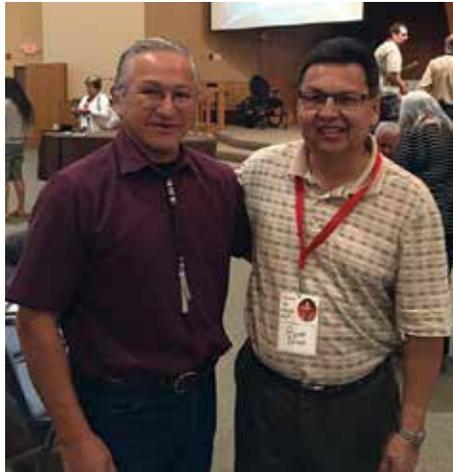


indigenews

Unity in Cultural Diversity: Still a Hope

THOSE IN INDIGENOUS ministry know Indigenous Pathways' family of ministries for its groundbreaking work in culturally relevant, contextualized, approaches to ministry among First Peoples. Some of you are aware that, for many years there have been differences of opinion on the use of "contextual ministry" approaches among those working with Native American and First Nations Ministries. But there has always been a desire on our part to work together regardless.

So, when a conference was convened in Bemidji, MN, under the theme of "United in Christ", both Wiconi and NAIITS were interested in attending to meet with other Indigenous Christian leaders. And, as it happened, Wiconi's Casey Church and NAIITS/IP Board member, Wendy Beauchemin Peterson, were invited to attend this uniting event in Bemidji, Minnesota, July 20-23, 2017, not as speakers or presenters, but as



Casey Church, Wiconi Director (left) and Huron Claus, President/CEO CHIEF Ministries (right)

attendees/observers.

"This was a very huge move on the organizers' part, and for many, a healing time," stated Church. "I was able to network and mingle with those of both opinions on the topic." Wendy's thoughts were a bit more cautious, but still optimistic.

Contextual ministry is making very big strides throughout Turtle Island and even to other countries around the world.

"I believe [Wendy's and my] attendance at this conference may be the beginning of healing which is long overdue in our Native Christian ministry world.

Continue to pray that God will soften the hearts of all ministers working with Native ministries so that Jesus will be made known to our Native people in a culturally appropriate way."

COMING FULL CIRCLE



Listening to people's stories of trauma, grief, or loss may not be the most exciting way to spend your day, but for Rick and Linda it's part of a regular routine that excites them because they get to witness what our Creator can do to change lives. Read the full story at <http://www.mypeopleinternational.com/news.html>

CELEBRATING CULTURE & FAITH IN PINE LAKE, AB

PINE LAKE, AB—Wiconi and the Salvation Army are partnering together to present a culture camp at the Salvation Army's camp in Pine Lake (southeast of Red Deer), September 8-10.

Award-winning singer-songwriter **Cheryl Bear**, who shares stories of Indigenous life, will be the featured singer. The keynote speaker is Commissioner Susan McMillan, Territorial Commander for The Salvation Army in Canada.

At the powwow on September 9, Master of Ceremonies is Bryan Brightcloud, Head Man Dancer is Casey Church and Head Lady Dancer is Lora Church.

For more detailed information and to register go to: www.saministryhelps.ca/resources/ Or email: Shari_Russell@can.salvationarmy.org



Thanks Creator for 16 great years (and counting) of Kids Culture Camp!



SIXTEEN YEARS AGO, on a farm outside of Edmonton Alberta, Terry and Bev LeBlanc started the first Kids Culture Camp (KCC). They had a dream to see Indigenous kids and youth experience a Creator-centered, life-giving family camp environment, where they could enjoy summer activities, while learning more about their unique cultural heritage and traditions. With humble beginnings, KCC began a journey that has continued to this day.

The 16th Annual Kids Culture Camp was an incredible legacy to those initial years of offering the camp. This year we saw 38 kids and youth from around Alberta join us at the Intersivity Sundre Camp for 5 days of teaching, games, and other activities. We begin each morning as a big group, spending time to smudge, thank Creator for the day and hear a brief teaching around our theme of Kinanaskomitin, Thankfulness (lit. "I thank you" in Woodlands Cree). (For the whole story on the Kids Culture Camp in Alberta go to <http://www.iemergence.org/news.html>)

FRIENDS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

My People will be presenting,

“INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS TO RECONCILIATION”

OCTOBER 13-14, 2017

This is a Nestooak Capacity Building Workshop in cooperation with Community Christian Reformed Church of Dixon's Corners.

Community Christian Reformed Church of Dixon's Corners in Eastern Ontario will host a Friday evening and all day Saturday event. Friday evening a visual, interactive history of host and settler peoples, using the "Kairos Blanket Exercise", will give us a contextual overview of our mutual history. Other highlights of our time together:

- How to commemorate 150 years of Canada?
- How can settlers and original peoples deepen our understanding of the importance of land, water and air?
- What values and beliefs do we share in common?
- What are some practical day-to-day things we settlers can do for our part of being Treaty People.
- Music, dancing and great food.

To register and find out more about this important event go to www.mypeopleinternational.com/events



Thank You... Gary & Mary Ann

For thirteen years, Gary and Mary Ann Eastty have served with Richard and Kathryn Twiss with Wiconi International and now they are ready to move into retirement. The good news is they are going to continue to work with the Wiconi Family Camp as volunteers. Thank you Gary and Mary Ann for your service to our Lord Jesus Christ.



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WATCHING INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP BLOOM >>>

With over 140 children and youth attending Mish Adventures Camp this summer, we relied heavily on the Senior Youth from Mishkeegogamang First Nation to run our day-camp programs each day. Whether it was running a station, leading a group or cooking lunch, this year's group of Senior Leaders was awesome and really made the camp program what it was.

Our Senior Leadership program has been running for four years, providing youth from Mishkeegogamang with opportunities for leadership development and a space to cultivate their own, unique leadership skills. As the youth have grown, they have been offered full-time jobs as camp staff. Year after year, the youth astonish us as they naturally lead their groups, creatively interact with children and help out throughout the day in so many ways.

This year it was amazing to watch the youth see themselves as leaders and make decisions based on their own confidence, maturity and strength. (For the rest of the story on this summer's Mish camp program, go to <http://www.iemergence.org/news.html>)



Wiconi Family Camp 2017: Frybread, Traditions, Dance, Worship and Lots of Fun

There was great story telling of growing up traditional and coming to follow the Jesus Way as Indigenous People. We made fry bread for Indian Tacos and then danced into the night with round dances, two-step dances, and the music of our special

friends Cheryl Bear and Jonathan Maracle. We ended the evening singing and dancing around the big drum. For more of the story on this great Family Camp and Powwow go to <http://www.wiconi.com>



Young and old alike enjoyed the powwow (left and top)

Jonathan Maracle and drum circle lead worship (right)

Photos by Alyssa Davis Photography



FROM THE DIRECTOR ▶▶▶

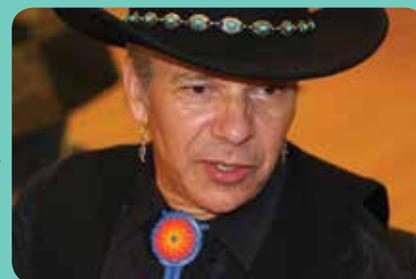
In this issue, through pictures and a bit of text, you will see some of what the summer held for our staff and the people with whom we work. The pictures communicate as much, if not more than the words. Even then, however, the words typically do not describe the classic frames of ministry we might be used to (we almost always talk about culture and faith together – including dance!). But rest assured, the focus is still entirely on sharing the person, work, life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus – but always in the context of Indigenous culture and ways of knowing.

You'll notice that personal stories are always central in what we write. Whether we talk about communities devastated by the transition to contemporary demands and needs in the Philippines, or recount the challenges of Indigenous life in the urban settings of Canada and the US, personal story telling is key.

We have found that telling our story more naturally, more connected to the day-to-day of life, creates better opportunities for transformation than asking people to give men-

tal affirmation to a set of propositional truths about God. After all, life is not a construct of truth statements – it is a compilation of stories. If it were otherwise, Jesus would've been less likely to tell stories and more likely to have listed a series of truths to believe.

Take the man born blind in John's gospel, chapter 9 for example. At the end of his encounter, first with his friends, then his parents, then the Pharisees (multiple times), all asking pointed questions about truth, Jesus simply asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man responded, "Who is he sir that I might believe?" Trite statements of truth could provide neither the question nor the answer for him. They needed a story. And there he was, Jesus, to tell the story!



–Terry LeBlanc