



September 2025 Update

Tribal Ministry Conference & Wiconi Family Camp

Did you pray for the **Tribal Ministry Conference** in Puyallup, WA this **April**? Thank you! This year's theme was "Caring for Ourselves So We Can Care for Others." Three primary speakers shared on self-care (Julene Pommert), storytelling & music (Swil Kanim) and processing trauma via Bible stories (David Rosenbrock). Workshops included a talking circle and a drum-painting demonstration. A highlight was a worship concert and dance with Drumspeaker to the Nations (Jerry & Leslie Chapman, with Melvin Flying Squirrel)!

**"Oh, visit the earth, / ask her to join the dance!
Deck her out in spring showers, / fill the God-River with living water. ...
Dress the canyon walls with live sheep, / a drape of flax across the valleys.
Let them shout, and shout, and shout! / Oh, oh, let them sing!"
—Psalm 65:9-13 MSG**



Salmon Wool Woven Blanket by Virginia Adams

What have you heard about **Wiconi Family Camp** in Turner, OR? I went in **July**—thanks to your giving! The three sessions I attended, each with Native teachers, dealt with: drum & flute music (Mohawk), an Indigenous perspective on The Land (Hawaiian), and thoughts from a Native elder (Blackfoot). Each encouraged me to think in new ways. My favorite experience was the *Living Waters Powwow*! It was powerful to see Native believers dancing their prayers. And to hear a Haka (a traditional Maori call-and-response dance) with Our Triune God as the central message!



Salmon and Egg Twine Wool Weaving by Virginia Adams

Chief Seattle Days & Tribal Celebrations

Mid-**August** found me at **Chief Seattle Days** in Suquamish, WA. Here was layer upon layer of rich history and vibrant culture! I twice visited the Suquamish Museum. From cedar fishhooks and cedar-woven shirts to wool belts and wall-hangings—all were bearing Coast Salish designs (see pics and visit <https://suquamishmuseum.org/>). Here were forms of music and dance new to me. For Friday night's *Coastal Jam*, each drummer brought a hand-drum to form different groups around the larger, central dancing circle. Then, for Saturday's powwow, larger drums returned with drummers gathered around them. But, many local Natives wore wool regalia (not leather) with cedar-woven accessories.

**"This God made us in all our diversity from one original person [Adam], allowing each culture to have its own time to develop, giving each its own place to live and thrive in its distinct ways."
Acts 17:26 VOICE**

Scripture details the tribes of Israel celebrating seven annual feasts. One of these was the autumn Festival of Sukkot or Booths (Deut 16:16). Like their ancestors, Jews today make temporary shelters to remind them of Yahweh *dwelling* with them in their 40-year desert wanderings (Lev 23:42-43). John's gospel ties this idea to Jesus putting on flesh—a temporary tabernacle—and *dwelling* among us (1:14). Matthew's gospel also speaks of Jesus as "God with us" (1:23).



Canoe and Water Woven Purse by Virginia Adams

Sheltered by The Word

We can find much wisdom by tracing one word or idea throughout Scripture. This is why some teachers say: "Let the Bible interpret itself." Like the Hebrew word "sukkot", used in the previous passages, which means *coverings* or *shelters*. Isn't it amazing how Yahweh "pitched His tent" among the Hebrews thousands of years ago? And how God covers Gentiles who belong to Him, too (Acts 15:15-18)? As I continue to seek long-term employment, I'm thankful that Elohim gently shelters believers in His *sukkah* (Psalm 27:5)!



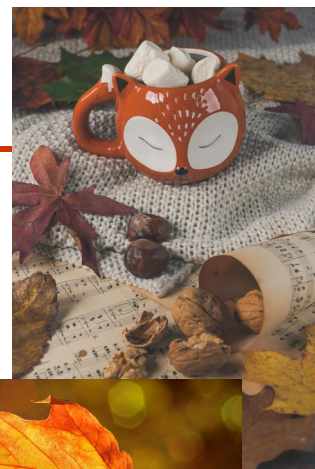
"The Word became flesh and *dwelt* [pitched His tent or tabernacled] among us. And we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

—John 1:14 NCB

May each of us apply God's wisdom in our lives. Dwelling in the *word* (the Bible) so we can then dwell in the *world* as Jesus did. Letting the *Word* (Jesus) dwell in us—through the Holy Spirit—so we can find shelter in God, again and again. Sharing with others that Yeshua dwelt among us ... and is willing to "pitch His tent" with each of us now. Do we long to learn and share such spiritual truths with Natives? This is why I serve as a Community Member Anchor (CMA) here in the Pacific Northwest. Thank you for your warm support!

Matching Grant Money (MGM)

A foundation that loves NAIM wants to see all our staff at 100% support. So, they're offering a matching grant for every donation from a new financial supporter. Or for current donors who increase financial support. Whether your gift is monthly, quarterly or spontaneous, until June 2026, new financial supporters and those able to increase their gift will have their funding matched (up to \$1,000 per month) up to \$12,000 for my ministry with NAIM. Thank you for your continued giving! And for those new to being a financial ministry partner—or for current supporters able to give a little more—your donations are being doubled!



Praises & Prayer Requests

- **PUYALLUP TRIBAL LABOR DAY POWWOW REQUEST** Please pray for beautiful long-term benefits from this cultural event, held in late **August**, which includes a Food Truck Village and a Farmer's Market. Sacred Path Fellowship (SPF) has a booth.
- **SUV REPAIR OR REPLACE PRAISE!** Oreo, my Hybrid Ford, has been reliable for over 160,000 miles! But, it's having 4x4 and brake issues.
REQUEST Please ask the LORD whether it's wiser to invest in repairs or to look for a replacement vehicle.
- **FULL-TIME WORK REQUEST** Please ask the Holy Spirit for peace, clarity and enthusiasm for wherever God wants me in my career ... so I can focus on Native ministry with the best of my time and energy.



Tara

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