



April 2018

First Baptist Church of Clewiston

Hau kola, (hello friends)

Thank you all for helping out with a mission trip to South Dakota. The program of Youth Evangelism Strategies, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization began when Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was confronted with the suicides of 53 adolescents within a two-month period; 53 youth between the ages of 8 and 14 killed themselves in less than two months. We knew something must be done. Therefore, we followed God in obedience to the miracle that is now Čhankú Wašté Ranch (The Good Road Ranch).

This ministry is an extension of the local church. And as most of you know, we also planted a Native American church there as well. We believe the Bible as it teaches that God is not a respecter of persons, but came to seek and to save the lost of all people groups. We want to put our best moccasin forward so we ask that members of our church take part in some way. You can give toward the finances of the trip, pray and encourage those going or go yourself.

As a Native American church planter for the SBC, my vision was to see God glorified through a genuine Native American church that will reproduce itself throughout the reservations. However, throughout the years I have seen the hamstringing of many Indian missions due to the misunderstanding of syncretism. Therefore, in my little corner of the world, I found this trend of labeling everything different as syncretistic, being the most dominant issue, albeit, not a positive historical trend, a trend nonetheless.

God does not call Native people to reject their heritage as a nation, but to renew that heritage. Natives are not to focus on our failures. That just leaves people spiritually depressed. Rather we are to recognize them so that we are no longer spiritually repressed. Through recognition and repentance there is freedom; healing for us all. And in that healing God can restore dignity and honor both as individuals and as a nation.

In this newsletter I am attempting to explain the situation and needs so you can come alongside and help us reach our first Nations people.

Most first Nations Pastors have been trained to think with a heavily Anglicized Euro- American "modernist" worldview. We have been admonished to march in formation with the Anglo Christian worldview if we wish to receive funds and/or remain a member in good standing with our denomination. For allowing Native people to have Christianity within the context of Native culture, we have been, at times, labeled "liberal" or "syncretist". The biggest problem with this mindset is that it disarms soldiers of one of the greatest weapons we have against Satan...Native culture. I believe that it is also one of the main reasons less than 3% of most reservations claim to be born again Christians. Therefore, I am always careful when bringing Anglo-American mission groups to the reservation to help us since they often come with this attitude that Natives are supposed to trade our sin stained culture for their sin stained culture in order to worship a God that Natives view as more like us than them. Interestingly enough, God chose a tribal culture similarly like Native America for His Son to be born into. Even Hudson Taylor embraced the culture, grew braids and wore Chinese clothes when he went to China. He was promptly kicked out of the missionary compound yet became the Kingdom's most fruitful missionary ever.

Allowing Native Americans to worship God within the context of our culture can be compared to Scripture where Gentiles are instructed to worship God within the context of their culture and not to try to become Jews. This creates a picture that more correctly reflects the picture of heaven found in Rev. 7:9-10, where we see a great multitude, "from every nation, tribe, people and language."

We greatly appreciate your interest in helping reach our Native people. However, we are not asking you to come and do the job of evangelism that God had called missionaries living there to do, even though there may be opportunities to do so. Our missionaries ask that you come to the poorest place in America and be the scaffolding that ena-

bles them to reach Native people. Simply, we ask that you come and love like Jesus, on the people.

"We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commanded thy servant Moses." (Nehemiah 1:7) Nehemiah had such a great burden for his nation that, although he himself had not been guilty of their sins, he was willing to confess their sins as his own, if God would only restore them to the Promised Land.

Ezra also felt the same way. *"I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6)*. Godly Daniel had also prayed for his people, identifying himself with their sins. *"We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly. . . . O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name" (Daniel 9:5, 19)*. And God did hearken as He had promised long ago: *"If my people . . . pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14)*.

Our own land today surely needs healing. God desires "my people" to confess as their own, the sins of their people (we are surely at least in part responsible, because of our past indifference, merely criticizing instead of praying), then perhaps God will hear as He heard the prayers of Daniel and Nehemiah.

Paul felt the same burden in his day. *"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Romans 9:3)*. Ezra and Paul and the others identified themselves with the sins of their people. But the Lord Jesus Christ went far beyond even that. He not only identified Himself with us in our sinful state, but also then *"bore our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24)*.

Once again, I thank you and appreciate your desire to reach out to this virtually unreached people group. Please pray our team there and back again!

~ Pastor Mike

April Nursery Schedule Sunday Morning 3 Yr. Old/ Pre- K

04/01 - Audrey Colson and FeBeth Yongco
04/08 - Erica Kindred and Meredith Kane
04/15 - Yamile and Eileen Perez
04/22 - Rossy Porras and Daniela Hernandez
04/29 - Monica and Dakota Brennan

April Birthdays

04/01 - Marie Clark
 Sabrina Dukes
04/04 - Doug Wall
04/06 - Ilianna Rivera
04/09 - Max Cummings
04/12 - Don Gutshall
04/18 - Cindy Shearer
04/19 - Dot Whitehead
04/20 - FeBeth Yongco
04/23 - Richard Bethea
04/30 - Lucille Adams

APRIL 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship 12:15 PM Spanish Fellow- ship Luncheon Easter	2	3	4 12:00 PM XYZ Luncheon 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	5	6 6:30 PM Spanish Baptism Class	7	
8 8:30 AM Sonrise Café 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	9	10 6:00 PM Gideons' Meeting	11 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	12	13 6:30 PM Spanish Baptism Class	14	
15 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship 12:15 PM Finance Com- mittee Mtg 1:30 PM Baby Shower for Paige Fleming 6 PM Deacons' Meeting	16	17	18 6:30 PM Bible Study/Church Conference 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	19	20	21	
22 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship with Lord's Supper 6:30 PM Spanish Baptisms	23	24	25 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Children & Youth Ministry	26	27	28 10:00 AM Spanish Picnic at John Stretch Park	
29 8:00 AM Brotherhood Breakfast 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:55 AM Worship	30	Pine Ridge Mission Trip					

Pine Ridge Mission Trip

XYZ Program & Luncheon

XTRA YEARS OF ZEST

Senior Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, April 4

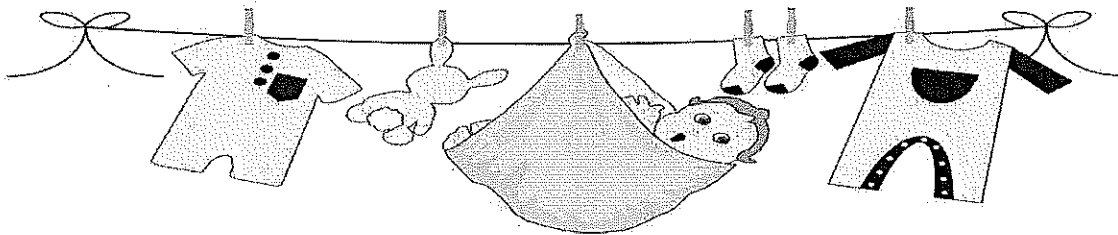
12:00 PM

Sun Rise Cafe

Sunday, April 8

8:30 AM

JOIN US FOR A



**BABY
SHOWER**

FOR PAIGE FLEMING

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

1:30 - 3:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

**PAIGE IS REGISTERED AT
TARGET AND WALMART**

**Brotherhood
BREAKFAST**

**FAITH, FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday, April 29 at 8:00 AM