADRA helped purchase for the mission.

Everyone was excited as they left on November 8 and all were very tired on arriving on November 11. Donelda became sick on the last leg of the journey and had to check into the Loma Linda Hospital upon arrival. The group all stayed in SULADS homes while there, enjoying the warm hospitality and Sabbath services. Each of our villagers gave a little testimony, some shared their musical talents, and the chiefs dressed in their ceremonial robes. They also went sightseeing as a group to Hollywood, a casino, the ocean and to Loma Linda University campus.

They had planned to start home on the 14th but Donelda could not be released from the hospital yet. She was very upset that she missed all the SULADS celebrations. The doctors finally released her on the 16th with instructions that she should be admitted to the hospital in Vancouver as soon as they arrived in Canada. The group drove home, spent Sabbath in Vancouver, leaving Donelda there in the hospital and then headed north that evening.

The group finally arrived back at Fairhaven on the 20th in the afternoon.

—by Lief and Zanna Ove, Fairhaven, Canada

Who are the SULADS?
SULADS International’s mission is to reach out in service to unreached peoples of the world, providing them with formal and non-formal education designed to alleviate illiteracy, poverty, and disease, while promoting social awareness, giving due respect to local traditions, beliefs, customs, aspirations, and interests, so that all may see the value and beauty of their cultural heritage and way of life as purposed by their Creator. SULADS International is an Adventist Organization.

www.suladsinternational.org/

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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