



May 2023

Ministry Moments

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Dear Friend,

Conference Report — The prayers of many people for Tribal Ministry Conference 2023 bore much good fruit when about 90 participants (23 tribal identities represented) gathered on April 21 & 22 in Tacoma. The purpose of the conference was to gather Native Christian leaders, their people, and others who have a passion for Indigenous ministry, to unite in seeking God for a greater gospel impact among tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest. I believe this purpose was met.

Daron Butler (Navajo) gave a powerful challenge for us to pray for the Indigenous peoples of North America to take a greater role in fulfilling the disciple-making mandate of the Great Commission; to transition from “A Mission Field to a Mission Force.” He wrote a handout prayer that focused on seven specific points of need that we have identified in this region, and asked attendees to commit to daily prayers for these for 30 days.

Those points of need are the cities of Seattle, Spokane and Portland, and four reservations within a short drive of Tacoma: Suquamish, Squaxin Island, Nisqually, and Chehalis. While there are certainly Indigenous believers in these places, we don’t know of any functioning church, Bible study or other Native-focused Christian outreach in these seven locals! I invite you to join this prayer effort. (I can send the handout page and you can visit, “Tribal Ministry Conference” on Facebook, where Daron is posting daily reminders.)



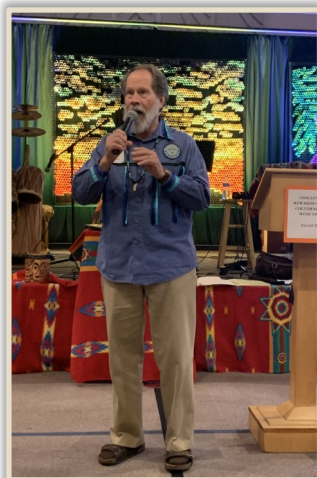
Daron Butler



Rainsong—Terry & Darlene Wildman

“RainSong” musicians, Terry & Darlene Wildman, accompanied by Jerry Chapman (Sto:lo First Nation) on drums, richly blessed the conference with inspirational music. And Terry (Ojibwe & Yaqui) spoke on the high value of bringing the gospel cross-culturally in a respectful manner. Their musical style is a good example of this concept. Terry is the lead translator of the First

Nations Version New Testament (completed last year -- now working on Psalms and Proverbs). Also, Terry has a leadership role with Native Intersity.



Darrell Whiteman, PhD

Darrell Whiteman, delivered valuable, thought-provoking presentations on the challenges and rewards of crossing cultural barriers with the gospel, based on decades of research and teaching in countries around the globe. He is a missiological anthropologist, author, and founder of Global Development. As former dean of the E. Stanley Jones School of World Mission and Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary, Dr. Whiteman facilitated the enrollment and completion of doctoral studies of several First Nations/Native American leaders at the seminary.

The evaluations of conference attendees are overwhelmingly positive, and there is a strong desire to repeat the event next April. So the planning team has begun the process. While organizing an event of this nature is very time-consuming, the rewards are certainly worth it.

Much prayer and many generous donations contributed to the success of TMC 23. Thank you for your part.



Native Leaders Panel

Nancy and I also thank you for the prayers and financial support that allow us to continue in the work of ministry among the Host Nations of North America. **It's a privilege, a blessing, and an adventure!**

Taylor



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