

Abraham Jolly receives Briercrest honorary doctorate

Abraham Jolly believes in the value of education.

This week the Briercrest alumnus experienced how much his alma mater believes in him.

JULIE COLE

Jolly, who now serves as the director general of the Cree school board in Quebec, received an honorary doctorate at this year's graduation ceremony. President Dwayne Uglem presented the award.

"Abraham Jolly is worthy of honour," he said. "He is a man of great vision for the communities of northern Quebec and for Canada. He has courageously stepped forward to find a way to do education that will help his people succeed – both in the celebration of their language and culture – and in the attainment of educational foundations that will open doors to employment and contribution in our country and in our world."

As director general, Jolly oversees the elementary and secondary schools of the nine communities that comprise the Cree Nation. "I oversee all the

departments, all the schools – pretty well everything," he explained. "We also have an adult sector, which is upgrading vocational programs."

Under Jolly's supervision, the Cree nation conducted a major review of its education system.

Continued on page 7



Abraham Jolly is presented with an honorary doctorate hood by David Guretzki (left) and Neil Soggie (right).

Elaine Innes Graduates from School of Medicine

Born and raised in Moose Factory, Ontario, Elaine Innes, the second oldest child of Charlie and Juliet Gagnon's seven children, knows what it means to take care of people. As a mother of five and a grandmother of six, Elaine is no stranger to long hours and hard work. But she won't be taking a break any time soon, since Elaine will be starting a two-year Family Medicine residency through the Northern Ontario School of Medicine where she graduated as a Doctor of Medicine this year.

This recent accomplishment is one in a series of academic pursuits for Innes. In 1990 she graduated from the Northern College Nursing Program and then in 1999, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Primary Care Nurse Practitioner certificate from Lakehead University.

Elaine's husband, Gary Innes and other family and friends are proud of Elaine's achievements and rightly so. Says Elaine's uncle, Joseph Jolly Sr; "It's wonderful to have an MD in our family. One of Elaine's sisters is a registered nurse and another one is a certified dental



hygienist. My sister, Juliet, (Elaine's mother) worked in the hospital and it's wonderful to see some of her daughters following in her footsteps." Juliet Gagnon passed away in 2011 so she didn't have the chance to see her daughter's recent success but there is no doubt that she would be just as proud as her brother to know that Elaine is now Dr. Innes, MD.

Elaine's three uncles who attended her graduation. Abraham (left), Howard (middle) and Allan (right).

18th Annual Native Christian Conference

Ottawa, Ontario
June 28–30, 2013

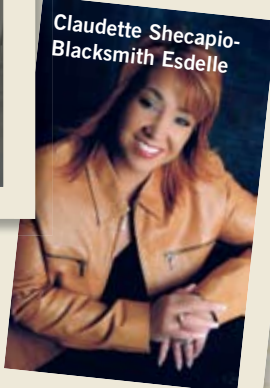
The annual Conference is a wonderful time to be encouraged by the excellent preaching, testimonials, and singing. Be sure to attend!

CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:

Kene and Milly Jackson



Claudette Shecapio-Blacksmith Esdelle



Scott Towaij



Keynote Speaker:



Pastor Jerry Quequish

Pastor Jerry Quequish is from Round Lake, Ontario. Jerry went to Key-Way-Tin Bible Institute in Lac La Biche, Alberta. He graduated from Briercrest Bible College in Caronport, Saskatchewan with a B.A., and also attended Briercrest Biblical Seminary, where he graduated with an M.A. Jerry and his wife, Edna, have five children.

THE MUSICIANS

Kene is from the Plains Cree People of Central Alberta. His ministry partner, Milly, is Swampy Cree from Northern Manitoba. They have been married for 33 years. Kene and Milly work as a duo in an ongoing music ministry that they have pursued for 21 years. Kene is a musician, singer, songwriter and recording artist. They have 12 recordings available on CD and a DVD music video.

Claudette is a well-known Cree musician from Ouje Bougoumou, Quebec. Currently she is living with her husband and family in Gatineau, Quebec. Claudette has recorded a CD that is available to the public.

Scott and his family live in Ottawa and he has become a regular singer at NGM Conferences. Scott is a musician, singer, songwriter and recording artist, and has several CDs that are available to the public.

Metropolitan Bible Church
2176 Prince of Wales Drive
Ottawa, Ontario

Conference Schedule
Friday, June 28 @ 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 29 @ 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 30 @ TBA

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

Contact Dr. Joseph Jolly at:
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www.nativegospelministries.org

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2012–13

I stayed home in Ottawa for the whole month of June 2012. I didn't mind this at all because it gave me an opportunity to spend quality time with my wife and son. During this time, I worked on the *NGM NewsTracker* so we could mail it out to our supporters before our 17th Annual Native Christian Conference in Ottawa. It is always a great feeling to finish it because it is a major task which takes about a week to complete.

I was thankful to be home during the month of June because it was a busy time for our son, Joseph, as he wrapped up another school year. We are always thankful when he finishes a year successfully. He is in grade 11 now and doesn't forget to remind his dad that he is slightly taller than him.

On July 16 – 20, I went to Nemaska to do a *Leadership and Management Seminar* for the Cree Nation of Nemaska. In Bible College and Seminary, I majored in pastoral studies, administration, management, education and leadership so I have a lot of material to share on all these topics. I have done a few *Leadership and Management Seminars* over the years and I prepared a manual to go along with my lessons. I had 100 copies printed and bound which was paid for by the Nemaska Band. I am thankful for the education I received in Bible school because it has opened doors for me to share biblical truths to many Native people. I went back to Nemaska again on July 23 – 27 for counseling services.

On August 4th, I had the privilege of performing the wedding for one of my nephews in Gatineau, Quebec. I watched my nephews and nieces grow up so it is always a special moment for me to officiate at their weddings. Some of my brothers and sisters came with their families so it was nice to see them. I was very impressed at how well the wedding was planned and I was happy to see everyone who came having such a wonderful time.

On August 6 – 9, I went to Ouje Bougoumou to a workshop for the Elders Council. This was one of the

highlights of my ministry this year. As a facilitator, I helped the Elders draft their vision and mission mandate. In my report, I submitted everything we talked about and the recommendations they made. One of the things I emphasized in the workshop is that the Elders need to be more proactive in their community and they clearly understood this. The door is open for me to go back and teach them again. I sensed that they enjoyed being taught about topics that are a challenge to them. The Elders were very encouraged about the things we discussed during the workshop.

We had our 17th Annual NGM Christian Conference in Ottawa on August 17–19. Our keynote speaker, Mervin Cheechoo, did an excellent job preaching the Word of God. I was impressed at

how much Mervin has developed as a speaker over the years. Scott Towaij and his group provided the special music since Rick Small and the Day of Pentecost Gospel Band could not make it. We taped the Saturday evening session. DVDs are available of Mervin's sermon, Scott's group and a couple of individual testimonies. Our attendance was lower this year but we were encouraged to see new people who had never come to the NGM Conference before.

Above left: Joseph Seth Jolly.

Above: Abraham and Nadine Jolly were married in Gatineau, Quebec.

We reach many people with the gospel through our Conference and several people have been saved. During the first week in November, I received a call from a couple that had attended our Conference for the first time. As we talked on the phone, they indicated to me that they were seeking God and wanted to accept Christ as their Savior. I went immediately to visit their home after I talked to them even though it was late in the evening. While in their home, I shared the gospel more clearly with them and then I prayed with them individually to receive Christ.





Mervin Cheechoo and his wife, Carol Ann, with George Corston from Moose Factory, ON.

They told me that the Conference had a great impact on their lives and they both wanted what we had. Despite our attendance being lower this year, it was worth it all to see these two adults come to Christ for salvation.

In August, my son, Joseph, and I went to Chicago with one goal and that was to meet Buddy Guy in person. This was all planned by Joseph through the help of the Internet. In Chicago, we went to Buddy's club and Joseph was so excited to finally meet him in person and talk to him. Joseph showed Buddy a video of his guitar playing and he was quite impressed by it. He told Joseph that the next time he came to one of his concerts, he would let him in. According to Joseph, this was an invitation for him to finally jam with Buddy Guy on stage. He was so excited about this and right away he made plans for us to go to Winnipeg in September. He did get his chance to jam with Buddy Guy at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg, MB, and the reviews were very good of his performance.



Above: Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Brazeau were married in Timmins, ON.

Far left: Joseph with Buddy Guy in Chicago.

Left: Sheila lovingly holds her late sister Daisy's beautiful granddaughter, Addison. Little Joe says Addison got all the attention and stole the show.

Below: Sheila's family and relatives at the wedding in Timmins, ON.

After we got back from our trip to Chicago, we had to leave the next day for Timmins, ON. Sheila's younger sister, Diane Rose, was getting married to Marcel Brazeau on September 1st and they asked me to perform their ceremony. It was a beautiful wedding and everyone had a great time. I was asked to help out as one of the MCs during the reception and to sing two songs. Also, Sheila's



On the Go with Dr. Joe 2012–13 *continued*

older brother, George MacDonald, and their cousin, Charlie Faries, formed a duet to sing a couple of songs by the Everly Brothers. It was truly a happy wedding and everyone who came enjoyed themselves.

On September 5, I had an opportunity to go on the AIC-TV program. Torrey Antone, the Executive Coordinator of Ministries with American Indian Crusade, Inc., interviewed me in my home office from their studio in Oklahoma City. We had met several times before when the Antone Indian Family sang at our NEFC Conferences. We used Skype which Joseph helped to set up through his Mac Pro computer. Torrey told me afterwards that the reception was very clear. It will be beneficial to our ministry in the future to have our son, Joseph, helping us as he is becoming quite knowledgeable about using computers. When he gets a little older, I will get him to set me up on power point presentations. He knows how to do that now through some of his courses related to computers.

On September 10 – 14, I went to Nemaska for counseling services. I always enjoy helping people in whatever way I can. Sometimes, I have to use my administrative and leadership abilities when giving advice to people. Recently, I read that they are changing the term *counseling* and replacing it with *coaching*. To be honest with you, I often feel like a coach when I am talking to people. I talk to so many young people today who have no direction or no meaningful purpose for their lives. I am 61 years old now and I do have some wisdom to share and pass on to young people. It is a great asset to have theological training as a Counselor because most of the problems that people encounter are spiritual.

October 12 – 19, I went to Mistissini to do a grief workshop for Social Development. I was also asked to share a message at the community service. Jim Felix, a popular Native musician, was there for special music and quite a number of people came out to the meetings. There were sessions in the evening during the week and I was asked to share something at each meeting. I was also asked to sing a song. While I was there, I did some individual counseling. There was a community meal after the Conference ended.

After I got back from my trip to Mistissini, I went to visit Rick Small at the Kingston General Hospital. He is married to my cousin, Sarah, and they have one son, Ethan, who is in grade 12. Rick suddenly became quite sick and his family members were

notified to be there by his side. While I was there, Rick was in a state of coma but I know he heard me when I talked to him. They say that hearing is the last thing to go in your body and I told him to squeeze my hand to let me know that he could hear me. It was really something to feel his gentle squeeze. I prayed and anointed him with oil at his bedside and for a while there were some positive signs that he might pull through and recover.

I was told that he came out of his coma the next day or so and to everyone's amazement, he was even talking to his family

Below: Rick Small (left) was a regular singer at the NGM Conference.

Bottom: Joseph trying out the guitar he got for his birthday. He named his guitar "Switch" in memory of Rick Small. He had his birthday on October 26th.



members. He was slowly starting to drink water and eating solid food again and everybody was rejoicing. We were sure he was on the road to recovery but he went home to be with the Lord on October 25th. It seemed like the Lord gave him special grace to revive his strength briefly so he could spend a few moments with his family. We will miss Rick

Continued on page 8

“It put us in the position to be more strategic in how we do education – in the planning aspect of it, but also in terms of how the plan unfolds and what it looks like; what the priority areas are and then how you implement things,” he explained. “That’s basically the stage that we’re at right now.”

All the tedious work involved in this sort of review aims toward an important goal for the director general.

“To see our generation of young people to be more educated and to be able to be successful in completing the high school levels for one thing,” Jolly exclaimed. “Then for them to enter into post-secondary levels of education. Of course, from there we’d like to see success leading into careers and opportunities. We’re talking about playing a role or a part here in terms of how we build our nation. How we do education is foundational to that task.”

Jolly, who has earned a BA and an MA from Briercrest, understands firsthand about the challenges First Nations students often face in pursuing higher education. He reflects on the situation that he and his two older brothers, Allan and Joe, encountered when they first enrolled in college at Briercrest in the 1970s.

“Being a First Nations student, I’m glad I came with my two brothers, because we really supported each other,” he said. “The idea of college was really distant in terms of whether that was possible for us. So it was a bit scary coming here – outside of the fact that we were coming to ‘no man’s land’ in terms of where it was. English wasn’t my first language either. I felt the struggle to fit in socially speaking. But then when I got involved with hockey that certainly helped.”

The Briercrest alumnus admits he had a range of emotions when he was approached about receiving an honorary doctorate.

“I think my initial response was, ‘Whoa, wait a minute,’” he exclaimed. “I was given some time to think about it, which I did. I’d say I was really caught between refusing it and accepting it.”

Jolly finally came to terms with accepting the honour. “The only conclusion I came to is that I humbly accept it as something that my own institution recognizes as far as who I am and the contributions that they’ve seen me make,” he explained. “I’m also kind of humbled in a way to know that this is what they would want to honour me with.”



Abraham and his wife Linda.

Receiving the award causes Jolly to pause and reflect on his long history with Briercrest.

“Looking back from the time I was in college, it’s quite something,” he mused. “Coming as a student to Briercrest very shy – I hardly said anything. Just trying to struggle through college and then finding my place – having (teachers) like Paul Magnus and Dwayne Uglem who are more like colleagues in a way now. That’s quite something. Briercrest is close to my heart.”

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— Abraham Jolly

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2012–13 *continued*

because he was one of the regular singers for our annual NGM Conferences.

I am usually away from home a great deal so every chance I get I make a point to spend time with Joseph. He loves music and he knows music groups that I never heard of before. We went to Kingston on November 3rd for a live concert by ZZ Top, a group which I never even knew existed while I was growing up. Sheila came with us for this quick trip so she could help me with the driving in case I got too tired on the way back to Ottawa. She didn't go to the concert but instead went shopping at a mall nearby. After the stores closed, she waited for us at a nice hotel close to the concert where she had her supper. Joseph was so excited when he got a backstage pass to meet the group.

On November 4 – 9, I was invited by the Cree Nation of Waskaganish to help out in a crisis situation. A middle-aged man was missing and was believed to have drowned. He



Above: Joseph backstage with ZZ Top.

Below: Campsite of the search and rescue team.



had gone moose hunting with his friend at his camp along the Harricana River and his small canoe capsized when it hit a rock in the swift flowing river. It was dark when the accident occurred and the paddling canoe had been overloaded with moose meat. While I was there, I visited the bereaved family and spoke at a community service. The man's name was George Moar and I had talked to him the last two times I went to Waskaganish. He had spent time in jail and he talked about changing and amending his lifestyle. When I talked to him, I sensed that he did have a saving knowledge of Christ and I shared this information with his family. His oldest son, who is a believer, was very encouraged when he heard me say that his dad had committed his life to Christ.

some of the people I helped with their applications have received their payments. While I was there, I prayed with a young man who desired to recommit his life to God. I also talked to him the next day which he really appreciated. As I go into the Cree communities, I have noticed that a lot of Christians know the truth but are not living it. This is happening to Christians in general so it is not only with the Native people. When I counsel people who have made a profession of faith, I always try to encourage them to make a total commitment to Christ.

On December 10 – 14, I went to Val-d'Or, Quebec. The CRA Regional Office of Correctional Services asked me to go to Amos and visit some of the Native inmates at the Correctional Centre who are from the Cree communities. Altogether, I talked to ten inmates. Some of them were from Waskaganish, Mistissini, Waswanipi, Nemaska and Chisasibi. It was nice to visit and talk to these Native young men. I had the privilege of praying the sinner's prayer with one of the inmates. He was brought up by his grandmother who was a dedicated believer for many

years. He was very knowledgeable about spiritual matters and he knew what he was doing. I expect to see him again in the future. He is in jail for a homicide charge but at his last court hearing it was changed to manslaughter so he was very happy about that. He served some time already so he has four more years to complete his sentence.

On December 18 – 21, I went to Waskaganish to meet and discuss with the

Elders Council the possibility of writing a book on the history of Waskaganish. Most of the Cree communities already have a history book on their community. Since I was born in Waskaganish, I am very interested to work on this project. I have been doing research for the past five years now so I have gathered a lot of material already. It helps that I speak Cree because I have to interview the elders in the Cree language and then translate it to English.



Above: I did a grief seminar at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship. While I was there, I shared at their Fellowship service. I went back to Waskaganish on November 19 – 23 because they still had not found the body. The search was discontinued when it got too cold. Pray for the body to be found.

Right: Chief Matthew Wapachee of Nemaska and his wife, Emma.



On November 12 – 16, I went back to Mistissini for counseling services and to talk to the widows and widowers because they were still grieving over their losses. I have gone there many times over the years so I know a lot of people there. My brother, Abraham, works in Mistissini and some of his children are married and have settled in the community. I enjoy going to Mistissini and I find I always get a good response when I go there.

I went to Nemaska on November 26 – 30 for counseling services. This past year I helped a number of former residential students with their Common Experience Payment (CEP) and also with their Independent Assessment Process (IAP). It is a blessing to know that

Continued on page 14

Personal Testimony

By Elijah Harper

I come from a place called Red Sucker Lake in northern Manitoba where I was raised in a Christian family. My father is a pastor and has been Christian most of his life. So I've been raised with the Word of God continually.

My mother and my grandparents were very important in my life. It was my grandparents who raised me and took me to the trap line. I didn't go to school very early in my life; I think I first went to school when I was seven. I was sent off to residential school when I was nine or ten years old. I completed high school in Winnipeg and also went to university there. My schooling was sporadic but I did manage to make it through. However, many of the children in our community didn't really go to school because of the isolation.

My parents taught me to pray so I always prayed even when I was young. My mother had told me to be sure to pray before I went to bed and I always did. The lights would be turned off in the residential school dormitory and while everybody was lying still, I'd be praying in the dark. I never forgot what my mom told me to do. I still pray before I sleep every night.

I was raised traditionally. That is, I was taught to be out on the land and to have respect for the land as God's creation. I was heavily influenced by my grandparents who took me in before I learned to walk. Both my grandparents prayed every day. So in my life, I was taught and I experienced the fact that prayer has tremendous power. I know that it was through prayer that I was able to be healed. I'm thankful that God has healed me and saved me. I think the first time that I talked about being saved was when I was eleven or twelve years old. At that time, my dad was going to the Bible school in Island Lake, Manitoba that was run by the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. I accepted Jesus at that time without much understanding of what I was doing. I just didn't want to be left behind if Jesus came.

Today I'm forty seven years old and I'm so thankful that I am still alive! Many of you know that I was very ill. For some reason, I suddenly lost my appetite and I couldn't eat. I began to lose a lot of weight and there was tremendous pain in my legs and all over my body. I was like that for several years. When the illness first developed, I was given a lot of medicine- pain killers, tranquilizers, sedatives and anti-anxiety pills. I couldn't figure out what was wrong with me and the doctors couldn't figure it out, either. I went to see practically every specialist there is in the medical field.

There were some people who came to see me who wanted to help me through traditional medicine. I received thousands of letters from various people sending me all kinds



Elijah Harper

of things like feathers, concoctions of medicine, teas and various mixtures. Everyone told me that they knew what was wrong with me. I even had people send me their own prescriptions from their doctors and tell me that I should take them. While this onslaught of attention was overwhelming, it did encourage me in the sense that I knew people were thinking of me and concerned about me.

The pain that I felt was an excruciating one unlike anything I had ever felt before in my life. During my illness, there were times when I was alone and I would just crawl on my hands and knees and roll on the floor day and night. I was told by my elders at home that the pain that I was experiencing wasn't one that was physical but rather it was a spiritual pain. I can't adequately describe the pain or explain it to you. I could say

I'm Grateful That God Healed Me and Saved Me

that I felt like I went to hell and back but I've never been to hell so I can't really say that. The pain was what I would imagine hell to be.

It wasn't until I was baptized in water that I felt that the healing really began. After coming out of the horror of that pain, I felt so relieved. As I mentioned to some people, the healing I felt was so strong that a thousand people could have been against me and I wouldn't even have batted an eye. That's how strong I felt in the presence of the healing power of God that touched me.

I feel that many of the communities are strong spiritually but, physically, the conditions we live in are terrible. In some homes, I see the joy but in some homes there is just a total disarray of spiritual chaos. What I feel so strongly in my heart is that we all need to know the Lord. Once we begin that healing, even though our conditions may be poor, we shall be strong spiritually and we will be able to withstand any of the things that are happening to us in the communities like violence and sexual abuse.

Canada has become a country of many nations and we need to understand each other. One of the visions that I encountered during the time of my illness was for the Aboriginal people to bring together the other nations in this country. That was the main reason behind my attempt to bring all the nations together to what I called the Sacred Assembly here in Ottawa. My purpose was to bring the people together and to let God work from there in terms of what needs to happen in this country.

There are other people who don't necessarily belong to the Christian faith who need to be brought together and come to know the Lord because that needs to happen. And it's going to be the Aboriginal people who have to do that task because this is our home. It's going to be the Aboriginal people who will play a key role in keeping this country together because this is our home as First Nations.

One of the important symbols that we use is the eagle. At one point, when I was holding the eagle feather during Meech Lake, I felt an overwhelming presence of a spirit in me. I realized then that there was no turning back in terms of the decision that I made that day and I also knew that the decision would be the right one.

The eagle is a symbolic figure that is mentioned in the Bible many times. This verse is one that was given to me by my brother who is a trapper. Isaiah 40:31 says,

**"But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with
wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint."**



During my illness, one of the women ministers (an evangelist and a very strong woman in the world) phoned me. I hadn't met her before

but she had heard about my illness and said that she had had a vision and from that vision came a message for me. The vision that God had given her was one of an eagle prepared to die. In her vision, the eagle flew to the highest mountain and began to beat its wings on the rocks until all its feathers fell out. It began to smash its beak until it fell to pieces and then it began to smash its claws on the rock. It just fell there and lay on the ground and it didn't resemble an eagle at all. She told me that I was going through that same process in my sickness.

And then, in her vision, the sun came up and shone on that eagle. And it began to have renewed feathers and wings and beak and also claws. And she said that I was that eagle. She told me that I was going to fly again. She said that my wings are my strength and my beak is my ability to speak wisdom. My claws are my courage and I'll be strong with the claws of courage for my protection.

I believe that this is a process that we have to go through, a change of life, to discard the old life and believe in God and then we'll be strong. I believe that there are many other people going through that process. I believe there are many other eagles flying around all over this land. I'm truly grateful that God has healed me. I still need a lot of prayers and your support in this journey together. May God bless you all!

(These are excerpts of Elijah Harper's testimony which he shared at the Metropolitan Bible Church on February 16, 1997. We were privileged to have him as our special guest speaker at the 1997 NGM Conference in Ottawa.)



The Eagle:

*For many centuries throughout the world, the eagle has been a symbol of strength, courage and power. Some North American tribes, such as the Plains Cree, believed that the eagle had special powers and that these powers would come to anyone who owned parts of the bird. For these reasons, tribe members collected eagle feathers, feet, and claws. The feathers were especially valued and were used on headdresses worn in important ceremonies. When a chief gave an eagle feather to a brave young warrior, this act was considered a high honour. The totem poles of the Haida tribe in British Columbia have great eagles carved at the tops. (Aubrey Lang, *Eagles*. Toronto, ON: Key Porter Books Limited, 1990, p. 6)*

More than any other bird, the eagle has symbolized sacred power to Indian people throughout North America. Because the eagle flies so high that it disappears behind the clouds, it has been associated with those spirits residing in the farthest reaches of the heavens that are in control of the elemental forces of nature: rain and wind, thunder and lightning. In addition, the magnificent creature is held in high esteem for its physical attributes; warriors belonging to the Plains tribes wore eagle feathers when they went into battle in the hope of being blessed with eagle-like endurance, quickness, ferocity, and sharpness of eye. In previous times, the hunting of eagles was thought to be a spiritual endeavor, and in some Indian communities, only the most prestigious men were given permission to participate in the hunt. (Time-Life Books, *The Spirit World*, Alexandria, Virginia: Time Life Incorporated, 2d printing, 1993, p. 78)

Many countries and groups have used the eagle as their emblem. It is found on buildings, monuments, and flags. The United States chose the bald eagle as its national bird. The highest rank in the Boys Scouts of America is the Eagle Scout. A terrific golf score is called an “eagle.”

There are fifty nine species, or kinds, of eagles in the world, and they are found on every continent except ice-covered Antarctica. Some live in dense forests and tropical jungles; others live in high mountains or along the shores of lakes, rivers, and oceans; and still others live where there are no trees. In North America, we are familiar with the bald eagle and the golden eagle.

All eagles are predators, animals that survive by hunting, killing, and eating other animals. Eagles eat a variety of prey, from insects, snakes, rabbits, frogs, and fish, to birds, monkeys, and mountain sheep. To be a good hunter, a bird needs a sharp beak and strong jaw muscles, far-seeing eyes, powerful feet, and speed skill in flying. Eagles have all of these attributes.

The large, fierce-looking beak of an eagle is well designed to cut, tear, and crush. It is controlled by strong jaw muscles. Just as the feet of eagles differ depending on what the particular eagle hunts, so do the beaks. An eagle's beak, like its talons, is made of the same kind of material as our fingernails. When an eagle hunts, it wears down its beak and talons, but these grow back continuously, like fingernails.

Eagles have keen eyesight. Their eyes are set closer to the front of the head than those of other birds, giving them 3-D, or binocular, vision. Some eagles have eyes that are larger than human eyes, and their vision is eight times sharper.

Eagles use their feet to catch and kill their prey. The foot of an eagle has four toes, and each toe is tipped with a thin, sharp pointed claw called a talon. The toes and talons of each kind of eagle differ slightly because each goes after different prey. All eagles attack their prey in the same way. Just before striking, an eagle opens its wings to slow down and thrusts its legs forward so that the feet hit with the full force of its flight behind them. So powerful is this movement that the blow alone is often enough to kill the prey.

Eagle ears are not visible, but like all birds, eagles have them and they hear very well. Their ears are hidden under a layer of special feathers just behind their eyes. Eagles don't use their ears very much when they are hunting. Mostly they use their ears to listen to one another, or listen for storms, which produce sounds that eagles can hear.

To fly, birds need a light body and wings that are big enough to lift them off the ground. The eagle is built for flying. It looks much heavier than it really is because of all its feathers. A bald eagle is covered with about seven thousand feathers and weighs approximately eleven pounds. Sometimes an eagle must travel long distances to find food. If the eagle goes for a whole day, or even

King of the Birds

several days, without food, it may not have a lot of energy to spare for flapping its wings. Thus, eagles have become experts in soaring.

When they are ready to breed, the eagles find mates. Scientists believe that an eagle stays with the same mate for life. If one of the eagles dies, however, the other eagle will look for another mate. No one knows for sure how long eagles live in the wild, but one North American golden eagle was believed to have lived for more than twenty years. Bald eagles have a similar life span.

Most eagles build their nests in the early spring. It takes many weeks of hard work to build a nest, and the eagle couple usually builds it together. Once a pair of eagles has built a nest, they will probably use the same one year after year. Eagles prefer to nest in high places and will build at the tops of trees or high on rocky cliffs, if there are no trees. The nest is now the eagle's home, and the area around it is called the nesting territory. No other eagles are allowed to nest, hunt, or even sit in this area.

Most eagle mothers lay two eggs but sometimes they lay three or four. Eagle eggs are about the size of chicken eggs. In order for the baby eagles to grow inside, the eggs must be kept warm, or incubated. For about a month, the parents take turns sitting on the eggs to keep them warm.

Eagles are mentioned several times in the Bible. G. Campbell Morgan, the greatest Bible expositor of his day, writes, "It dwells on high, and takes its flight sunward, with eyes that never flinch as they are fixed on the light. . . . The eagle is the mystic sign of Deity because of its flight to the heights; but there the figure halts, for God is the ultimate height. The eagle is the symbol of Deity, because with unflinching gaze it beholds the light of the sun and soars into it, until human eyes can no longer follow; but there the figure breaks down, for God is the light." (G. Campbell Morgan, *The Westminster Pulpit*, Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, N.D., p. 268-9)

"Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions. The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him." (Deuteronomy 32:11 NIV)

Morgan also points out that the activities of the eagles represent the activities of God in His government. "As an eagle that stirreth up her nest; that's disturbance... .



The life that is never disturbed by God is dying and withering and falling... . It may be that God is preparing that soul for larger vision, clearer seeing of the light and upward movement toward heights to which we have never mounted. As the eagle stirs up the nest, and will not allow the eaglets to settle into the lethargy of a sleep that follows feeding, so God stirs up the nest, takes away the loved one, brings into the midst of life the pain and shadow of suffering, contradicts our highest plans, hurls us out from the place where we love to be, makes us feel the sweeping of the storm, and so prevents the fatal lethargies that destroy." (Morgan, *The Westminster Pulpit*, p. 270)

For their first flight, eaglets are flung out of the nest. The father swoops beneath to catch them. They try and fail, but they never fall. This process is repeated until the eaglets fly on their own. Only by struggle can strength be gained. The purpose of God's disturbance is to make us strong in our faith. He is teaching us through the storms of life. God comforts us with His presence and has promised that He will not leave us or forsake us.



Above left: Joseph and his dog, Princess, on Christmas morning.



Above right: Christmas meal at the Jollies.

We stayed home during the Christmas holidays. Our son, Joseph, likes to spend his Christmas at home so for the last couple of years now we haven't gone to Moose Factory like we used to for the holidays. We don't mind having a quiet Christmas at all because it helps us to catch up with our rest. One of the things Sheila and I like to do is watch Christmas movies. On Christmas Day, we always make sure we have a good roast turkey meal with all the trimmings. Joseph usually gives me a Christmas list of what he wants so that makes it easier to shop for him. He was happy with the presents he got.

I went to Nemaska on January 14 – 18 to do counseling services for the Wellness Centre. As a Counselor, I come in contact with many Native people and I often get a chance to share spiritual truths with them. I find that in most cases the problems people face are related to spiritual issues. The last time I went to Nemaska, I prayed with a young man who wanted to recommit his life to Christ. He is separated from his wife and child on account of his drinking and was seeking help to overcome his addiction to alcohol. I had an opportunity to follow up on him when I went there. He had had a relapse and was still separated from his wife. I shared a message at the community church where there are a good number of believers. The Chief and his wife are both Christians and I have been in his office a few times to talk about spiritual matters. In fact, his son is married to my niece and I had the privilege of officiating at their wedding a few years ago.

I went to Moose Factory on January 23 – 28. While there, I did individual counseling for Mocreebec and preached three times at the Cree Gospel Chapel. I also spoke on the radio on Sunday morning. While I was there, I had a home visit with Stanley Louttit and his wife Sharon. Stan has stomach cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy treatments. I went to residential school with Stanley so he was very open talking to me about spiritual matters. After I shared the gospel with him, he got to the point and said, "That sounds simple enough. Let's go for it!" I had the joy and privilege to pray with him and his wife to receive Christ. Stan is the Grand Chief of the Muskegowuk Council. Remember him in your prayers for healing to take place in his body. Off and on, I have been sending them literature to help them in their Christian walk.

On January 29 – 30, I went to Montreal. I was asked by the CRA Justice and Correctional Services to visit Native inmates from the Cree communities at the Penitentiary in Cowansville, Quebec. This is a new door that has opened for me and I took advantage of it.

February was a quiet month for me and it was nice to spend time with my family. We decided to have a fellowship on February 15th with some of the people we know in the city. It was a special meal because we had a cake for Sheila who celebrated her birthday on February 11th. She was pleasantly surprised when we brought the cake out.

March was a busy month for me because I visited three Cree communities. I went to Nemaska for five days to do counseling services. The following week I went to Eastmain

to be part of a workshop related to suicide prevention. The week after that, I went to Waswanipi to do individual grief counseling. While I was there, I spoke



Waswanipi group who took in the grief workshop.

and Aboriginal self-government. I sensed that the Elders really appreciated the workshop and I look forward to going back there.

The months of April and May are generally quiet in the communities because of the spring goose break. Most of the offices and schools are closed so the people can go for their cultural break. This gave me an opportunity to work on our upcoming 18th Annual Native Christian Conference. I also blocked some time in April and May to edit Sheila's book. The title of her book is *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*. The subtitle is *How I Recovered from Multiple Losses*. We thank the Lord that the book is now complete on Sheila's part and hopefully it will be printed this summer.

When we are in the city, we always make ourselves available to help the Native people. We sometimes get calls from Native people living in the city who need help financially, or with counseling or special prayer for healing. I was in Ottawa on May 17th when I received an urgent call early in the morning from the General Hospital. We were saddened to hear that Elijah Harper had passed that morning and I went to the hospital right away to be with the family. Elijah Harper was a faithful Christian man who obeyed the Lord's voice. He will be greatly missed.



Above: Sheila's birthday cake at our fellowship meal.

Right: Fellowship meal in Ottawa.

Below: Friday afternoon hockey with pastors and Christian workers in Ottawa.



on the radio for a full hour. What an opportunity I had to share my whole testimony in Cree to a large listening audience. That was one of the highlights of my ministry during the month of March.

On April 8 – 10, I went to Ouje Bougoumou. I attended a meeting for the Sweat Lodge Working Group for one day. Then for the next two days, I did a workshop for the Elders Council. Some of the topics we covered during the workshop were assimilation, paternalism, colonialization, the indigenous principles, cross-cultural communications



What You Need to Know About Spiritual Warfare

There is a crisis in the Christian Church today — the vast majority of born again Christians do not have a biblical worldview. Very few Christians actually think like Jesus. They know the truth but do not live it.



Dr. Joseph Jolly

This goes against Romans 12:2, “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Max Anders writes, “Today we are in a unique position in

church history: we have a generation of Christians who believe the historically accepted orthodoxy while adopting lifestyles that deny the very truth they allegedly embrace. They sincerely believe one thing, but live another. The divorce rate among Christians is the same as among non-Christians. Alcoholism and sexual abuse are nearly as prevalent within the church as without. The “health and wealth” gospel commands a strong following; materialism is at an all-time high, while personal discipline is at an all-time low. All of this and more has caused the church to lose its credibility as a significant force in American life. Many regard Christianity as an irrelevant belief because Christians don’t exhibit a way of life.” (Anders, Max. *What You Need to Know About Spiritual Warfare*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, p. 57)

The Bible is very clear that Christians are in an invisible spiritual war. We must understand spiritual warfare if we are to emerge spiritually victorious. It is important to know what can potentially be lost and who the enemy is in this war between good and bad, between righteousness and evil, between truth and falsehood.

“God’s purpose is to fill all of creation with His glory. So He works to advance righteousness, goodness, peace, love, and joy, and to call people to believe in Him and become citizens of heaven even while they live on earth.

Satan’s purpose is to spoil all of creation and to deny and oppose God’s glory however he can, so Satan advances sin, evil, hatred, and despair, and seeks to prevent people from believing in God and becoming citizens of heaven. God’s strategy is to enlighten and save. Satan’s strategy is to deceive and destroy.” (Anders, *What You Need to Know About Spiritual Warfare*, p. 11)

The enemy is powerful but in Christ we have the victory. We are engaged in actual battle and have the resources to fight and win the battle. “*We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT)

What is the Source of Our Strength?

The source of our strength in the spiritual war is God alone. “*Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*” (Ephesians 6:10 NLT) When Paul instructs us to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power, he is telling us to depend on and be strengthened by the greatest power in the universe- the One who creates, sustains, and subdues all things. This is why it is essential for every believer to have a close walk with God. God’s power is given to every believer but it remains inactive in some people due to lack of knowledge.

Put on the armor of God and leave it on. “*Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.*” (Ephesians 6:11). The devil is very cunning and he will try to trick you. “*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*” (1 Peter 5:8)

We don’t have to be afraid of the enemy. “*The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*” (1 John 4:4)

The Weapons of Our Warfare

In spiritual warfare, we are meant to be more than conquerors. Our chief enemy, Satan, is powerful but in Christ we have the victory. *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7) We are called to battle and it is essential to put on every piece of God’s armor. If we have on the full armor of God, we will live a holy life dedicated to God.

The Belt of Truth: *“Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness.”* (Ephesians 6:14). When a soldier tightened his belt he was ready for combat. His belt held everything together. Without it, he would be powerless in battle. Truth performs this crucial function in spiritual warfare. It holds the spiritual armor in place. Jesus said to the people who believed in him, *“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:31-32)

The Christian must tell the truth in word and deed, or else his character, the credibility of the gospel, and the reputation of God Himself are compromised. God’s truth is absolute, eternal and unending. The Bible is the Word of God and is absolute. It is the Word of God and without error.

The Body Armor of God’s Righteousness (Ephesians 6:14): The breastplate of righteousness gives a lifestyle of trusting obedience to God. We put on the breastplate of daily righteous living by being faithfully obedient to all we understand Christ is asking of us. When we become Christians we begin to desire to do good things and to avoid bad things – that’s the Holy Spirit working in us. To fool around with sin, to knowingly and willingly tolerate sin in our lives, breaches our defenses and makes us vulnerable in the spiritual battle.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: *“For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.”* (Ephesians 6:15) The shoes of the gospel of peace give us a trusting confidence in the promises of God and a sense of peace that such trust brings. This is the peace suggested by Ephesians 2:14, where it describes Jesus Himself as being our peace. This idea is reinforced when we read Jesus’ own words: *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* (John 14:27)

The peace of God in your heart, which comes by resting in His promises, helps you stand firm in spiritual battle. The Scriptures present two aspects of this peace:

1. First, it is *peace with God*. Romans 5:1, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Knowing we are saved gives joy and peace with God.
2. In addition to having peace with God, we also have *the peace of God*. Jesus told his disciples, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”* (John 14:27) He gives us His personal peace.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT)

The Shield of Faith: *“In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.”* (Ephesians 6:16) The shield of faith gives us a life of protection based on our faith in God’s character, Word and deeds. In spiritual warfare, the enemy of our soul launches his deadly missiles at us, and it is faith that protects us. Faith is our shield.

What is faith?

Faith is believing what God has said and committing ourselves to His Word. For example, God has said He will never leave us or forsake us. He has said that he will take care of our needs. So anytime we are believing something God has said, we are exercising faith. But faith goes beyond mere belief. In fact, faith is not faith until it exercises commitment. Do you believe in Jesus? That is intellectual faith and that is not enough. That is believing about Jesus. You must believe in Jesus. *Only when you have committed your life to Him and to the truth He taught, do you believe in Him.* That is faith. The shield of faith means that we are protected by the truth of Scripture and the power of God when we believe what God says and commit ourselves to it.

The Helmet of Salvation: *“Put on salvation as your helmet.”* (Ephesians 6:17a)

The helmet of salvation gives us hope that comes from focusing on our ultimate salvation. We cultivate an eternal perspective by viewing all temporal things in light of eternity. This hope of the future completion of the salvation now in progress is the helmet protecting us in daily spiritual battle. (Ephesians 1:13-14) Put on the helmet of the hope of salvation. Fix your mind, your hopes and your values on the world to come. The helmet will protect you from the deadly blows of the Enemy in this

Continued on page 19

EULOGY

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course and kept the faith”

2 Timothy 4:7

Ricky Edmond Small was born on March 15, 1963 and was called home to be with the Lord on October 25th, 2012.

He was the son of George and the late Clara Kapashesit and a brother to Doris (Rick), George (Mary), Glen (Judy), Daisy (Thomas), sister-in-law Kathy, Peter (Bernice), Greta (Mike), Douglas (Joyce), Wayne (Marlene), Betty-Ann (Leonard), Willard (Cecile), Willie (Marcella) and Bert Morrison. Rick was an uncle to many nieces and nephews, especially to nephew, Kennedy, who was his hunting buddy.

Rick was predeceased by his mother, Clara, brothers, Stewart and Roderick, sister, Freida, his uncle, Lawrence, niece, Len and his mother-in-law, Sophia Jolly.

Ricky was raised in a large loving family with a mother who taught him at an early age to sing hymns, while she also sang and played the guitar, and to love the Lord. He also attended Sunday School. This beginning would be the roots of his musical background and walk with the Lord during his life.

He was raised living the traditional lifestyle; his parents taught him hunting, fishing and trapping. This custom he carried on throughout his life. His mother had many nicknames for her children. She lovingly called Rick Miskie because he said he had muscles and was strong.

Rick met his best friend, Sarah, in February of 1983. When he asked her dad for Sarah's hand in marriage, Tommy's reply was "Do you have a



Above: Rick Small at the Cree Gospel Chapel in Moose Factory, ON.



Below: Rick at his spring goose camp.

house?" They got married on December 30, 1993. Three years later, Rick built his home for his family where they shared many memories to cherish. He would lovingly call his wife "love"; they were married for eighteen years. Together, they had one son, Ethan Rodney Phillip.

Rick was a loving husband

to Sarah and an inspirational dad to Ethan. He taught Ethan to play guitar and the two of them would often perform together at community events. He enjoyed life

to the fullest and taught his traditional values, such as hunting, fishing and outdoor camping, to his son. Another love he had was travelling with his family on vacations. He loved going to hunting and music stores with his son, Ethan. His favorite places to go were Vaughn Mills and Ottawa.

In September 1993, Rick began his walk and accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour. From that time on, he attended the Cree Gospel Chapel. Rick shared his love for gospel music at conferences in Waskaganish and Ottawa, as well as in Sudbury. He loved reading his Bible and ministering through his music with our community. He lived his life serving the Lord and kept the faith.

His favorite hobby was playing the guitar which he had learned to play at the age of seven. Rick also played as part of the “Smalls Band” and with other musicians of both communities. His mother heard him singing his first song, as part of the band, at the age of ten at the Miswaynikan Hall. His first song was “Down and Out” by the Beatles.

He began singing for the Lord in 1993 by recording CDs and tapes. His brothers joined him occasionally to make CDs for the community channel. His work and musical legacy will continue to live on through his son, Ethan, and family.

Rick pursued his education at Canadore College in North Bay where he completed a two year Maintenance program. Rick was a hard-working man who provided well for his family. He was previously employed at Moose Cree First Nation Public Works Department, MoCreebec Non-Profit Housing as Maintenance Facilities Manager and his last employer was with the Moose Cree Education Authority as Maintenance Facilities Manager.

Rick was a caring, humble and patient family man who will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by his wife, Sarah, son, Ethan, his dad, George, father-in-law, Thomas Jolly Sr., brothers and sisters, his many nephews and nieces and his extended families, the Jollys, his friends, co-workers and church family.

The day he left for Kingston, Rick shared with his brothers that he thought he was going to go and said “I saw Him standing there.”

In the last conversation that he had with his wife, Sarah, Rick mentioned that she should not blame God but look to the Lord and pray always. Now, he is with his Master. Jesus just took one more warrior home. We love you, Rick. Live forever, Rick.

Spiritual Warfare *continued from page 17*

world. The helmet of salvation is the assurance of salvation and the resulting confidence it brings.

The Sword of the Spirit: *“And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* (Ephesians 6:17b) The sword of the Spirit allows an offensive and defensive use of the Bible in spiritual warfare. The sword is used defensively by applying Scripture to every doubt, temptation, and discouragement that is hurled at us by Satan. The sword is used offensively to cause change, encouraging spiritual growth through evangelism, teaching, preaching and counseling.

All Scripture is inspired by God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Revelation means that God revealed His truth to the writers of the Scripture. Inspiration means that He worked through the process in such a way that that which He revealed was written down correctly.

The first and perhaps most important thing that can be said about the Bible, is that it clearly claims God as its author.

Take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. How do we do this?

1. First by reading it regularly. Make it a goal to read the Bible right through. Dr. Harry Ironside, a man of little formal education but great power, read the Bible fourteen times by the age of fourteen. His mark is still in Chicago and indeed the entire world. We begin to take up the sword by reading it.
2. Second, we take up the sword by meditating on it. This is the secret of God’s great warriors. Hudson Taylor, the founder of China Inland Mission, conquered immense hardships by daily meditation on God’s Word.
3. Third, the sword is grasped for effective battle through memorization. (Psalm 1:1-3)
4. Fourth, we become mighty with the sword by studying it.

Conclusion: Prayer is also important in spiritual warfare. *“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”* (Ephesians 6:18-20). In spiritual warfare, we make contact with our Commander through prayer. I trust this message has helped you in your Christian walk. If you know you don’t have God’s armour on — get right with God and put it on.

OBITUARY

Dr. Richard Twiss

June 11, 1954 – February 9, 2013

WASHINGTON, DC — Richard Leo Twiss, Tayoate Ob Najin “He Stands with his People,” passed from this life and into the next on February 9, 2013 in Washington, DC encircled by his wife, Katherine, and sons Andrew, Phillip, Ian and Daniel. Richard was 58.

Richard was born on the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota. Until age seven, Richard lived in Rosebud, a town of 600, on the reservation. In 1961, Richard’s mom moved the family from the reservation to Denver, then Klamath Falls and eventually to Silverton, Oregon where Richard attended the third to twelfth grades. Richard’s mom ensured that they made regular summer visits back home in order to stay connected with their family and culture.

After graduating from high school in 1972, Richard moved back to Rosebud to attend Sinte Gleska, “Spotted Tail” College. It was here that he became involved in the American Indian Movement. During this tumultuous time, Richard strengthened his connection with relatives, and deepened his appreciation for Lakota culture.

Richard wandered for a while, ending up on the island of Maui in Hawaii, where late one night, alone on a deserted beach, the Creator responded to Richard’s desperate prayer, making Himself known to him. From that night in 1974 until his passing, Richard was on a spiritual journey to live a meaningful life as a Lakota follower of the Jesus Way.

Richard met and fell in love with Katherine Kroshus of Vancouver, WA, wedding her in 1976. Richard’s proudest legacy is his four boys: Andrew (Diana), Phillip, Ian (Toni), Daniel and grandsons, Ezra and Leo.

In February 1997, Richard and Katherine founded the non-profit ministry of Wiconi International.

Through Wiconi, Richard and Katherine touched the lives of many thousands of people. In 2011, Richard

earned his doctorate in missiology from Asbury Theological Seminary. Until his passing, Richard continued his teaching career through the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (NAIITS) program, Portland State University, and other institutions of higher learning.



Above: Richard Twiss.

Right: Richard with his wife Katherine.



Richard authored a number of books, pamphlets, and articles over the years. His first book *One Church, Many Tribes*, reached many people with the message of an inculturated faith in Jesus.

In Lakota tradition, there is no word for goodbye. Instead, we say, “Toksa ake (We’ll see you again), son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend!”

(Excerpts from Richard Twiss Obituary)

Joseph Jolly, Jr. Jams Live with Buddy Guy and Johnny Lang at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Like most Native people back in the early fifties, my parents, George and Minnie Jolly, enjoyed listening to country music and always made sure they had a radio in the bush with them for that purpose.

They didn't play any musical instruments themselves but one of the best investments that my parents ever made was to purchase a guitar for our family while we were still growing up. My dad even went so far as to buy a violin. Today, all of my brothers and I play the guitar but none of us ever bothered to learn how to play the fiddle. However, our uncle Tommy on my dad's side played the fiddle and today his younger son, Leslie, is a very good fiddler and is often invited to play square dance music at weddings in the various Cree coastal communities of James Bay. It sounds comical today but as a young boy, I remember watching my dad trying to play the fiddle but it seemed too awkward for him. He was a big man with huge hands and so he had difficulty holding down the strings.

In my teenage years, I learned to play the guitar better and eventually started to sing country songs. When I was going with my wife, she was surprised to learn that I could play the guitar and sing. She thought I sounded like George Jones and today she still reminds me that I sound like him. For the past thirty two years, I have always included music as part of my ministry besides preaching the Word. In my travels to various Native communities across Canada, I have been asked to sing in church services, camp-meetings, gospel jamborees, conferences, weddings and social events. Like other preachers with a limited income, I made cassette tapes and CDs of my

singing to help cover some of the ministry expenses. I still play the guitar today and continue to sing. Music is a gift from God and it is an important part of worship next to the preaching of the Word of God. The Scriptures tell us plainly to sing to the Lord a new song and to praise God with different musical instruments. Not long ago, my son told me that singing is healthy for you because it brings up your immune system.

When our son, Joseph Seth, was born, one of my great aspirations was for him to play the guitar. When he was a toddler, I would buy him small guitars to play with to get him familiar with the instrument. Much to my disappointment, he didn't show that much interest in the guitar as he grew older. However, he did like music at a very young age and one of his favorite singers was

Elvis Presley. We would play Elvis' gospel albums for him to listen to and occupy his attention during our travels. It is no wonder that one of his favorite singers today is Elvis Presley. He says he likes his voice because it is versatile and his music is not boring.

As Joseph was quickly approaching adolescence, he still showed very little interest in playing the guitar. I knew that I had to do something

to put the beat in him so I bought a CD of the greatest hits by the Creedence Clearwater Revival. Right away, he liked their music and started listening to them over and over again. Today, John Fogerty is another one of his favorite singers and Joseph and I have always made it a point to see a live performance by him when possible. When we were in Winnipeg in September 2013, we went to his concert at the MTS Centre. CCR's music was



Dr. Joseph Jolly and his wife, Sheila, pose with their son Joseph Seth.



Baby Joseph Seth playing with his toy guitar.

Continued on page 22



a big inspiration for Joseph but later on he started listening to different rock groups. For some reason, he preferred to listen to the classic rock n' roll groups like the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. He likes the fact that they played their own music and did not rely on the computer to record albums like the musicians do today. He says their music sounds more authentic.

One of my special memories of Joseph while he was growing up happened when he was three years old and I took him to a music store at the St. Laurent Mall in Ottawa to see if they had any small guitars for him. There happened to be a small guitar in the store and I let him hold it while I looked around. He sat down quietly on a small amplifier which he used as a chair and held on to the guitar. When it was time to go, he didn't want to let it go and just kept saying, "Mine!" I tried to take it away from him but he kept repeating, "Mine!" The owner was smiling hard because it was kind of comical to watch and he also knew that he had a sale. I ended up buying the small guitar even though I knew he could not play it yet. Now it is only a souvenir in my office with a good story behind it. When I think about it, one of the best things I did was to buy Joseph a small Yamaha guitar so it would be easier for him to play. The miniature guitar

has a good sound and I still play it today while watching TV in our bedroom.

One of the ways that I tried to get Joseph interested in playing the guitar was by purposely putting a guitar in different rooms like my office, the bedrooms and the living room. Anywhere he went in our home to relax, he could pick up a guitar and play it. I didn't mind that myself because it also helped me to keep on playing the guitar.

When Joseph was about ten years old his aunt Diane from Moose Factory gave him an electric guitar and a small amplifier for Christmas. I set it all up for him on Christmas

Day and got it all tuned up so he could play it with his other toys. Just to test the sound on the guitar, I played "Wipeout" by The Ventures and right away he asked me to play it again. I showed him how to play it in a very simple way and soon he was playing it over and over again. Then later on he wanted to learn the instrumental solo on CCR's "Down on the Corner." Next, he asked me to teach him how to play "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" by the Stones. After that, I showed him how to play "Paint It Black." He learned how to play these

tunes but eventually he learned to play them much better than the way that I had taught him. I was glad he was showing more interest in playing the guitar but I knew not to push him. He loves playing the guitar today and I am happy knowing that it was his own choice.

As his guitar playing got better, I noticed that he began listening to the blues more often. In the van, he would play music by Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughn. We went to a few concerts where Eric Clapton, B.B. King and Buddy Guy performed. I had never listened to the blues before so Joseph was teaching me a lot of it through his reading. In the van, he would play a song and ask me, "Who do you think is singing this song?" He seemed surprised when I would sometimes tell him correctly who the singer was. Gradually, I began to pick out the sound and guitar style of the blues singers and that's how I began to get the right answers. As parents, I think it's important for us to show interest in what our children like.

I asked Joseph why he likes the blues. His reply was that he likes the blues because he can feel the music and because they play more solos. It is interesting to know that the best guitar players in the world like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and B.B. King play the blues. These guys love their guitars and sometimes give them pet names. B.B. King calls his custom Gibson guitar *Lucille*. Joseph has



Clockwise from top: Joseph jamming with Buddy Guy and Johnny Lang at the MTS Centre in Winnipeg, MB.

Joseph in Buddy Guy's office.

Joseph shows the T-shirt he wore when he was jamming with Buddy Guy and Johnny Lang.



a favorite Stratocaster fender guitar which he named *Minnie Grace* after my late mom.

As Joseph started to get really interested in playing the guitar it became more costly to go to the music store. He wanted to buy more expensive guitars and soon he had a good selection of various models. I had a hard time saying no to him because he was born late in our marriage and I wanted him to be happy in what he was doing. I was able to afford each guitar because I used a lay-away plan and made monthly installment payments. I always told him that I would only buy the guitar if he promised to do well in school. I didn't mind buying the guitars for him because I love him very much and I also knew that he would play them. Sometimes, he would sell a guitar or exchange it to buy a different model.

Joseph took guitar lessons when he was about ten years old but he soon quit going to his sessions because he felt that he could learn faster on his own. He learned to play the guitar by watching the guitarists performing on YouTube. He would close the door in his room and spend many hours in solitude playing his guitar with the computer in front of him. I believe that one of the reasons why Joseph has excelled in his ability to play the guitar is because it is a gift and a God-given talent.

When Joseph was a little boy, he loved watching animated movies of Superman, Batman and Spiderman. He would buy costumes of his super heroes and dress up like them. His favourite hero for a long time was Superman. My wife and I would go to the St. Laurent Mall in Ottawa with him and he would always wear a Superman costume. One time, he was dressed up like Spiderman which got a lot of attention from the shoppers. He had his picture taken with Santa Claus when he was dressed up like Batman. Since he was a little boy, it seems that it has always been in him to be an entertainer!

Joseph entered a guitar competition at Redeemer Christian High School where he attends. He won the contest which qualified him to represent his school at the main guitar competition at the BGEAC's (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada) Rock the River event in Ottawa on September 29th. He played in front of a large audience and he seemed a little nervous. He didn't want to let down his fellow students who were rooting for him.

However, he had the confidence to play in front of so many people. He was very happy when he won the main guitar competition.

Joseph and I went to Chicago on August 26 – 29 with the goal of meeting Buddy Guy in person while he was signing his new book at a library in the city. This was Joseph's own idea as part of his summer vacation. While in Chicago, we went to Buddy's club called "Buddy Guy's Legends." Buddy's daughter, Charlotte, who manages the club was very friendly and helpful to us. She gave us a tour of the club and even showed us her dad's office. She told Joseph the time

when her dad would be at the club the next day – 5:00 pm – so we made it a point to be there and meet Buddy Guy in person. Sure enough, he was there and you should have seen Joseph Seth smile. I have never seen him so happy. It was very gratifying for me as a parent to see that.

Joseph had a golden opportunity to talk to Buddy Guy and show him a video tape he made of himself playing the guitar. Buddy Guy was impressed and told him it was pretty good. Then he told Joseph that the next time he came to one of his shows he would let him jam with him on stage during his show. Since the meeting with Buddy Guy, he made plans to go to Winnipeg on September 21st and jam on stage with him. Since Buddy Guy is one of

the best guitarists in the world and is recognized as a living legend and an icon in blues music, I thought Joseph might be nervous. Joseph seemed confident he could play with him and wasn't worried about it. He kept telling me he was ready and knew what to do on stage when the time came.

It was a dream fulfilled for Joseph to play on the same stage with his hero, Buddy Guy. He worked hard to get this far and it paid off when he got his chance. After his performance with Buddy Guy, he kept saying, "Man, this is awesome! I can't wait to do it again!" It took a while for him to unwind and go to sleep after the concert because he was so hyper and excited by everything that had happened that night. He was on cloud nine which was nice to see. For a few years now, Joseph has told us that his goal in life is to be a full-time musician. I was encouraged when he told me that he sings too and has written a few songs. My wife and I can see that he has been given a special gift from God to play the guitar and we know he is going to go far with it.

Submitted by Dr. Joseph Jolly



Joseph Seth won the guitar competition at the BGEAC Rock the River event in Ottawa.

