



March 2023 Update

Coffee & Conversation

February 3rd found me at Good Coffee Roasting Company with a spice-ridden chai sitting across from Pastor Matthew, my spiritual leader at Movement/Pablo Nazarene. Like a good shepherd, he brainstormed with me about what my ministry among Natives *could* look like: Continuing in ministry with NAIM, but “under the umbrella” of the Nazarene denomination? Spear-heading more opportunities within Movement on Sunday nights! Inviting Native believers—both from within the local community and from out of state—to lead Native-friendly worship sessions or talking circles on culture & community. Fresh steps ... and a new beginning!

“Then they sang a new song, “You deserve to take the scroll and open the seals on it, because you were slaughtered. You bought people with your blood to be God’s own. They are from every tribe, language, people, and nation.”

—Revelation 5:9 NOG



In a phone conversation the next day with Diane, my NAIM supervisor, she spoke of a Native gathering in Tacoma, WA in **mid-April**. A time we may seek another “picture of Heaven”—where differences can be celebrated as God’s beautiful, purposeful creation! In my previous letter, I mentioned how much I resonated with a similar happening this past autumn: the Five-Church Gathering at SKC (Salish Kootenai College) in Pablo, where believers from various backgrounds were all praising God together. I’ve *already* been given time off work to attend this upcoming gathering!

New Things & Fresh Wind

Another idea I find especially intriguing? Music circles, where various musicians set aside an afternoon or evening to bring a song, melody or lyrics to a like-minded group and present it among them—sharing ideas & inspiration and giving feedback & encouragement. What fun to “dabble” and “riff” with this idea! I asked a friend who plays guitar and “anchors” our worship team at Movement to work with me to see what fresh sounds we can make and what creative projects we might begin. Creativity and collaboration are two of my favorite pastimes—a fresh wind (*ruach*) for my soul!

“Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don’t you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land.”

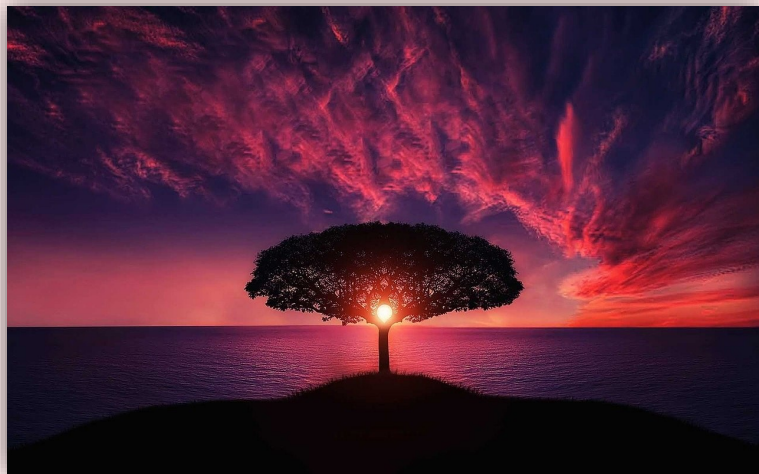
—Isaiah 43:19 NCV

Yet another fresh wind? I’ve long been held in awe by the different names of God—and how they shed light on the LORD’s character. Lately, I’m repeatedly playing the song *Lion*, from Elevation Worship. This song mentions a few familiar titles: *God of Jacob*. *Great I Am*. *King of Angels*. *Son of Man*. Then, perhaps, the less familiar: *Voice of Many Waters*. *Song of Heaven’s Throne*. *Lion of Judah*. *Pride of Zion*. Praise our God and Messiah for each of His vibrant names!



Expressions of (Fresh) Gratitude

Thank you for prayers for renewed energy to be a part of what the One, True God is doing! Recently, my pastor taught from Scripture about God as “helper” (ezer)—a teaching that affirmed what I’ve found to be true about Yahweh. And how He works in my life. My pastor also recently confirmed his support of whatever God has for me. And yet, he welcomed me to *stay* in ministry



locally. I’m also thankful for our group’s first visit, **February 17th**, as volunteers at Polson Loaves & Fish—a local ministry that provides food to those in need in connection with the Montana Food Bank Network. Friendly banter, (bad) jokes and boxes of groceries were abundant!

“Who has ever gone up to heaven and come down again? Who has cupped the wind [ie, *ruach*] in the hollow of His hands? Who has wrapped the waters in the fold of His garment? Who has established all the boundaries of the earth? What is His name or the name of His son? Do you know it?”

—Proverbs 30:4 NCB

Lately, I’ve been playing the song *Gratitude*, by Jacob Collins. This song reminds me of my time last July with friends in Thornton, CO. During a worship service at their “seeker-friendly” church, we sang this song: “All my words fall short. I’ve got nothing new. How could I express all my gratitude?” Gratitude for my faithful home church, my supportive friends and my steadfast God. “Come on my soul. Don’t you get shy on me. Lift up your song. Cause you’ve got a lion inside of those lungs!” Hallelujah for reminders of God’s goodness!

Praises and Prayer Requests

- **GOOD MEDICINE PRAISE** My new natural (hormone free) remedy for mood swings (etc) is proving effective! My massage therapist has also mentioned that a Keto eating plan (which I’m still following) is beneficial for this.
- **VIRTUAL GATHERING PRAISE** The twice-a-month Zoom online/phone gathering for those in Native ministry is a great forum to share ideas & encouragement.
REQUEST Please continue to pray for all those who (virtually) attend!
- **FRESH WIND REQUEST** Please pray that I seek where God is working here and how to come alongside believers (eg): music circles, Native-friendly worship services, talking circles, etc.
- **NATIVE GATHERING REQUEST** Please ask God for safe travel to/from Tacoma, WA in **mid-April** for the Native gathering. And that I may be a support for those in ministry there.



Tara

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