

Normans



Serving with First Nations to Reach All Nations

NAIM
NORTH AMERICA
INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES



March 2024

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NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are solely funded through and fully accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries

A Missionary Correspondence Project

Late last year we got a letter from a 6th grader in Marshalltown, IA. We did not know her, but she and her classmates in a Christian school were involved in a project to learn more about missionaries. Could she ask us some questions? We were delighted to comply. See below.



Is it dangerous to be a missionary in Washington state?

No, it is not dangerous here, like it is in some other countries. We are not persecuted for our faith. But, we have lived in an inner city/ghetto type setting most of our ministry. We have had our house broken into several times. We have had shootings in our neighborhood. In fact the pastor of the little Native church in Tacoma had his wife, son, brother-in-law, and his brother-in-law's girlfriend all shot in a random, drive-by shooting about a year and a half ago. We purposely chose to live in a house that bordered the Puyallup reservation because we wanted to be as close to the Native population as we could. The Puyallup Indians are the local Indians, but there were many other tribes represented in the city, also. In fact, David served as a Native American coordinator in the public school system and he had over 100 different tribes represented among his students.

How and why did you become a missionary?

We had been married almost 15 years and were attending a church that had a big focus on missions. We loved to host missionaries in our home when they would come to speak at our church. My husband owned several waterbed stores and it seemed like most of the people that came in to buy a bed were people who had recently been through a divorce. One of the partners needed a new bed. David is a natural counselor so as he was trying to sell a bed he would hear their stories and he started feeling like selling beds was not meeting the deep needs in their lives. What these hurting people needed was Jesus. About that time, our youth pastor preached a sermon on being obedient to Jesus and following Him no matter what the cost...It is a rather long story how we ended up on a summer mission outreach on an Indian reservation in British Columbia, but we did and from there things progressed quickly.

Family News



We had the incredible experience of going on a cruise with one of our grandsons and his wife and daughter, our only great grandchild, in January. Precious memories.



Is it hard being a missionary? There have been hard times, especially when we first started. Even though we lived in the United States and spoke the same language as the Native Americans, there were definitely cultural differences and the Indian people were very skeptical of white people who tried to tell them about Jesus. There is a long, sad history of how Indians were treated when the white people came to America. Many of the kids were taken to residential schools where they could not speak their language. If they did they were punished. The leaders gave them all new names and they had to wear clothes like the white people. They cut their hair. They were abused. They have a lot of hatred and bitterness toward the white man, especially the religious white man because the residential schools were run by religious people. But these religious leaders did not act like Jesus. So much of our work among Native people has been to Re-present Jesus in a way that honors them and their culture and to let them know that Jesus loves them with long hair, and when they use the drum to sing His praises, and when they dance their prayers. It is different than the way we do things, but it does not mean it is wrong.

It took us many years to gain their trust and to earn the right to speak into their lives. We love the Native culture. They have so many beautiful qualities. They always honor their elders and veterans. They share everything. They are very giving. Our house is filled with gifts from our Native friends.

Has it been hard to be a missionary? Sometimes. We don't get to celebrate holidays with our families, but we have made new families and friends. Did we have to learn a new language? No, but we did have to learn a new culture. And we had to be patient in building relationships. Would we do it over again? Absolutely YES!

What is your favorite verse? One of my favorite verses is Rev. 7:9, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb..." It is our prayer that many Native people will be in heaven because we were obedient to follow Jesus's call to go and spread the gospel.

So, there you have it. A fun missionary correspondent project. You never know what a day will hold. This was an especially fun project for us. We sent shells from the ocean, lots of pics, a Native doll...Hoping she catches the vision to carry on.

♥ *DAVE AND DIANE NORMAN*



When you get this letter we will be in the middle of our recruiting trip to MN. Please pray that young people will see the need to pick up the baton and continue to spread the Good News of Creator Sets Free, Jesus!



Ministry Pics



Pray for the 3rd Annual Tribal Ministry Conference, April 12&13



Plenary Speaker
Vincent Yellow Old Woman



Plenary Speaker
Huron Claus



Musicians
Randy & Evangeline Jackson