



March 2010

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Native missionary Ben Clarke and his wife Nikki shared a wonderful story of how God responds to our heart's cry, even when our faith is small. Ben, Nikki, along with their children Olivia, Elliot, Abigail, and Kristen live in the remote (and I do mean remote) community of Timber Bay, Northern Saskatchewan. In Timber Bay the summers are hot and mosquito-infested. The winters are long and biting cold. Right now it is still FREEZING in Timber Bay! Ben is responsible for the maintenance of the Minahik Wasau Center, a campground gifted to the Native fellowship at Montréal Lake by a sister mission. Here is what happened with Nikki's mustard seed of faith, in her own words:

"In years past New Year's Eve was a time of fellowship and fun for believers here in Timber Bay and Montreal Lake. This year, we planned for the same, but the night turned out to be frightfully cold and only four families got together. At first it seemed like a disappointment. The weather was so cold that we only wanted to visit and drink hot coffee. But after a good meal we focused the evening on God's Word and a time of prayer. Our prayers came after a quiet time of sharing in a peaceful living room. We shared our hearts desire for the coming year along with specific needs we were seeing around us.

For Ben and me, this night was preceded by discouragement and frustration in realizing our responsibility for the repair and maintenance work needed at the new Minahik Wasau Center. Our time and energy seemed insufficient because we also have a deep desire to reach out and encourage the church. We were tired thinking about it all. We know God has a plan for this place and don't want to neglect the work we have here. We also have much vision for the place. So, we all prayed. I prayed and asked God to send help for Ben. My little faith was silently pleading for ONE extra person or maybe TWO (God if you could really help us out and be generous?). That was December 31.

An answer to our prayer came early evening about January 8. "Hey, can you guys take an outreach team?" "Yup, no problem." They came on Wednesday January 13 and stayed for two weeks. All 32 of them. Wow. It was a beautiful team representing six Nations of the world, here at to Timber Bay to do whatever we asked of them. And they did...renovations, cleaning, sorting, cooking, praying, playing (hockey for the first time!), dancing, acting, singing, sharing and melting our hearts – for God and for each other. Another team of eight came from a nearby Bible College as well and joined in. Much work around the Bible Center was done, as well as hosting youth nights, special services, community visits and lots of meals together. Our church was blessed in many ways, our prayers answered, and many others in the community were encouraged.

Looking back, I see how little faith I had that night. God has allowed my ears to be opened to hear Him say 'Pray and I will answer.' He has given me a stronger faith to believe, and I trust He will answer in ways I can't imagine. So, we will keep praying!" Nikki shares a verse,

"As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength." Psalm 138:3 NLT

Thank you for your gift to NAIM this month. It is a faith offering to God. For many of you it is a sacrificial gift. We pray that we will be good stewards of this mustard seed of your faith, and that God will answer over and above all that we could ask or think.

Thank you for walking alongside frontline missionaries like Ben and Nikki Clarke!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

Bill V. Tarter
Executive Director