

In This Issue

On the Trail of Hope

Gathering Grounds
Update

Meet Vivian Steinhauer



Meet NAIM's New Executive Director

An Interview with Bill Tarter

IN FEBRUARY, THE NAIM BOARDS ANNOUNCED Bill Tarter as the new Executive Director of NAIM. We want to introduce you to Bill & Deborah, who are now in the process of moving to Canada to take this post.

NN: Bill, tell us a little bit about yourself and your conversion experience:

BT: I was born to missionary parents in India in 1951. Growing up as a missionary kid in India, I had heard the claims of the Gospel for years. Our family was in church every

time the doors opened. When I was 6 years old, I heard an Indian banker speak at a Sunday evening service. He spoke on the verse "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden...Take my yoke upon you" (KJV Mt. 11:28,29). It spoke profoundly to me of God's desire to have a personal relationship with me and to walk beside me, and I asked God into my heart.

I returned to the States when I was 15 to complete high school in Amarillo, Texas. I met my wife, Deborah, at Colum-

Continued on page 2...

Being a Part of What God is Doing Among Native People

bia International University in South Carolina where I earned my BA in Biblical Education in 1972. Deborah and I were married in September 1972.

NN: Give us a brief look at your family.

BT: Deborah is currently working in fundraising with World Concern, a Christian relief and development agency. She says that she is thrilled to have this chance to enter a new body of believers, a new country and to learn new cultures. Our children are Billy, age 27, Andy, age 25, and Cindy, age 24. Billy graduated from university three years ago, and Andy and Cindy complete their studies this June. They all live in Seattle, and won't be making the move to Canada with Deborah and me.

NN: What are some of your hobbies?

BT: Hmm...Well I really enjoy computers and the Internet. I love travel and enjoy learning about other cultures.

NN: You've had an extensive ministry career. Share some of the highlights:

BT: In 1975 we began our missionary service in Haiti, serving seven years as director of a Christian radio network. When we returned home for graduate studies in International Communication, I served with Interdev for a few years, as a community development consultant for Haiti. We returned to Haiti for another seven years as Latin America Director of World Concern. In 1992 we moved back to the States to enable our children to complete high school and adapt to U.S. culture. During this period I was the West Africa Coordinator with Interdev. Three years ago Deborah and I took a one-year ministry as General Director of International Child Care, also in Haiti, and since we returned I have served with STLI, a tentmaking ministry in Central Asia with its international office



The Tarter family

My childhood in a boarding school that left much to be desired might help me understand some of the experience of Native people in residential schools

based in the Seattle area.

NN: What attracted you to NAIM?

BT: Several things...the cross cultural nature of your ministry, the Covenant Relationship that calls your staff to a commitment of community, the opportunity to match my skills and experience to your organizational needs and the reputation NAIM has with sister ministries. I was also attracted through the friendship of a former NAIM staff member.

NN: How do you feel God has prepared you for this position?

BT: I see areas of gifting and experience that will be helpful to the work of NAIM: My experience and training in process work, participatory strategic planning, and capacity development of national staff. I feel our experience in Haiti will have some overlap with ministry to Native peoples. Having been born and raised in India, and spending years in cross-cultural ministry will help me as I learn the culture of NAIM and the Native people you are reaching for the Kingdom. My childhood in a boarding school that left much to be desired might help me understand some of the experience of Native people in residential schools.

NN: When will you start full-time with NAIM?

BT: I expect to be full time by June, moving to Canada sometime this summer.

NN: How can we pray for you as you join NAIM?

BT: Pray that we will be diligent in completing our current ministry obligations, as we want to finish well. Pray for the sale of our home in Washington State. Also, for a sense of God's presence and for His sustenance as we face the "unknowns." Pray especially for His wisdom. **N**

On the Trail of Hope

Native youth conference gears up for third round

By Chuck Harper

A WELL-KNOWN YOUTH EVANGELIST recently made a stunning observation about Native American Youth. He noted that typically, when a Native young person accepts Christ as Savior, he receives hope for life after death, but very little between now and the funeral...

The vision for a conference began in the 80's with prayer warriors who recognized the extreme needs of Native youth. In the early 90's a network of leaders with a deep burden began to plan. Similar to Nehemiah's story, God gave the vision to gather Christian Native youth from around the region. We sensed it was God's time to mobilize the body of Christ to change the tide in Native youth ministry.

The first *Native American Christian Youth Conference* (later to be *Trail of Hope*) was held in New Mexico in 1996. It wasn't easy to find and mobilize Christian Native youth. There were national youth speakers and Native Christian actresses and God used this conference to elevate the needs of Native youth ministry to a national level. Trail of Hope became a lifeline to isolated Christians on rural reserves and urban streets.

The second *Trail of Hope* was planned for 1998 in Colorado. The conference had grown dramatically. Chuck Harper, the Director of Trail of Hope, remembers 14-year-old named "Mike", who walked 15 miles from a rural airport to the conference, so he could "learn more about Jesus". "Chris," from the northwest US, is serving as a

reservation youth minister today, after accepting the challenge to stay in youth ministry for the long haul. A senior pastor from a small village learned that he could forgive and be restored

from childhood abuse that plagued him in years of ministry. And, many students came to know Christ at Trail of Hope.

The third Trail of Hope will be held in Colorado Springs from July 31, 2004—August 3, 2004. The goal is to have 800 youth and youth leaders attend. Trail of Hope 2004 will feature some of the finest speakers, musicians, workshop leaders, and role models. Speaker Dino Butler says, "The time has come for Native youth to not only see that they are NOT alone in their faith, but there are so many others like them who have embraced the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. It also gives a chance for ministers to the Native populations to be encouraged and inspired to continue to bring the message of the gospel to the peoples of North America, in spite of the enormous obstacles that exist." The conference will feature creative art, a resource-full exhibit hall, sports/recreation and also a special track for those who want to learn more about ministry with Native people.

There are a few ways NAIM friends can be involved. The first is to sponsor a student for \$200. Actual registration cost is \$350 per person, but with the help of sponsors, it is offered to the kids at \$150/person. You can also be a committed prayer partner for this event. Finally, you can volunteer during the conference. If you are interested in any of these options, please contact 1-888-295-HOPE or the NAIM office. ☐



Trail of Hope became a lifeline to isolated Christians on rural reserves and urban streets



NAIMNews Profile



Vivian Steinhauer

With the support and prayers of retired NAIM missionary Jolene Green, Vivian prayed to accept the Lord into her life in 1973. She and her husband Faran are involved with the Nicola Valley Native Fellowship in Merritt, BC. Vivian is the fellowship's treasurer and one of the Sunday school teachers.

Vivian has a great passion to see the youth come to know the Lord, and lead them in their growth as Christians. "We may be the only Bible some may ever read so we must always be on guard." Vivian also prays for her people, looking forward to the day when there will be a great revival in the Nicola Valley. Vivian embraces the assurance of Phil. 4:13. "With the many obstacles I've had in my life, I know and believe this verse."

NAIMNews

NAIMNews is published biannually by North America Indian Ministries

Bill Tarter
Executive Director

Ron Hartwig
Human Resources Director

Candy Gibson
Finance/Business Director

Jim Hamilton
Gladstone Director

Vincent Yellow Old Woman
Fellowship Liaison

Rusty Van Deusen
Youth Ministries Director

Jennifer Wilson
Women's Ministry Coordinator

Brig Judy
Field Director Coastal

Tim Higginbotham
Field Director Interior

Mark Ward
Field Director Prairies

To request more information, please contact us:

CANADA
PO Box 39
Delta, BC V4K 3N5

USA
PO Box 151
Pt. Roberts, WA 98281

Tel 604-946-1227
Fax 604-946-1465

E-mail: office@naim.ca
Web: www.naim.ca



Printed in Canada

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

NAIMNewsBits

- We have redesigned the NAIM website. Please visit us at www.naim.ca. You can give us your feedback through the "Contact us" form.
- Several NAIM staff attended the Urbana '03 conference last December in Illinois. It was a historical conference, being the first Urbana to have a Native speaker. The conference opened with a delegation of Native Christian leaders praying and the *Broken Walls* music band also performed.
- NAIM's coastal ministry is continuing through the ministry of Don & Leila McLaren, who travel to Klemtu for two months at a time.
- NAIM staffer Lorna Penner's (Kyuquot) trailer home was destroyed by fire in December. She is staying with family in Alberta, but plans to return to Kyuquot to continue ministry.
- The first Mexico discipleship trip occurred from mid-January to mid-March in the Baja peninsula. Six Native youth took part in the program. NAIM staff Tim & Debbie Bryce led the trip.

NAIMNews Gathering Grounds


Jim Hamilton, Director of the Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds, brings us this update:

Proverbs 15:22 says, *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed (NIV)*. With that in mind, we felt the need to have a group of Native believers work with us on the development and future of Gladstone. We've drawn together an Advisory board and their interaction with us has honed our thinking in many areas.

They bring a broad spectrum of experience and expertise from education, ministry, community development, university campus outreach and social services. This great team is a wonderful gift in the development of Gladstone.



In partnership with Helps International Ministries, we are developing an overall site plan to encompass the long-term ministries we believe God is leading us to accomplish. This plan will give us direction for many years to come.

This summer, Gladstone's schedule is full of camps, work teams, training weeks, and our annual staff conference. We plan to finish the 12-plex, add a new well, and build a new wash house facility. We have a good slate of work teams for the labor, but need the finances to purchase supplies. Would you prayerfully consider giving a gift to NAIM for these projects? Please pray for us these coming months as we prepare for a very full summer. 

*In a deep, deep, dark pit, full of despair;
I am helpless, thoughtless, without the
Father's love.*

*Though, I am beyond youthful recognition
and care;*

From the bottle, needles, I cannot rise above.

The lonely cries of a deserted life is unfolding;

I hold fast to the root of a mentored dignity,

*Abusive childhood, I cannot let loose but
still holding;*

To the depths of hell I cringe, for infinity.

Above, I look and cry out "I surrender,"

And am filled with a quiet peace that's so grand;

Healed by His love; filled with awe like no other,

Guided by trust, my life, placed in His hands.

*Who would want the torment of body
and of mind?*

*When He can set you free to leave
your old mind behind.*

© Stephanie Irene Bull Shields

A Message From the NAIM Boards



Left to right: Dick Blomquist, Bill Tarter, Deborah Tarter, and Mike Lofting at NAIM's annual meeting.

A NEW CHAPTER HAS BEGUN. ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2004, William V. Tarter accepted the offer extended to him by the Board of Trustees of NAIM Inc. and the Board of Directors of NAIM Canada to become the fourth Executive Director of NAIM Ministries. He will assume this position as soon as possible. Bill and his wife Deborah report that they are very excited to become a part of the NAIM family.

This event was the culmination of your earnest prayers for God's leading in our search. Without the foundation of your faithfulness before the throne of grace we would not be at this milestone at this time. But the Lord has been pleased to hear our prayers and grant us the desires of our hearts, and we praise His holy name for His graciousness.

We want to commend the staff, especially the Leadership Council, for keeping the ministry strong during the past eighteen months, continuing to proclaim Christ and making disciples among Native people. The counsel of Geoff Broughton, the board representative, and the dedicated work of the office staff have played a big part in all of this.

With their wide experience, passion for mission, depth of understanding, and hearts for people, we believe God has truly done a great thing in bringing Bill and Deborah to NAIM. We also believe that our outreach will increase, maybe in surprising ways, to reach every 'tribe, nation and tongue' with the Good News of Jesus Christ, whom we serve. Let us prayerfully embark on the journey.

Dick Blomquist
NAIM Inc.

Mike Lofting
NAIM Canada