

## Was the Baby in the Manger Really God in the Flesh?

**D**ecember 25 is the special day when we remember the birthday of Jesus Christ. The true joy of Christmas comes from knowing of what Christmas is all about. We celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ but we also remember a special and important event. The miracle of Christmas is the incarnation of God. Two thousand years ago divinity took part in humanity. God became a man.

The baby in the manger was the son God. Jesus is Almighty God. Christmas is not about the Savior's infancy; it is about His Deity. God was born into our world as a tiny infant. He was fully human—yet He was fully God. And the angel answered her, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son God."* Luke 1:35 ESV) The birth of Jesus was a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, *"Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* (ESV)

The birth of Jesus was a miracle. The validation that Jesus was the Son God is by his resurrection from the dead. "Jesus was declared to be the Son God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 1:4 ESV)

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem? Mary and Joseph were forced to go to Bethlehem because of Caesar Augustus's decree. (Luke 2:1-7). They went there because of the decree of God. *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."* (Micah 5:2 ESV)



*"Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived."* (John 7:42) When Jesus was born, He fulfilled prophecy. It proves that He was the Son of God.

Some time ago I read a booklet entitled *Christmas: The Miracle of God With Us*. It was written by Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Anne

Graham Lotz, John MacArthur and Charles Swindoll. Here are some of the quotes that stood out for me.

*"If you want to know what God is like, then take a long look at Jesus Christ because He was God in human flesh. . . From his birth Christ was recognized as King. . . We cannot understand Christ until we understand that He was the King of kings and Lord of lords."* Billy Graham

*Continued on page 2*



# The Deity of Christ

**The Lord Jesus Christ who is the Second Person of the Trinity, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins and a substitute for sinners;**

## The Lord Jesus Christ

The Deity of Jesus Christ means that He is God. He is the God-man. One preacher said that Jesus is a 200 per cent person because He is 100 per cent God and 100 per cent man. He became a man but was sinless. Jesus the mediator between God and man has a divine nature and human nature. God's Word says,

For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. (1 Tim. 2:5, 6 NLT)



The doctrine of the incarnation teaches that God came down from heaven and became a man.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:14 NLT)

The birth of Jesus Christ was a miracle because He was born of the Virgin Mary.

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:34–35 NLT)

Jesus the Son of God never sinned and was a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. The atoning work of Jesus took place on the cross at Calvary when he laid down his life to take away the sin of the world. He paid in full the price for our sins, took upon Himself death, and was resurrected. His death was sacrificial and substitutionary for our sins. He was buried and rose again from the dead on the third day. The resurrection of Jesus is one of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith. After his death he ascended to heaven and sits upon the right hand of God the Father. "After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Heb. 1:3 NIV).

Jesus the Son of God was the co-Creator with the Father. "He came into the very world he created, but the world

---

## Was the Baby in the Manger Really God in the Flesh? *continued from cover*

*"God became a man. Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb."* Max Lucado

*"And who is Jesus? He is God Himself made visible to all. Praise God."* Anne Graham Lotz

*"It is not an optional truth. Anyone who rejects Christ's deity rejects Christ absolutely—even if he pretends otherwise."* John MacArthur

*"He who resided in heaven, co-equal, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. He breathed our air, felt our pain, knew our sorrows, and died for our sins."* Charles Swindoll

What does Christmas mean to you? To some people Christmas means hard work. The stores are crowded with shoppers. The post office is overflowing with mail. Trains, planes, buses and the hotels are full. People go through physical and mental stress at Christmas.

To some people Christmas is a visit home to friends and loved ones. To some people Christmas means a sad memory. To millions of people Christmas means nothing. To them it is just a holiday.

The message of Christmas is very clear. God became a man to become a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We need to celebrate Christmas with joy but let us also remember the true meaning of Christmas.







and through whom we live.” These two verses seem to indicate the one true God and Jesus Christ are equal.

After all who is Creator of all that is? Answer: Only God can create the heavens and earth, as Genesis 1:1 makes abundantly clear. But here we have in this one verse an affirmation that the one God, the Father, is Creator of all things *and* (note again the significance of the “and” joining these two concepts) the one Lord Jesus Christ, who likewise is said to create all things. So which is it? Is God the Father Creator? Or is the Son the Creator? The answer according to this verse (I Corinthians 8:6) is this: they both are. So, once again we see that since only God can create, yet both the Father and the Son are said to create, the Father and Son are thereby identified together as the one Creator. (Ware 30)

Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Messiah and the Savior of the world. The Scriptures clearly teach that salvation is found in no one else. “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12 NIV). The Bible clearly states that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only one way to God. Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me” (John 14:6, NLT).

The Son, then, is fully God. He is not one-third God, but fully God. Yet, it is not the Son alone who is fully God, but he eternally exists along with the Father and the Spirit, each of whom possesses fully the identically same divine nature. (Ware 69)

Bruce A. Ware. *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2005), 30.  
Ibid., 69.

didn’t recognize him” (John 1:10 NLT). All three Persons in the Godhead were involved in creation. It is correct for Christians to believe and to say that Jesus Christ is the Creator.

The prayer of Jesus in John 17:3 tells us, “Now this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Then in 1 Cor. 8:6 it says, “Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came

## Humour: Laughing Is Healing

One of my favorite jokes that Emerson Falls told was about General Custer and the lone Indian standing on a hill. He said, “You know when you see a John Wayne movie, you will see him almost single handed killing many Indian braves with his repeating rifle. This movie scene doesn’t always go over well with some of our Native people.” Then he said, “Well, we’ve got one for them.”

He said, “General Custer was riding with his cavalry of soldiers up in the Black Hills where the Sioux people live. They saw a lone Indian standing at a distance on top of a hill and this Native warrior was taunting General Custer, trying to get him mad. He yelled at Custer, ‘You think you are an Indian fighter, you Goldilocks!’ General Custer got angry at his words and he ordered two of his soldiers to go up that hill and get the Indian. As soon as they got up the

hill there was a big fight behind the hill and after awhile, one by one, the two soldiers came rolling down the hill. That made General Custer so mad, so he sent five soldiers up the hill to get that lone Indian. “There was a big commotion again behind the hill and, one by one, the five soldiers came rolling down the hill. This infuriated Custer, and this time he sent ten soldiers to go up the hill to get that lone Indian. The same thing happened again. There was a big commotion and fighting behind the hill and, one by one, the ten soldiers came rolling down the hill. General Custer said to the Captain, ‘What’s the matter with you soldiers? You can’t handle one Indian?’ The Captain replied, ‘Sir, it’s a trick. There are two of them up there.’”



Dr. Emerson Falls



# On the Go with Dr. Joe 2021

This past year was difficult for us financially because of the COVID-19 lockdown. It was a miracle that we managed to survive during the lock-down because I wasn't able to do any work in the Native communities for two years. I was not able to do any grief seminars in person or individual counselling. We are thankful for the help and financial support we received from our family members and friends. Through prayer this was one of the ways God provided for our needs.

The silver lining of the COVID-19 lock-down for me as a writer was that it helped me to complete my book *Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in Our Ministry*. I was home most of the time due to COVID-19 so I had plenty of time to write my book. My goal was to finish the book before our 50th wedding anniversary. I thank God that I was able to reach my goal. I finished the whole book on June 3.

On June 4 we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was nice to hear congratulations from so many people. The financial gifts that came in from our family members really helped us to catch up on our bills. We are still celebrating our golden wedding anniversary.

I have started a new book on the miracles of Elijah and Elisha. During this past year I read twenty books on these Old Testament prophets as part of my research. I have already started writing the book. My goal is to finish the book by December 2022.

Sheila's book is now printed. This the **third printing** for her book. We print 3,000 copies for each printing. She has been getting a lot of good feedback from her book.

During the past year I did a few virtual and zoom sessions on the topic of grief with some Native communities. I did zoom sessions for Ouje Bougoumou, Waswanipi and Fort McMurray. There was a good response to all

the sessions. During the lockdown I also counselled and prayed for a number of people on the phone.

A Native couple from Mississauga drove to Ottawa so I could do individual grief counselling with their son.

Their son is thirty-one years old and he is still grieving the loss of his only sister who died about five years ago. This is affecting him emotionally and has affected his



Above: Sheila Katherine Jolly, née Chilton and Joseph Jolly

Above right: Our son Joseph bought flowers for us on our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. That meant a lot to us.

Right: Our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary KFC meal.

Below: Joseph Seth arranged everything for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



work. As siblings they were close to each other. I shared with him that normal grief can take two to three years to complete. I explained to him that by now he should have let go and brought closure to his grief. He understood what I meant. To help him understand what closure means I gave him a copy of Sheila's grief book.







and his family a lot before and after his surgery. His name is Kenneth W. and he would appreciate it if you kept him in your prayers.

## Counselling Services in Waswanipi

On Tuesday, September 7 I flew by Air Canada from Ottawa to Montreal. I stayed at the downtown Sheraton Hotel in Montreal. Upon my arrival I took a taxi to the hotel from the airport which is about a twenty-minute ride. In the morning I took a taxi back to the Dorval airport. One way fare from the airport to downtown Montreal is fifty dollars.

On Wednesday morning, I flew by AirCreebec from Montreal to Chibougamau. It felt so good to travel up to northern Quebec again after two years. This was my first trip up north since the COVID-19 lockdown in December 2020. I had no problem to go through security to get

*Continued on page 6*

In August I prayed for a man from Waskaganish who had surgery for a brain aneurysm. He was quite concerned about having his surgery because this was his fourth time. This was a high-risk operation and he was worried that he might not pull through or that there might be some complications. Praise God that his surgery was a complete success and today he is praising the Lord for his recovery. He said I helped him



**Above:** On December 7 Sheila made the final payment for the third printing of her grief book to Guylaine Duval, the Account Executive for Gilmore Printing Services. We have helped many people who are grieving through our grief books.

**Above right:** Dr. Joe doing a grief seminar virtually on Zoom and Sheila Jolly sharing virtually on Zoom.

**Centre:** Community Lodge where I stayed.

**Right:** General Business Meeting in Waswanipi.

**Far right:** Ella Neeposh was at the General Business Meeting in Waswanipi. She used to work with the Cree School Board in their Cree Culture Program. They had a feast after the meetings were over.



## On the Go with Dr. Joe *continued from page 5*

**Left:** Deputy Chief Ronnie Ottereyes and his wife Tina were at the community feast. Ron and his wife are believers.



**Centre:** Sinclair Neeposh (left) and Charles Katapatuk.



**Left:** The gathering was at Sinclair's mother-in-law's place.

**Below, from left to right:** The group of people that were at the meeting. We had tea and refreshments after the meeting.

The people at the meeting were encouraged.

Mac Husky is in the middle.



clearance for my flight which I was very thankful for. In fact, I was surprised of how smooth everything went at the airport.

When I arrived in Chibougamau I took a taxi from the airport to Waswanipi. The distance is about fifty-four miles and my fare was paid by the Cree Nation of Waswanipi. They were looking for a trailer for me to stay but in the end, I stayed at the Community Lodge which is not really a place for lodging. It is a place where people in the community go to eat wildmeat. After I knew where I would be staying, I took a short nap before going to the General Business Meeting at the Sports Complex.

On Thursday, September 9 I had a client at 9 a.m. I had an office space in the computer room at the Sports Complex. After my session was finished, I went and sat in at the General Business Meeting. I socialized with the people during the breaks.

In the afternoon I was asked to do a home visit for Mac Husky and his family. His common-in-law wife, who was

in her early twenties, just passed away that day. Mac was still in a state of shock when I got there. I was able to share words of comfort to him and his son Jacob.

In the evening after the feast, I went with Sinclair Neeposh for a family service at his mother-in-law's home. There was a good group of people that came to the family service. It was encouraging to see Mac and his son Jacob there. Sinclair and Charles Katapatuk do this as a ministry and they sang a few gospel songs and hymns during the meeting. They asked me to sing a couple of songs which I was happy to do. They also asked me to share words of spiritual comfort to the people. It was a blessing to be there with the bereaved family.

On Friday afternoon while I was waiting for my taxi to go to the airport, I decided to visit Chief Marcel Happyjack at his home. His family is going through grief and I had a good visit with him. Marcel is a believer and we talked about spiritual matters during my visit with him. This was one of the highlights of my visit in Waswanipi.

*Continued on page 9*





# Extraordinary Answers to Prayer

Someone wisely said that you can write a book if you have something to say. Looking back in our 40 years of ministry with Canada's indigenous people I can honestly say that Sheila and I definitely have a lot to say. During our travels and ministry with different tribal First Nations peoples in many parts of Canada we have seen many answers to prayer. We worked for a Christian faith ministry and right from the beginning of our work we had to trust the Lord to meet and supply all our needs. We stepped out by faith and God was faithful to see us through. Both Sheila and I prayed a lot and I believe that is the main reason why the hand of God's blessing was upon our ministry. We saw God answer prayer for our financial needs, salvation of many souls and people getting healed. I share some of these extraordinary answers to prayer in the book.

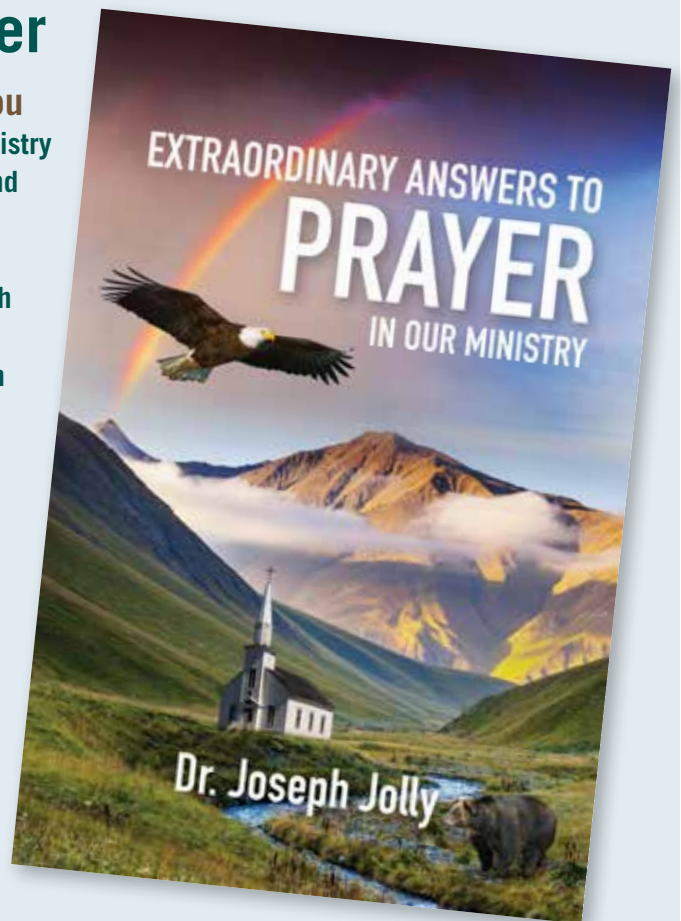
Our missionary support level was never very high but our daily needs were met. We were dependent on God and there were many times we saw God answer our prayers in a miraculous and supernatural way. We give all the glory to God. God is glorified when we share answers to prayer. Sheila and I worked together in the ministry and over the years we have received many blessings. On June 4, 2021 we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The greatest blessing for us in our marriage was when our son Joseph Seth was born 26 years ago. He was a miracle baby and I write about that in the book.

We have served in a leadership role and administrative position since we became missionaries with the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Inc. (NEFC) in 1980. In 1981 I became the Executive Secretary/Director for NEFC. Leadership is never easy and I learned many valuable lessons through the hard knocks. The trials and tests we encountered early in my ministry helped to shape my Christian life and they also helped me to gain valuable life skills on how to work and develop personal relationships with people. Someday I would like to write a book on leadership.

I am grateful to Dr. Dan Kelly and his wife Jan for teaching us the indigenous church principles. Rev. (Dr.) Tommy Francis and his wife Helen also taught us these mission and church planting principles. I still apply the indigenous principles in my work today. I have a whole chapter on the indigenous church principles in my book. I have said to people that I learned about Native self-government back in 1978 but in a different context. Self-government and the indigenous principles have a lot in common.

This is a Christian book and I know it will be a powerful tool for evangelistic outreach. In one of the chapters I have a sermon outline on an evangelistic message I preached where a number of people got saved. The main purpose of the book is to encourage and teach Christians how to grow spiritually and how live a victorious Christian life. As an elder and I want to pass on some words of wisdom that I have learned and applied in my Christian life the past 46 years. I wanted my book to be educational so I shared about life skills, parenthood, administration, leadership, grief, residential school system, forgiveness, missiological principles and spiritual principles. One of the things I emphasize in the book is how to be productive in our work. I mention the need to avoid procrastination. To be productive in whatever we do takes discipline, time and hard work. Finally, I wanted to write a book about the story of our lives and ministry to leave as a legacy for our son Joseph.





## Extraordinary Answers to Prayer

# Fog Lifts, Rain Quenches Fire

**F**or a couple of years I did counseling services in Eastmain, Quebec, for the Mental Health Program, which was a department with the Cree Health Board. I used to counsel people at the old clinic before they found office space for me at the MSDC building. One time I finished a counseling session around 6:00 p.m. and, as I was leaving the clinic, I noticed a young boy was being attended to by the nurse in the emergency care. His grandmother was there with him and I asked her what was wrong with the boy. She said it was appendicitis and he would need to have surgery right way. The male nurse at the clinic had made plans to medivac him to the hospital in Val-d'Or, but the plane couldn't come because of the dense fog in the community. This was a crisis situation because there was no doctor at that time, and they couldn't do the operation at the clinic. Before I left the clinic building, I prayed for the young boy's health and I also prayed earnestly for the fog to lift so the plane would be able to come and land. When I went outside, I noticed that it was very foggy and I could hardly see the trailer where I stayed. When I got inside the trailer, I started to cook my supper. Shortly after that, maybe about twenty minutes, I looked out the window and I noticed the sky was clear. The fog had lifted and the plane did come and was able to land. The clinic did medivac the young boy and his surgery was successful. I asked his grandmother later how he was and she told me that he was doing fine. Years later this woman remembered the time I prayed for her grandson at the clinic. She knew God had answered prayer for the fog to lift. **Excerpt from *Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in Our Ministry*, p. 201–202**

I am reminded about a story I read about George Mueller who was famous for being a man of prayer. He had a speaking engagement in Quebec, but the fog was so thick that the Captain informed him that the boat would not be able to leave. Here is the story of Mr. Mueller and the fog written by Charles Inglis: When I first came to America, 31 years ago, I crossed the Atlantic with the captain of a steamer who was one of the most devoted men I ever knew, and when we were off the banks of Newfoundland he said to me: "Mr. Inglis, the last time I crossed here, five weeks ago, one of the most

extraordinary things happened, that has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Mueller, of Bristol. I had been on the bridge for 22 hours, and never left it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Mueller. 'Captain,' he said, 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday.

When everything is impossible,' I said. 'Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find other means to take me. I have never broken an engagement in 57 years.' 'I would willingly help you. How can I? I am helpless.' 'Let us go down to the chart room and pray.' "I looked at that man of God, and I thought to myself, what lunatic asylum could the man have come from? I never heard of such a thing. 'Mr. Muller,' I said, 'Do you know how dense the fog is?' 'No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life.' He got down on his knees and prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself: 'That would not suit a children's class where the children are not more than eight or nine years old.' The burden of his prayer was something like this: 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. Thou knowest the engagement Thou didst make for me in Quebec on Saturday. I believe it is Thy will.' "When he finished, I was going to pray, but he put his





## Additional News

Chief Clarke Shecapio of the Cree Nation of Waskaganish posted on Facebook that the history book will be printed and available soon. Many people who saw his message on Facebook responded and said they would like to get a copy of the book. Our son Joseph was amazed of how many people showed interest about the book from the Cree communities. We praise the Lord that the history book will finally be printed.



CBC North called our home and interviewed me regarding the history book. They plan to post something about the book on their Facebook page. They requested that I send some photos from the book to go along with their article on Facebook. Here are some of the photos that I sent them.



*Continued on page 13*



Top: Hudson Bay Company painting of the Nonsuch in Waskaganish.

Centre: Replica of the Nonsuch. The *Nonsuch* can be seen at the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg.

Above left: Miniature model of the Nonsuch is on display at the Waskaganish Cree Cultural Centre.

Above right: The late Grand Chief Billy Diamond of Waskaganish is considered by many Native leaders as the greatest Chief of James Bay Quebec. His bio, along with the other Chiefs of Waskaganish, is in the history book.

hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. 'First, you do not believe He will; and second, I believe He has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' I looked at him, and George Mueller said this: 'Captain, I have known my Lord for 57 years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was gone! "You tell that to some people of a scientific turnoff mind, and they will say: 'That is not according to natural laws.' No, it is according to spiritual laws. The God with whom we have to do is omnipotent. Hold on to God's omnipotence. Ask believingly. On Saturday afternoon, I may add, George Mueller was there on time." (by Charles Inglis, [mullers.org/find-out-more-1875](http://mullers.org/find-out-more-1875)) Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (Matthew 17:20, NLT) **Excerpt from *Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in Our Ministry*, p. 357–358**

Daisy Moar

Forest fires are quite common in the summer among the Cree communities in James Bay. My older sister Daisy shared with me an answer to her prayer when a forest fire was threatening the community of Chisasibi a few years ago. Her son Bob, who lives in Chisasibi with his family, called her to ask for special prayer. He said it was pretty dangerous where they were in Chisasibi and they could now see the fire on the outskirts of the community. The reason he was calling was because he wanted his mother to pray specifically for rain to put out the fire, and also for the safety of the people. My sister said she prayed for rain to put out the fire. The next day she called her son and asked if her prayer was effective. Her son said, "You won't believe this but shortly after, maybe about twenty minutes, it rained hard and put out the fire." "Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and half years! Then when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops." (James 5:17,18, NLT) **Excerpt from *Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in Our Ministry*, p. 201, 202**



# The Meaning of Grief



Dr. Joseph Jolly

Not long ago, an elderly woman shared with me that she was still grieving for her son who committed suicide ten years before. She admitted that she had not yet said goodbye even though she knew it was the right thing to do.

Many people today have unfinished or unresolved grief because they have not properly dealt with their loss. One of the most

important lessons to know about the grieving process is that you cannot run away from your loss. It is essential for us to confront our grief and to deal with it so that we can go on with our lives in a healthy way.

People need to know that it is better for them to express their emotions outwardly rather than to keep their hurt inside. Think how often someone will say that he or she feels better after a really good cry. It is perfectly all right for people to cry when they are hurting; it is a sign that healing is taking place.

Grief is a process, and it takes time to heal from our loss. Grief is work and you have to work with it. "The work doesn't just happen. You can't stand idly by and expect grief to work itself out. You have to be intimately involved in the process and work at it. Grief summons the whole range of your emotions, and that's exhausting!"<sup>1</sup>

*But with knowledge one can learn to do the necessary grief work, to carry out the task of mourning so that bereavement finally becomes not a burden, but a positive thing to help one grow in freedom. (Arthur Freese).<sup>2</sup>*

Grief, our frequent companion in life, comes to us in different forms... bereavement, divorce, retirement, relocation, loss of job, aging, loss of property, a disability, mid-life crisis, personal violation, etc. We need to be sensitive to people around us because we do not always know when they are going through a grieving process.

People need to be educated about grief so they will know what to expect and be better able to go through it. Understanding the grief process equips us to help those who are grieving by being supportive, something we should all try to do. Ron Sunderland, in *Getting Through Grief*, writes, "Grief support, as one of the primary forces of congregational pastoral care, is one of the ministries for which lay people are gifted, and therefore to which they are called."<sup>3</sup>

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2*

## A Definition of Grief

Grief is the natural, expected reaction to a loss.

1. **Grief is natural.** While most people do not live their lives in a constant state of grief, everyone does live through times of grief...it is universal in human experience.
2. **Grief is expected.** Because grief is inevitable, it is better for us if we, in some sense, expect it.
3. **Grief is a reaction.** It is dynamic. It may begin with the internal reaction of the heart, but then there may be consequences in relationships, in life functions, even in the grieving person's body.
4. **Finally, grief is the result of a loss.** There are the obvious losses we're all familiar with: a loved one dies, or moves away, or contracts a serious disease. Almost any kind of life issue may result in loss... If there is the perception of loss, there will be grief.<sup>4</sup>

The loss of a loved one may be the hardest thing to bear. In his booklet on grief, Tim Jackson writes, "We especially grieve the loss of cherished relationships. The more we have invested in the relationship, whether it is with a person, organization, ideology, or even a pet, the greater will be the distress and pain of separation."<sup>5</sup>



Grief seminar in Waskaganish, Quebec.

## The Purpose of Grief

Why grieve? Why do we have to go through this experience? What is the purpose? Wright says that grief responses express basically three things. "Through grief you express your feeling about your loss...your desire to change what happened and have it not be true...[and] the effects you have experienced from the devastating impact of the loss."<sup>6</sup>





The overall purpose of grief is to bring you to the point of making necessary changes so that you can live with the loss in a healthy way. Grief's purpose is to emotionally detach people from that which is now lost, thus enabling them to reinvest themselves in new attachments. Grief is therefore necessary, and even essential, for good psychological health.

## The Stages of Grief

Just as it takes time for a broken bone to heal, so it takes time for a broken heart to heal. Grief, like growth cannot be rushed. There are certain stages to be expected in the experience of the bereaved person. It is important to remember that every person does not necessarily go through all these stages, nor does every person go through them in the order shown here.

1. **Shock.** "There is an emotional numbness when we hear that a loved one has died. This is a normal response triggered by the nervous system of the body. It is God's way of anesthetizing the person so that he or she might be able to face the reality of death and handle the difficulties to come. Of course, if this stage lasts too long, it is abnormal and will create problems."<sup>7</sup>
2. **Strong emotion.** "God made us to weep, and tears are always in order when there is a broken heart. The foolish counsel "Now, don't cry!" is based on both bad psychology and bad theology. Jesus wept and so did the saints of God named in the Scriptures (Gen. 23:2; 50:1; 2 Sam. 18:33; Acts 8:2). *We are not told that it is wrong to sorrow. We are told that our sorrow should not be hopeless, like the sorrow of the world* (1 Thess. 4:13-18).<sup>8</sup>
3. **Depression.** We feel depressed and very lonely. "When we find ourselves in the depths of despair, we should remind ourselves that this is to be expected following any significant loss, and that such depression is normal and a part of good healthy grief."<sup>9</sup> We must never forget that a depression experience will one day pass away.
4. **Fear.** The bereaved person finds it difficult to think, to concentrate, and then becomes afraid and panicky.
5. **Guilt.** We feel a sense of guilt about the loss. "A sorrowing person often has the tendency to blame himself or herself for the death of the loved one. This is especially true when it is death by suicide."<sup>10</sup>
6. **Anger.** Anger and even rage are common reactions to the loss of a loved one. Sometimes people show



The men in Wemindji had one special meeting to learn about the grief process.

this hostility by blaming God and saying all kinds of blasphemous things. Anger is a normal response to death, provided it doesn't get the best of you. Gary Kinnaman in *My Companion Through Grief* writes, "You need to talk about your anger. To God. To others who, like God, will listen without making judgements. At the same time, you need to realize that long-term, persistent anger is the worst thing you can do for yourself and others. Sooner or later, you need to ask for healing."<sup>11</sup>

7. **Physical distress.** Grief may be experienced physically as exhaustion, weakness, emptiness or hole in the pit of the stomach, lump in the throat, tightness in the chest, sighing, dry mouth, headaches, sleeplessness, loss of appetite.

Warren and David Wiersbe in *Comforting the Bereaved* write, "Doctors tell us that there is a definite relationship between illness and grief badly managed. When the emotions do not heal properly, they affect the body and make the grieving person much more susceptible to certain illnesses. Loneliness and depression that are not handled in a mature way will certainly cause long-term problems that may not respond to medicine. Time by itself does not heal a broken heart. It all depends on what people do with time."<sup>12</sup>

Numerous studies have shown that your health risk is higher following a loss. You are more susceptible to heart attacks and cancer following the death of a loved one. Dr. Glen Davidson has discovered that about 25 percent of those who mourn experience a dramatic decrease in the body's immune system six to nine months following their loss. This is one of the reasons for the increase in illness when grieving. But if one does the work of grieving and doesn't postpone or avoid it, this immune system deficiency is avoidable.<sup>13</sup>

*Continued on page 12*



## The Meaning of Grief *continued from page 11*

8. **Apathy.** “Nobody understands how I feel! And, since they don’t, there is no sense saying or doing anything.” “Life is not worth living.” The bereaved person finds it painful to face real life and wants to withdraw into his or her own shell and be left alone. Certainly it is normal for a hurting person to want to be left alone; but if this withdrawal continues too long, it becomes dangerous.<sup>14</sup>

9. **Resistance.** Although we may be quite well along in our grief work and really want to get back to our usual activities, something inside us resists returning.

We also find, when we attempt to go back into life again, it is much too painful. We would rather grieve than fight the battle of coping with new situations. . . . We are more comfortable in our grief than in the new unpredictable world. We want to stay with the familiar.<sup>15</sup>

10. **Adjustment.** Slowly the person learns to accept the loss, rearrange his or her life, and come to grips with reality. This does not mean the total absence of grief, loneliness, or bewilderment; but it does mean that the bereaved person recognizes what is happening and is able to cope with it.<sup>16</sup>

### The Process of Grief

Robert Veninga says, “There is one marvelously redeeming motive for entering fully into one’s sorrow. Once you have experienced the seriousness of your loss, you will be able to experience the wonder of being alive.”<sup>17</sup>

Grief is a natural, normal, predictable, and expected reaction. It is not an abnormal response. In fact, just the opposite is true. The absence of grief is abnormal. “Grief is your own personal experience. Your loss does not have to be accepted or validated by others for you to experience and express grief.”<sup>18</sup>

*The principle challenge for those dealing with loss is to release their grief. This involves respecting, specifying, and expressing painful thoughts and feelings associated with the loss. To get beyond grief one must go through it, not around it. Nor are there any painless shortcuts. (John A. Larsen)<sup>19</sup>*

For some people... grief can be a very painful process. Wright, in *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, says, “When you enter into grief, you enter into the valley of shadows... It is painful. It is work. It is a lingering process. But it is necessary for all kinds of loss. It has been labeled everything from intense mental anguish to acute sorrow to deep remorse.”<sup>20</sup>

Acknowledging and understanding the loss is essential to starting the grieving process. One author suggests that, “grieving means allowing yourself to feel your feelings, think your thoughts, lament your loss and protest your pain.”<sup>21</sup>

A most common myth of grieving is that we should bury our feelings. Expressions such as, “Don’t cry,” or “Don’t feel bad, after all, he’s with the Lord now,” “Don’t feel bad, you can handle it,” are damaging myths. Often they are expressions made by people who feel anxious when a loss occurs because they have never learned what to say. No matter what the reason, these are non supportive statements.<sup>22</sup>

Tears are the vehicle that God has equipped us with to express the deepest feelings words cannot express. When words fail, tears are the messenger. Tears are God’s gift to all of us to release our feelings. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus (John 11:35). Joseph was deeply moved at the reunion with his brothers and with his father (Gen. 42:24; 43:30; 45:2; 45:14, 15; 46:28, 29; 50:17).

Withheld feelings lead to brittleness, vulnerability, and distorted perceptions.

Another step in the process of facing loss is to tell others about it as soon as possible. Call it by name. This vital step must be remembered. You desperately need the support, help, and comfort of other people during your loss. Isolation during a loss can be deadly.

A Native elder who attended a grief seminar told a story about a man he knew from their community. He said that this man had difficulty eating because of his grieving. Out



Grief seminar during the Community Wellness Week in Mistissini, Quebec; grief seminar in Mistissini during the 11<sup>th</sup> Traditional Gathering.





of concern for the man's health, he told his wife to cook a nice fish, and they took it to him. This act of kindness on their part showed the man that someone cared, and was instrumental in his grief recovery.

Grief is a wound that needs attention in order to heal. Try to talk with people who have been through it. Friends listen, but people who have been through it may be more understandingly helpful. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Judy Tatelbaum in *The Courage to Grieve* writes,

That we can grieve and recover often seems an amazing feat, yet human resilience is amazing. Just as a forest can burn to the ground and eventually grow anew, or a town can be devastated by a flood and rebuild, so each of us can be overcome by our grief, have the enormity of our loss overwhelm us, and still eventually recover and restore our lives.<sup>23</sup>

Even though at times it may seem impossible, we can conquer grief, heal, and even grow from the experience. Take charge of your grief. Face it. Experience it and you will recover.

Does God understand our pain and grief? Genesis 6:6 says, "The Lord was grieved . . . and his heart was filled with pain." (NIV).

Excerpts from Dr. Joseph Jolly's book *Going and Growing Through Grief*.

1. Richard Lewis Detrich and Nicola J. Steele, *How to Recover from Grief*, rev. ed. (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 1996), 2-3.
2. Gary Kinnaman, *My Companion through Grief* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Publications, 1996), 27.



Grief seminar with the elders in Waswanipi, Quebec.

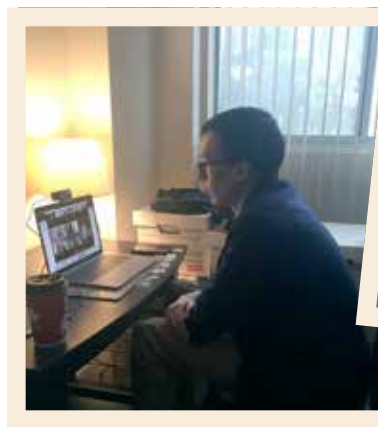
3. Ron Sunderland, *Getting through Grief* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), 81.
4. Mel Lawrenz & Daniel Green, *Overcoming Grief and Trauma* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1995), 29-31.
5. Tim Jackson, *How Can I Live with My Loss?* (Grand Rapids: Radio Bible Class, 1992), 7.
6. Therese A. Rando, *Grieving: How to Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies* (Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1988), 18-19, adapted, quoted in H. Norman Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life* (Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1996), 41.
7. Warren W. Wiersbe and David W. Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 22.
8. Wiersbe and Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, 22.
9. Granger E. Westberg, *Good Grief*, 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997), 29.
10. Wiersbe and Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, 22.
11. Kinnaman, *My Companion through Grief*, 81.
12. Wiersbe and Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, 21.
13. Glen W. Davidson, *Understanding Mourning* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 24-27, adapted, quoted in Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 52.
14. Wiersbe and Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, 23.
15. Westberg, *Good Grief*, 53-54.
16. Wiersbe and Wiersbe, *Comforting the Bereaved*, 23.
17. Robert Veninga, *A Gift of Hope* (Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1985), 71, quoted in Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 45.
18. Rando, *Grieving*, 11, 12, adapted, quoted in Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 41.
19. John A. Larsen, in *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology*, David G. Benner, ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1985), 474, quoted in Kinnaman, *My Companion through Grief*, 36.
20. Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 40.
21. Rando, *Grieving*, 242, quoted in Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 44.
22. Wright, *Recovering from the Losses of Life*, 43.
23. Judy Tatelbaum, *The Courage to Grieve* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1980), 9.

## On the Go with Dr. Joe *continued from page 9*

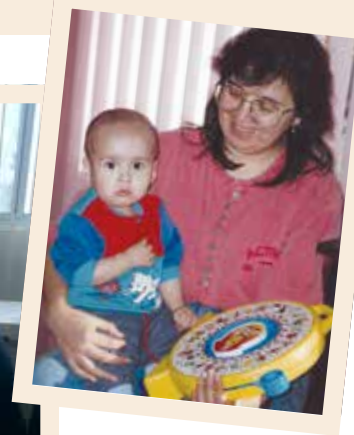
We are encouraged that our son Joseph Seth is doing very well in his studies at the Ottawa University. He has four courses on virtual and he has one course in class. He is really enjoying his studies. We are so proud of him and we thank God that he is going to school. It is an answer to prayer.

Please continue to pray for Sheila's sister Dianne. She had open heart surgery almost three months ago to replace a heart valve and she is still in the Kingston General Hospital. The good news is that she is making good progress in her recovery. We are praying that she

*Continued on page 14*



Left: Joseph Seth at home on virtual for one of his university courses.



Right: Sheila's younger sister Dianne holding her namesake Joseph Seth.







Far left: This was a special birthday for me because it was my 70<sup>th</sup>.

Left: Birthday cake for Joe Sr. and Joe Jr.

Below centre: Joe Jr. appreciated the birthday gifts he got from us and his auntie Dianne and uncle Marcel. We always celebrate his birthday in a special way.

Below right: Upon Joe Jr.'s request we had KFC for our birthday meal.



will go home before Christmas. It was hard for Sheila to know that her younger sister was in critical condition and was in the hospital for so long. Recently two of her cousins, Charlie and Donald Faries, passed away. They were both in the Kingston hospital. Sheila is grieving for her family members but she is managing well.

On October 26 our son Joseph celebrated his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday. My birthday was on the 29<sup>th</sup> so we celebrated our birthdays together.

Above left: Charlie Small and the tamarack birds he made.

Left: Charlie likes moose hunting and also spring Canada goose hunting.

Above: Charlie and his wife Marlene celebrate a successful moose hunt.







Far left: Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson was at the Civic Prayer Breakfast.

Left: Dr. Joseph Jolly at the Civic Prayer Breakfast, which was held at the Hampton Inn in Ottawa.

Centre: Civic Prayer Breakfast

Below: Darlene Shecapio Blacksmith did a presentation called *The History of the Residential School and the Effects*.

Bottom left: Dr. Phillip Awashish did a presentation on *The History of Eeyou Istchee and Our People*.

Bottom right: Some of the people from Ouje Bougoumou who attended the Residential School Conference.



On October 29 I was invited to pray at the Civic Prayer Breakfast in Ottawa. They asked me to lead in prayer for the First Nations people.

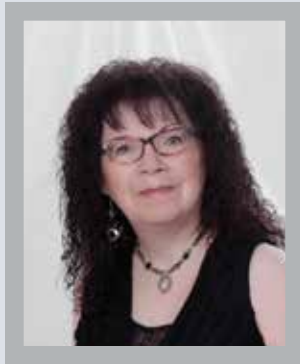
Pray for Charlie Small from Moose Factory who accepted the Lord on November 18. Our families are related and it was a blessing for me to pray with him to receive Christ over the phone. Pray for Charles who has a sickness in his lungs which is incurable. He called his family members to let them know of his decision to accept the Lord.

November 23–26 I went to the Ouje Bougoumou Cree Nation Residential School Conference. I was invited to do individual counselling and to do a presentation on Grief and Abandonment. I felt that my time was very productive. In my grief presentation I shared on *Helping Griefers Move On in Life: Recovering*. My main point was letting go of your grief and moving on.



# Foreword

from *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*



**Sheila Jolly** did not consult any books when she wrote her story about her grief journey. She did not want to follow someone else's model on how to deal with grief. Rather, she wanted to tell her story in her own words from a Native perspective. A good understanding about the grief process and the various stages of grief that she went through are central to her book. It is evident in her story that her grief through multiple losses affected her emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

When a person goes through a great loss like the death of a loved one, it is normal to grieve. Even spiritually minded people will grieve because it hurts when you lose a loved one. On February 7, 2003, Sheila's younger sister, Daisy Mae Turcotte, died after a long battle with cancer. Two days later, her mother, Alice Chilton, passed away from ovarian cancer. She had also suffered with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years prior to her death. Ten months later, on December 19, 2003, Sheila's father, Samuel Chilton, died after suffering a massive heart attack.

The loss of three family members so close together had a profound effect on Sheila. Multiple losses fall under the category of complicated grief, which is more difficult to cope with than normal grief. Studies show that it can take about two years for a person to recover from normal grief and to move on with their life in a healthy way. Evidence that a person has recovered from their loss is that they are able to move on with their life without the physical presence of their deceased loved one. On the other hand, it can take much longer for a person to recover from multiple losses. In Sheila's case, it took her six years to finish her grief journey.

As a grief counselor, I have always felt that there was a need for this kind of book to be written. Most of the books I have read deal with normal grief but very few deal specifically with multiple losses. There are many people in the Cree communities who go through multiple losses and do not know how to deal with their grief and sorrow. Some social workers are not adequately trained to counsel those who go through complicated grief. This book will be a valuable tool and resource material to share with their counselees.

Sheila has always had a strong faith in God and she says that this relationship was her greatest source of comfort and strength.

The techniques of psychology are evident in her book but her personal views lean more toward a biblical perspective.

Sheila has worked among her own people since April 1980 and she shares her philosophy on the application of the indigenous principles which helped her in her grief work. Her book is unique because it includes the principles necessary for the grief process, the indigenous principles and the biblical principles.

— Dr. Joseph Jolly





When my sister, Daisy Mae, was sick again with cancer it affected a large part of my life and emotions. It was difficult for me to accept the many painful experiences my sister had to endure while she suffered with her cancer. There are not enough words to express how I felt during the years my family members suffered with their sicknesses. During those difficult years, I prayed for my family members earnestly and saturated my mind with the Word of God. The examples in the Bible of godly people who prayed persistently reminded me not to give up with my prayers no matter how difficult the day was.

*"Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." (James 5:17-18)*

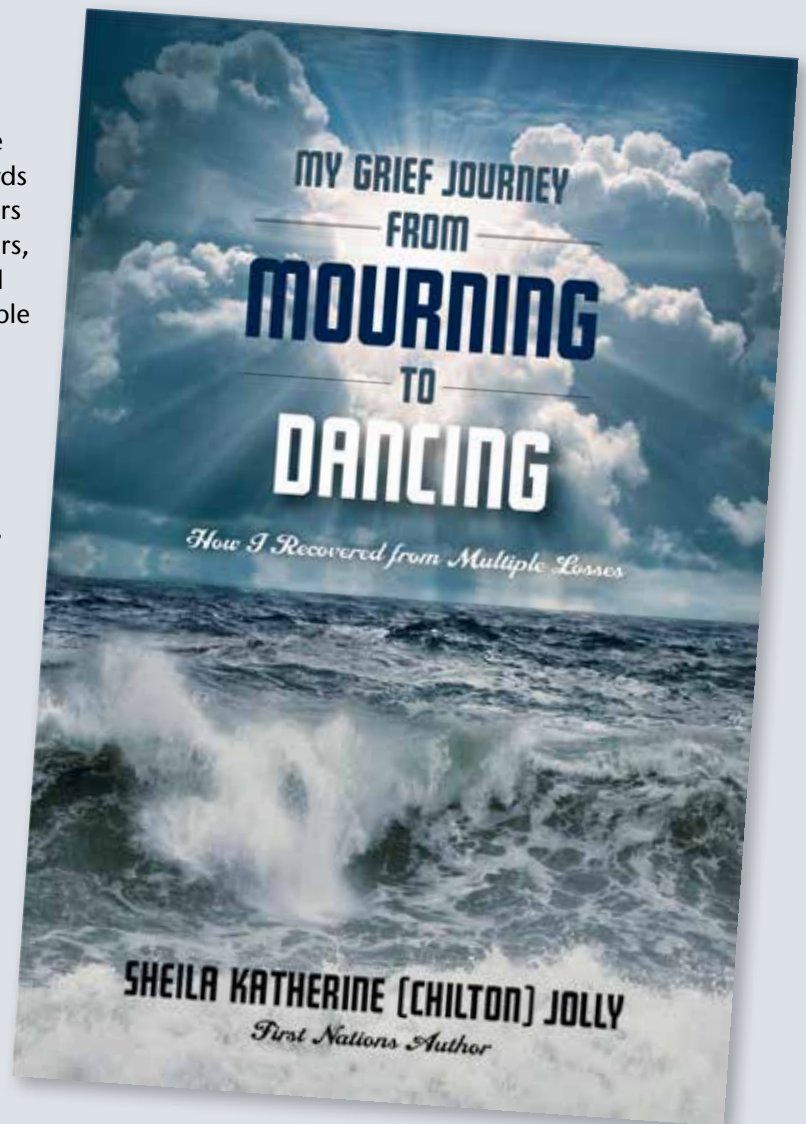
My sister lived in Sudbury with her family as she continued her long battle with cancer. The most dreadful news came when we were informed that she had brain cancer. In my mind, I kept thinking that this cannot be happening because she has already had enough battles with cancer. It was hard for all of us to see her going through many treatments over those few years.

At this time, I had to make a difficult decision. Making a decision is not easy especially when it comes to making a choice in regards to being with your family when they are in a crisis or traveling with your husband when he is called to work in another community. Would I go to be with my sister or to Mistissini with my husband and son? One of my favourite Cree communities to visit in James Bay is Mistissini because of its large beautiful lake and the Auberge Mistissini Lodge where we often stayed. After I thought everything through carefully, I decided in the end to go with my husband and son to Mistissini. I felt I

had done my part to spend time and visit Daisy Mae when she was sick both in her home and in the hospital and there was nothing else I could do but to pray and wait for the outcome of her surgery. Since

then, I've often wondered if I was escaping from the thought of my sister having a serious operation. Sometimes we have to do something different to divert our thoughts and to give rest to our emotions.

*(Excerpt from My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing by Sheila Jolly)*



Opposite page, left: Thomas and Daisy Linklater from Wemindji, Quebec.

Opposite page, right: Helena Trapper from Moose Factory, Ontario. We knew her parents very well.

Left: Sheila with the five boxes of books that need to be mailed.

Right: Band Councillor from Alberta.



**Sheila Katherine (Chilton) Jolly** was born in Moose Factory, Ontario. She married Joseph Jolly on June 4, 1971. They have one son, Joseph Seth, who was born on October 26, 1995. A year after their marriage, they moved to Ottawa so Joseph could go back to school at Algonquin College. While they were living in Ottawa, Sheila and her husband accepted Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour at the Metropolitan Bible Church on October 13, 1974. Their conversion to Christ brought a dramatic change to their lives.

In the fall of 1976, Sheila and her husband went to Caronport, Saskatchewan to attend Briercrest Bible College. Sheila graduated with a Bible Diploma in 1978 and a Bachelor of Biblical Studies in 1986. After her son started school in 2001, she decided to pursue further studies and began work towards a Master of Arts degree majoring in Leadership and Management. It was a dream that came true for her when she graduated with an MA in April 2009.

**You can order your personal copy of Sheila's book through our NGM office. The cost per book is \$20, plus postage and handling. Make your cheque payable to:**

**Native Gospel Ministries  
Box 41006, Ottawa, Ontario  
K1G 5K9**



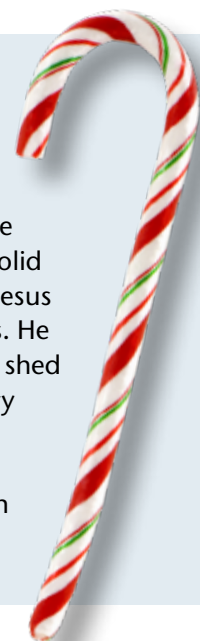
Sheila and her husband have been married for 49 years and since April 1980 they have worked together as a team in Native ministries. She worked as Office Secretary for the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Inc. from 1980–94, also serving a three-year term as Board Secretary/Treasurer for the organization. In addition, Sheila sat as a Board Member for Prison Fellowship Canada. Since 1995, she has worked as Office Secretary of the Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. Sheila's 35 years in Native Ministries have given her a wide range of practical experience that is evident in this, her first book, *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*.

Sheila with Jody Wilson-Raybould. Jody is a Canadian politician who has served as Independent Member of Parliament for the British Columbia riding of Vancouver Granville since 2019.



## The Candy Cane

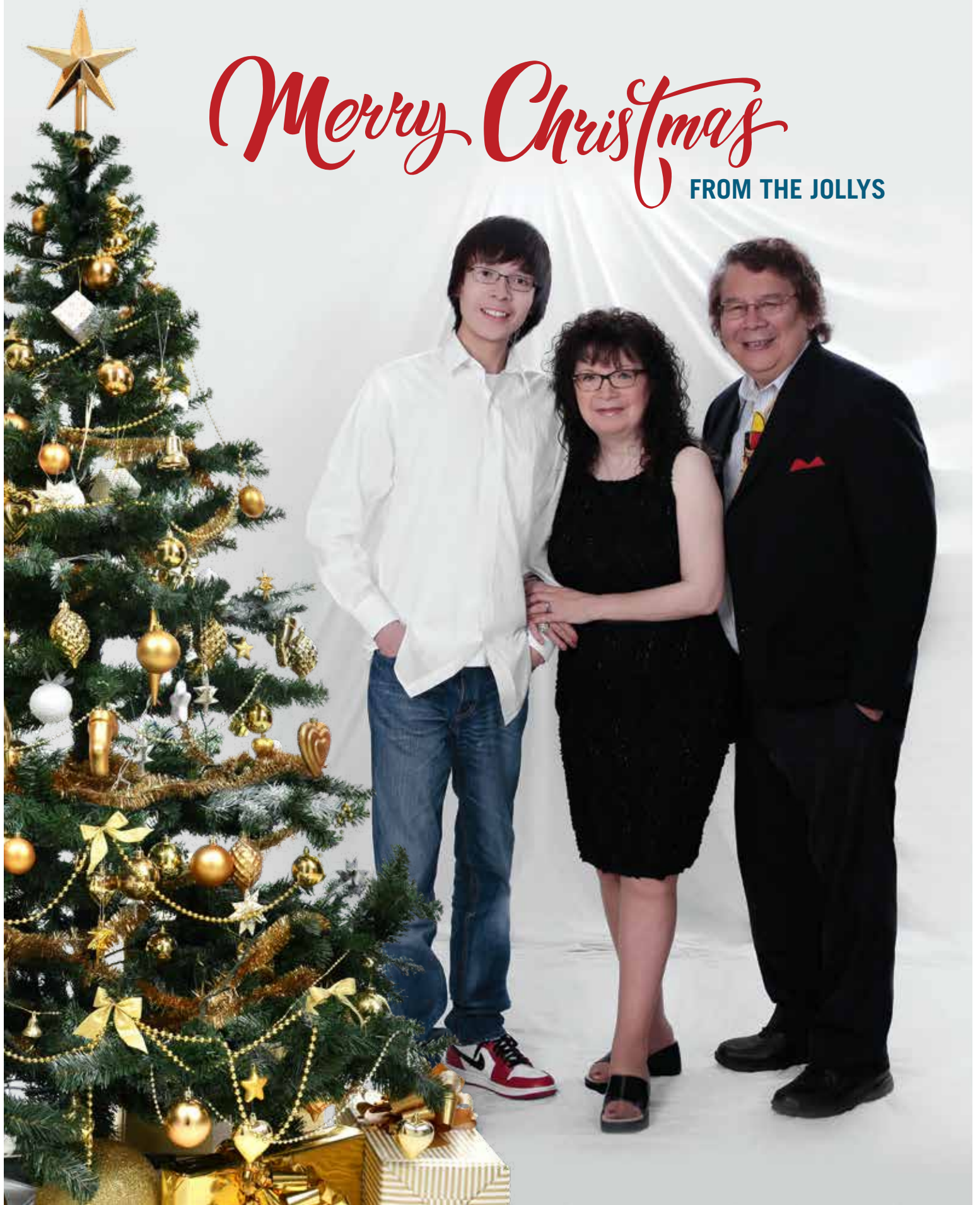
A long time ago there was a candy maker who wanted to make a candy which would remind people of the true meaning of Christmas. So, he started with a stick of pure white to symbolize the virgin birth and the purity of Christ. He made the candy hard to remind people that Christ is the solid rock upon which the Church is built. Next, he put a shepherd's crook at one end to remind people that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. In addition, when turned upside down it spells "J" which also reminds us of Jesus. He then added one wide and three narrow red stripes to his invention. The large stripe stands for the blood shed on the cross, before the crucifixion. Later a green stripe was added to remind us of eternal life and victory over the grave. The original candy was made of peppermint which was a scent similar to hyssop, a small brushy herb used in the purification rites at the time of Christ. And finally, when we break a candy cane and share it with a friend we are reminded of our Lord's words at the last supper, "This is my body which is broken for you." (Author unknown)



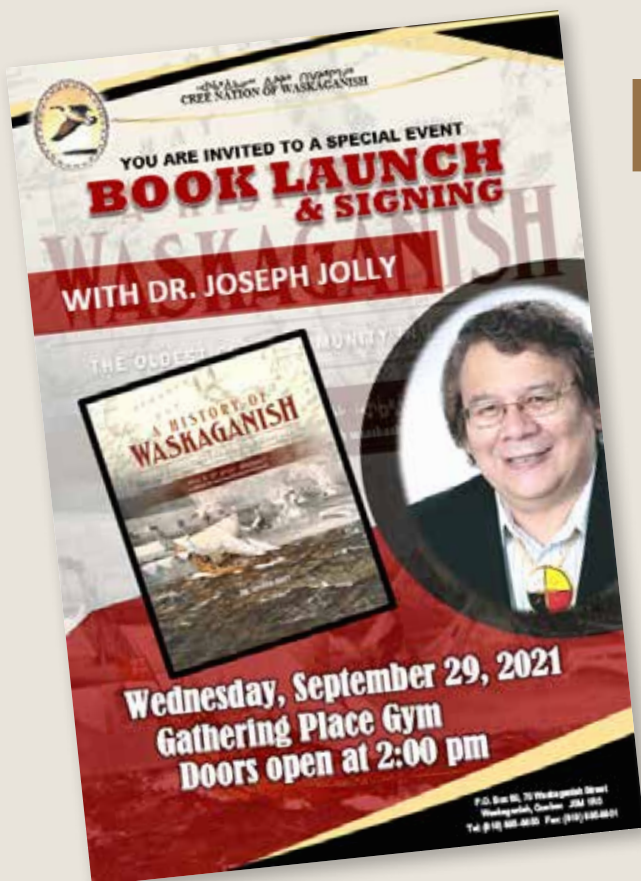


# Merry Christmas

FROM THE JOLLYS



# Book Launch and Signing



I want to share with you a very special event that was a great blessing for me and my family. Our home reserve the Cree Nation of Waskaganish organized a launch for my book *A History of Waskaganish*. The Chief and Council declared a holiday for their administrative staff on September 29 to commemorate the birthday of Waskaganish. The Nonsuch on the cover of the book sailed from England on June 3 and after 118 days landed on the shore of Waskaganish on September 29, 1668. The Cree Nation of Waskaganish made a large birthday cake to celebrate Waskaganish's 353<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

I was invited by the Chief and Council for the launch of the book. On September 21 I flew to Montreal from Ottawa by Air Canada and stayed overnight at the Aloft Hotel near the airport. I went a day early because I had an 8:15 a.m. flight to catch in the morning. On September 22 I flew from Montreal to Waskaganish by AirCreebec. This was the first time I went back to my home reserve Waskaganish since the COVID-19 lockdown two years ago. It was sure nice to see my two sisters Daisy Moar and Gertie Diamond and my older brother Patrick Blueboy in Waskaganish. While I was in Waskaganish I was in isolation for seven days and stayed at the Kanio Kashee Lodge. Anyone coming from Montreal or Ottawa had to be isolated because of COVID-19. For cautionary reasons I had to order my food from my room to the lodge restaurant and have it delivered where I could pick it up in a designated place.

While I was in isolation, I felt like I was in prison. I was free to go outside but I had to keep a social distance from public places. In my room I had lots of time to read my Bible and the books I brought with me. I also kept busy by working on the new book I am writing on the miracles of Elijah and Elisha. While I was in isolation, I typed out five sermon notes that I preached years ago in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on the miracles of Elisha. During the COVID-19 lockdown in Ottawa I typed in the computer



Left: The new Waskaganish airport  
Below: Kanio Kashee Lodge where I stayed.



all the messages I preached on the miracles of Elijah. My goal this year in 2021 was to read twenty books on the two Old Testament prophets before I start writing. I have read the twenty books so I have already done some major research for the book. The Lord willing my goal is to finish the book by December 2022.

The primary purpose reason for me going to Waskaganish was for the launch of my book *A History of Waskaganish*. The Cree Nation of Waskaganish invited me to be there on September 29 for the book launch.





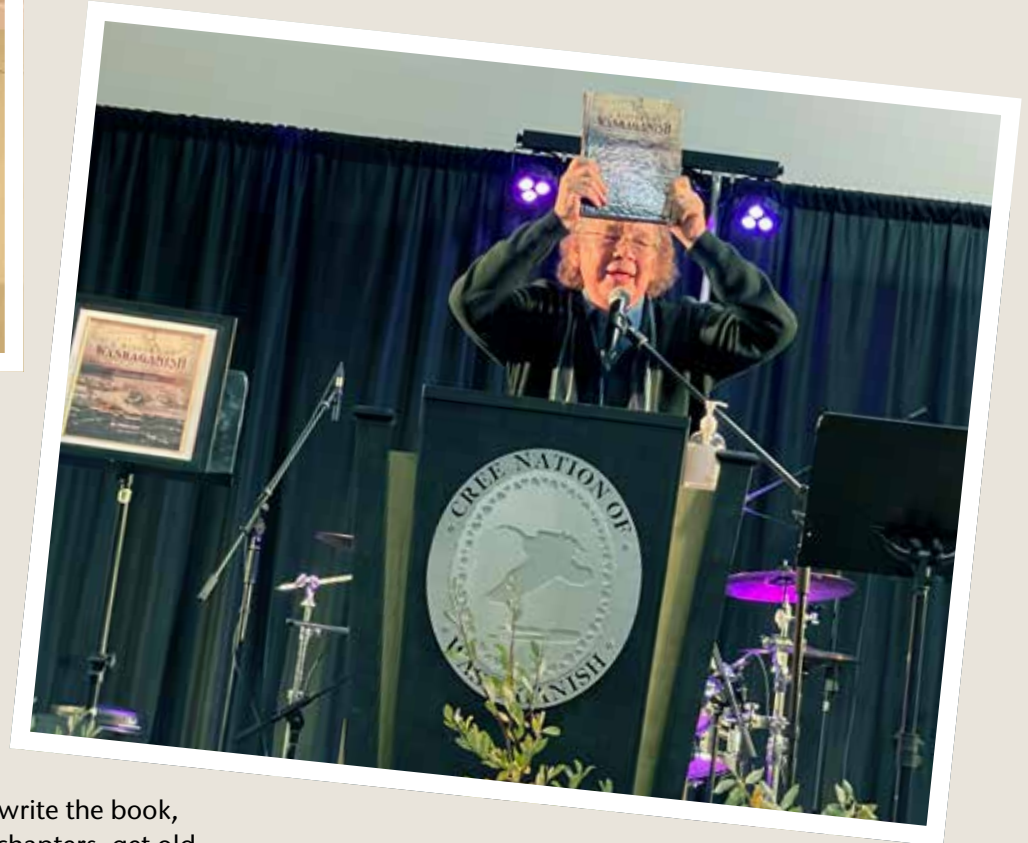


Left: Dr. Joseph Jolly makes a grand entrance with Miss Waskaganish.

Centre: Holding the history book up above my head and shouting VICTORY! This was a special moment for me and I thank God for answering prayer. I kept the book I held up as a souvenir and I call it the Victory Book. It is a special book and I will sign it and give it to our son.

Bottom left: I had supper at the lodge restaurant with my two sisters Daisy (left) and Gertie (right). This was after my isolation was completed.

Bottom right: Book signing of my book *A History of Waskaganish* at the Gathering Place. There was a very good response to purchase the history book by the residents of Waskaganish. There was a long line of people who waited and wanted their book signed by the author. Some of them bought extra copies for their friends and family members.



I waited a long time for the launch of the history book. I actually finished the book on February 8, 2018. Someone asked me how long it took me to write the book. I said ten years because I worked on my own a few years before the Elders Council accepted my proposal to write the book. It was the Elders Council that initiated the history book to be written back in December 2008. I worked hard to write the book, to do research, write letters, edit the chapters, get old pictures of Waskaganish and to do the mock-up of each chapter. I was so glad to finally see the completion of the

book in print. This was a mega project to do and it is good to see the finished product.



There was a good turnout for the book launch at the Gathering Place and I signed about two hundred copies of my book. It was so nice to see the Cree people of Waskaganish rejoicing and celebrating to get a personal copy of their history book. A hard cover copy was selling for \$80 and a soft cover for \$60. Some of the people bought extra copies for their family members. There was feast and special activities in the community because they were celebrating a holiday which they called Waskaganish Day. The next day was the Truth and Reconciliation holiday. The history book is still selling well. I hope they sell out and reprint the book in hard cover soon.

*Continued on page 22*





## Book Launch and Signing *continued from page 21*



Left, from left to right: Chief Clarke Shecapio, former Chief Gordon Blackned, Dr. Joseph Jolly and former Chief Darlene Cheechoo. They presented me a framed cover of the book which I proudly display and is now hanging on the wall in my personal office at home.

**VICTORY!** That's what I did. I was reminded of the joy and excitement of hockey star Alexander Ovechkin when the Washington Capitals finally won the Stanley Cup. All hockey fans will remember Ovechkin's great excitement and joy when he held up the Stanley Cup above his head after the Capital's victory.

At the reception I told the people that were gathered there that I prayed and waited three years and nine months for the history book to be printed. I told them that I promised myself that when I finally hold the printed book in my hands, I will hold it up in the air and shout

One of the best comments I received regarding the history book came from our son Joseph Seth. He was proud of how the history book turned out and he congratulated me for doing a good job. I was glad he liked the book and that meant a lot to me. He said to me, "Dad, this book looks better than my textbooks at the Ottawa University." Chief Clarke Shecapio is very pleased with the book and he will encourage the



Some of the Elders Council members with former Chief Darlene Cheechoo and current Chief Clarke Shecapio. Elder Charlie Diamond is holding the book.







**Left:** There was a community feast at the book launch.

**Below left:** My sister Daisy does not call her recipe moose meat with dumplings but she prefers to call it moose stew with *si payi*. The ingredients are the same.

**Below right:** Moose stew with gravy, potatoes and *sii payi*. This is one of the traditional ways of cooking moose meat. I grew up on this kind of food when I lived with my parents in the bush. I was craving to eat wildmeat while I was in Waskaganish.

**Bottom:** In Waskaganish I had a good traditional home cooked meal before going on the plane to Montreal. It tasted so good. My sister Daisy is a good cook when it comes to traditional food.

meat. My cousin Ethel Taylor and her husband Ken killed a moose and they gave me enough for one meal. My sister Daisy cooked the moose stew the way I like it. I invited my sister Gertie to come and eat with us. Gertie made bannock to go with the stew. We had a good meal together and wonderful fellowship.



history book to be placed in the schools. The Lord willing, I would like to present a hard cover copy of the book to our Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau. He does have an interest on indigenous people of Canada. There is a statement from the Prime Minister of Canada in the book.

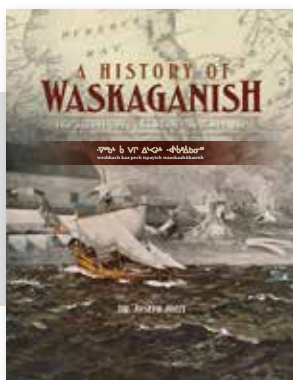
The gospel message is in the book through the testimonies in the biographical sketches of some of the Christian Chiefs like Billy Diamond, Sidney Georgekish and Sam Shecapio. The elders I interviewed also shared their personal commitment to Jesus Christ. They shared that on their own without being asked. Some of the elders I interviewed in the book have now passed on to glory.

Chief Clarke Shecapio told me that I will receive 25 complimentary hard cover copies of my book. I have promised to give all of them out already. If you want a copy of the book, you can call the Cree Nation of Waskaganish head office. When placing your order ask for Florence Esau. The telephone number to call is 819-895-8650. I plan to purchase some extra hard copies myself just to have them on hand.

While I was in Waskaganish I had a craving to eat wildmeat because I didn't have some for two years. I did have a generous plate of roasted Canada goose with vegetables and macaroni salad during my isolation. My sister Daisy got me a plate from a birthday party and feast for a young child. I also had fried fresh whitefish that my brother Patrick gave me. I really wanted to eat moose meat and I was able to get some fresh moose



## Books by Dr. Joseph Jolly



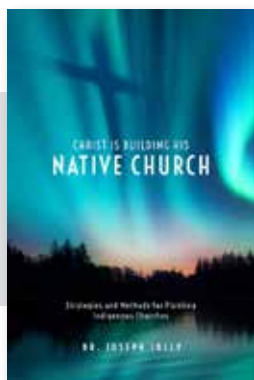
### A History of Waskaganish

Waskaganish, the oldest Cree community, is a remarkable place—a nexus point in our shared interaction of cultures, history, and nature.

Henry Hudson first made contact with the Crees of James Bay in 1611, leading to the arrival of European commerce and the Hudson's Bay Company.

This history has finally been brought together for future generations—a tale as old as the Cree nation.

To order books, contact:  
Cree Nation of Waskaganish  
70 Waskaganish Street  
P.O. Box 60  
Waskaganish, QC J0M 1R0  
waskaganish.ca  
819-895-8650



### Christ is Building His Native Church

This is a resource book for Native leaders, incumbent missionaries, and missionary candidates who are or will be working among the Aboriginal people of Canada, and provides information about their cultural values. The focus is on strategy and principles of indigenization and contextualization in church planting.

**\$20** plus shipping. Send cheque or money order to:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada  
Box 41006  
Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9

You can also order it at Amazon.com.

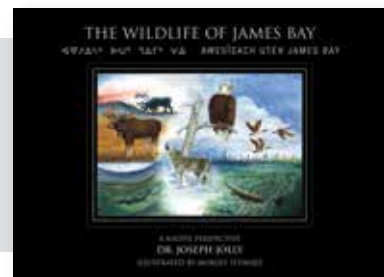


### Going and Growing Through Grief

This book has a Native perspective, but it is applicable to everybody. Based on a biblical perspective, the grief book emphasizes that ultimately God is our greatest source of strength when we face the pain of grief. Readers learn that people going through grief are affected emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually.

**\$16.95** plus shipping.  
**If you order 20 or more, the price per book is \$12.**  
Send cheque or money order to:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada  
Box 41006  
Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9



### The Wildlife of James Bay

**\$25** plus shipping.

To order, contact:

Cree School Board  
Education Services  
Mail Bag 40  
Chisasibi, QC J0M 1E0  
Tel: 819-855-2230  
ext. 3231

Ask for Mabel Pepabano  
Fax: 819-855-2724

Or you can order a copy from the NGM office. Send cheque or money order to:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada  
Box 41006  
Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9



## NGM Newstracker

The official newsletter of  
**Native Gospel Ministries of Canada**



Editor: Dr. Joseph Jolly

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc.  
Box 41006  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9

Telephone: 613-739-0112  
Fax: 613-739-7513  
Email: drjjolly@sympatico.ca

**nativegospelministries.org**

