

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013–14

December, 2013 was quite busy for me as I had a couple of engagements and meetings in Gatineau and Ottawa. I attended the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly on December 10–11, 2013 in Gatineau, Quebec as Proxy for the Mocreebec Council of the Cree Nation. Then on December 12, I was invited by the CRA Justice and Correctional Services to partake in a dialogue with their graduates at St Paul's University

On December 16–20, I went to Mississauga to do counseling services for the Social Development Program. I was invited to go there because some of the people who recently lost loved ones were finding it difficult to cope with their grief during the Christmas season. There are many Christians in Mississauga so most of the people I talked to have a Christian background which made it easier to

share words of comfort with them. My schedule was full the whole time I was there. Over the years, I have talked to hundreds of people who have gone through grief or are struggling with some psychological issues. As a counselor, it is a blessing for me to know that God's Word is a book that deals with such matters. The Bible has much to say about anger, anxiety, depression, forgiveness and the like. As a biblical counselor,

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Left: AFN meeting in Gatineau, Quebec with one of Chiefs from British Columbia

Below: CRA guests at the graduating ceremony in Saint Paul University

in Ottawa. Sheila and I attended their graduation banquet afterwards. The next day, Sheila and I went to the Christmas banquet for the Board of Compensation. It was nice to see so many Native people from the various Cree communities at these special functions and events. Sheila was happy that we had an opportunity to go to two Christmas banquets. They were one of the highlights of our Christmas celebrations.



On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013–14 *continued*

I am very much aware that the root of the problem is sin. When people are struggling with sexual sin, I always encourage them to get their lives right with God. I am encouraged when I meet people with whom I have counseled in the past and see them walking with the Lord today. Sometimes they will come up to me and say they became Christians. PTL!

Sheila had a book launch at Salem Storehouse just before Christmas. (Both of our books are available at the Salem Storehouse.) There were a lot of Native people in the store at that time and many of them bought her book. The Salem Storehouse employees told Sheila that she set a record for the most books sold by an author at one of these book signing events. Sheila's book has been getting a good response in the Cree communities as well. Some of the Cree First Nations that have purchased large volumes of her book include Mocrebec, Waskaganish, Mistissini, Oujé-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Nemaska, Eastmain, Wemindji and Washaw Sibi. Many non-Native people have also purchased her book. I take copies of it wherever I am asked to share. I sold quite a number of them when I preached at a Baptist Church in Cornwall.

A few years ago, we started a family tradition of spending the Christmas holidays at home in Ottawa. Our son, Joseph, likes staying home for Christmas and that's important to us. Staying in Ottawa over the holidays made it possible for us to attend the Christmas and New Year worship services at the Metropolitan Bible Church. Sheila and I both understand that to worship Jesus Christ in remembrance of His birth makes Christmas that much more meaningful. I used my chef skills to give Sheila a much needed rest by cooking the turkey with all the trimmings for our Christmas family meal. Our son, Joseph, got everything he wrote down on his Christmas wish list so he was quite excited about that. He always gives me a list of the things he would like and that makes it easy to shop for him. The year before he said that Christmas was the best one ever and that made us feel good knowing that he was content and enjoying himself. One of the relaxing ways that Sheila and I like to celebrate Christmas is by watching Christmas movies on TV.

Sheila's book launching at the Salem Storehouse in Ottawa. Both our books are available in the store.

We also buy our own Christmas movies, which is better to watch without all the commercials.

This past year, we made contact with Sidney Georgekish Watt and his wife, Nora, who are living in Kanata. Sidney is from my home reserve, Waskaganish, and I know his family members and close relatives. Sidney is the adopted son of the late Maud Watt whose husband, James Watt, was the manager of the Hudson's Bay Company store in Waskaganish back in the 1920s and 30s. They are well known for the key role they played in starting the Beaver Reserve in Waskaganish in 1931. I am working on a book project that will focus on the history of Waskaganish and Sidney has given me some valuable old pictures of Waskaganish (some of which are over sixty years old) which I will use for the book. These additions to the book will definitely enhance the project. Sidney and his wife invited us for a meal in their home on December 28. They came to one of our fellowship meals and to our NGM Conference last year.

I prepared a Christmas message but I didn't get to preach it until the last Sunday in December when I was

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19th Annual Native Christian Conference

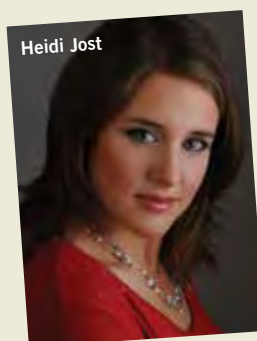
July 4 to 6, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario

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



Keynote Speaker Dr. Emerson Falls

CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:



Metropolitan Bible Church
2176 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Conference Schedule
Friday, July 4 @ 6 p.m.
Saturday, July 5 @ 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 6 @ 6 p.m.

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

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www.nativegospelministries.org

2013 NGM Conference

The 18th Annual Native Christian Conference took place on August 28–30, 2013 at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa. The Met's new church building facilities are well-suited to the size of our Conference. The theatre with its soft and comfortable cushioned seats is excellent for our services which can go on for as much as three and half hours. No one seems to mind the length of the sessions because they really enjoy listening to the various testimonies, special music and the preaching of the Word.

The attendance this year was higher than last year. The regular attendees were there and, as happens every year, there were some new people who came. There were Native people at the Conference from Ontario, Quebec, and all the way from Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. My two younger brothers, Harry and Abraham, were there, which was a blessing as it always is to see family members. The



Clockwise from far left: Conference guests

Claudette Shecapio-Blacksmith Esdelle

Harry Jolly

Norma Wager and Darlene Paddy from Curve Lake, ON



people appreciate Harry's presence at the Conference because he makes everybody laugh with his good sense of humour.

Our keynote speaker this year was Pastor Jerry Quequish from Round Lake, Ontario. He shared four messages from Isaiah 40 which were very encouraging. Before the message, Jerry and his friend Dan Chikane shared a couple of songs. The fact that they have been singing together for





**Left: Pastor
Jerry Quequish**

**Below: NGM Board
member Richard Peltier
from Wikwemikong, ON**

**Below right: Milly
and Kene Jackson**

**Bottom right:
Scott Towaij**



many years was evident in the excellent way that they harmonize with each other. We were glad that Jerry was accompanied by his wife, Edna, and that Dan also brought his wife, Angela. We rented a car for them so they could have transportation to get around in the city. They all stayed an extra day so they could enjoy the celebration of Canada Day in the nation's capital city.

For special music, we had Kenny and Milly Jackson, Claudette Shecapio Blacksmith Esdelle and Scott Towaij. They all did a wonderful job and their music really blessed the hearts of the people. We had the whole evening service at the Metropolitan Bible Church on Sunday. We asked all the musicians we invited to share one song each before Jerry gave the message. The highlight of the evening service for me and Sheila was to see our son, Joseph, playing an instrumental solo with his guitar. He played "Amazing Grace" in a way that most people never heard before. Many people at the Met told me afterwards that they were really blessed by the whole service.

We had our fellowship meal on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. It was an excellent meal and it was nice to see so many people volunteer willingly to help in the kitchen. Once again, Richard and Miriam Williams worked hard in the kitchen to make sure the meal would be a success. One of the main course meals was moose stew with dumplings. One of the Native women from Waskaganish cooked it the traditional way and it brought back some good memories of my late mother's cooking.

As always, the Conference was free of charge. We rely upon goodwill offerings and donations to cover the costs of the Conference. This year the total expenses for the Conference came to about \$15,000. We praise God that we were able to cover all those expenses through the freewill offerings and donations that came in through our office. It is always a miracle to see how God provides for each Conference and we want to thank you for your part.





Dr. Joseph Jolly

One of my favourite songs is Heaven's Sounding Sweeter All the Time by Jimmy Swaggart. These days I find myself thinking a lot about heaven. I look forward to going to heaven someday to see my Saviour, Jesus, and all my loved ones. I think about heaven all the time and I look forward to seeing my heavenly home.

Throughout the history of the church, God's people have rightly been preoccupied with heaven. They have longed for its joys because they have been only loosely tied to this earth. "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth... But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11:13, 16 ESV)

The New Heaven

The Bible makes it clear that believers are to focus on heaven. Our citizenship is in heaven and we need to "set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (*Colossians 3:2 ESV*). Unfamiliarity with heaven makes a dull and worldly Christian.

What is heaven?

The Bible refers to three heavens in *2 Corinthians 12:2*. In *The Glory of Heaven*, John MacArthur explains the three heavens this way:

- The closest heavenly realm to us, of course, is the *atmospheric heavens*. This is the sky, or the atmosphere—the region of breathable atmosphere that blankets the earth. *Psalms 147:8* says that God "covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth." That is the first heaven.
- The *planetary heavens*, the second heavenly realm, is where the stars, the moon, and the planets are. "And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth." (*Genesis 1:16-17*)
- The third heaven, the one Paul speaks of in *2 Corinthians 12*, is the *heaven where God dwells* with his holy angels and those saints who have died. This heaven is eternal. It is the realm where God dwelt before time began—a dimension outside our universe. In *Deuteronomy 26:15*, the Lord himself instructs the Israelites to address him in prayer with these words: "Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven." So this heaven is uniquely the realm of God.¹

Heaven is a real place where people with physical bodies will dwell in God's presence for all eternity; and it is also a realm that surpasses our finite concept of what a place is. Heaven is an actual place, not a state of spiritual consciousness. Though heaven is far beyond the created world in another dimension, when believers die they will be there immediately. Those believers alive at the rapture will also be transported to heaven immediately.

What will our bodies be like in heaven?

Our resurrection bodies are our earthly bodies, glorified. Christ's resurrection body was the same body as before, not a whole new one. After he arose, the tomb was empty. The body itself was resurrected—the very same body, but in a glorified state. The wounds from his crucifixion were still visible (*John 20:27*). He could be touched and handled. He looked human in every regard. He ate real, earthly food with his friends on another occasion. Yet his body also had otherworldly properties. He could pass through solid walls (*John 20:19*). He could appear in different forms so his identity was not immediately obvious (*Mark 16:12*). He could suddenly appear out of nowhere (*Luke 24:36*). And he could ascend directly into heaven in bodily form, with no adverse effect as he

and the New Earth

went through the atmosphere (*Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9*). Our bodies will be exactly like that. They will be real, physical, genuinely human bodies—the very same bodies we have while on this earth—yet wholly perfected and glorified.

The doctrine of bodily resurrection is absolutely essential to the Christian message and is perhaps better understood using the following analogy. When a seed is planted, the seed dies. The process of fermentation and decomposition is what triggers the new life. Similarly, the bodies of believers will die, be placed in a grave and then be raised, just as a seed dies and produces a new plant that is far more glorious than the seed.

Also the seed contains the pattern for the plant that grows. All the genetic code for an entire oak tree is contained inside the acorn. Likewise our resurrection bodies will bear a resemblance to the body that is buried—but with a far greater glory. We will be ourselves, only perfect. And the decomposition of the earthly will only facilitate the remaking of a glorified resurrection body—with none of the flaws of the old, but with all that is necessary for a perfect existence in heaven.²

In heaven we will have real bodies that are permanently and eternally perfect. You will never look in a mirror and notice wrinkles or a receding hairline. You will never have a day of sickness. You won't be susceptible to injury, or disease, or allergies. There will be none of those things in heaven. There will only be absolute, imperishable perfection.

We will no doubt have otherworldly abilities in heaven. Remember that the heavenly city is fifteen hundred miles high. Don't think you'll be waiting for elevators to get you to the top. You'll no doubt have the ability to take flight—or if you desire, simply be transported in an instant—in the same way that Christ's resurrection body could seemingly disappear and reappear in another place at will.

So the best picture of what we'll be like in heaven is the resurrected body of Jesus Christ. We will have a body fit for the full life of God to indwell and express itself forever. We'll be able to eat but won't need to. We will have bodies that can move at will through space and matter. Our bodies will be ageless and incorruptible; we will know nothing of pain, tears, sorrow, sickness, or death.³

Our resurrection bodies will be brilliant in their splendor. Christ's glorified body is described as shining like the sun in its strength. (*Revelation 1:16*)

Where will we live with our resurrected bodies?

The Old Testament prophesied a massive renovation of heaven and earth that would eventually result in the saints' eternal dwelling place. *Psalms 102:25-26* pictures the Lord changing our universe as if it were a worn-out garment. "Of old you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away." (Interestingly, *Hebrews 1:10-12* quotes this passage, attributing the words of God the Father, who is speaking to the Son. This is one of the proofs of Jesus' eternal deity.)⁴

The new heavens and earth, like our newness in Christ, will be glorified, free from sin's curse, and eternal. Scripture doesn't tell us what the new earth will look like, but we have reason to believe that it will in many respects seem familiar. Jerusalem will be there—albeit an all-new Jerusalem. John's description in *Revelation* concentrates on the holy city, which has streets, and walls, and gates. John also mentions a high mountain, water, a stream, and trees. Best of all, it is populated with the people of God—real people whom we will know and with whom we will have eternal fellowship.⁵

The supreme glory and joy of heaven is the Person of God. "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you." (*Psalms 73:25 ESV*) The tabernacle of God is among men. This will be a manifestation of God's glorious presence to His people like no other in redemptive history and the culmination of all divine promise and human hope.

What will it be like to live in God's glorious presence in heaven?

The first change from our earthly life is that "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (*Revelation 21:4*) There will be no sadness, no disappointment and no more pain. There will be no tears over the death of loved ones

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The New Heaven *continued*

or tears for any other reason. There will no longer be any death. Grief and sorrow will not exist in heaven. I won't have to do grief counseling any more. Life in heaven will be unique because God will make all things new.

The Bible gives an interesting record of the dwelling places of God. First, God walked with man in the Garden of Eden. Then He dwelt with Israel in the tabernacle and later the temple. When Israel sinned, God had to depart from those dwellings. Later, Jesus Christ came to earth and "tabernacled" among us (*John 1:14*). "Today, His glory dwells in believers and in His church. For all eternity, the glory of God will be seen in his holy city. It is the only light the city will need."⁶

We shall dwell in God's presence and enjoy Him forever. There will be no temple, since the entire city will be indwelt by God's presence. The sun and moon will be absent since the Lord is the light of the city, and there will never be any night. And there shall be no more curse. Satan will be consigned to hell; all of creation will be made new; and the curse of sin will be gone forever. We will see the water of life and the tree of life.

In the absence of sin, suffering, sorrow, or pain, we will know perfect pleasure. In *Psalms 16:11*, the psalmist addresses God, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

We will also have perfect knowledge. Paul writes, "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." (*1 Corinthians 13:12*) We will not be omniscient like God but our knowledge will be as complete as we could ever desire. We will have no more unanswered questions, no confusion, no ignorance, and no more need to walk by faith rather than by sight.

We will have perfect comfort. We will never experience an uncomfortable moment ever again. We will finally know perfect love and perfect joy. Perfect fellowship with God is the very essence of heaven.

In heaven we will actually see the Lord face-to-face. The redeemed will be able to see God. "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." (*Revelation 22:3-4 ESV*) In heaven, since we will be free from sin, we will see God's glory unveiled and in its fullness.

What an awesome wonderful place heaven will be. *Seems like lately it's always on my mind. Someday, I'll leave this world behind. Heaven's sounding sweeter all the time.*

1 John MacArthur, *The Glory of Heaven*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 1996, 2013), 74.

2 Ibid., 143.

3 Ibid., 144-5.

4 Ibid., 104.

5 Ibid., 108.

6 Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Victorious*, Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1988), 148.





Above: Sheila and Joseph Seth on Christmas Day
Right: Sidney Georgekish Watt and his wife Nora

invited to speak at the Calvary Baptist Church on December 29. This is one of the churches that prays and financially supports our ministry.

I was invited by the Nemaska Community to do one-on-one counseling for the dates January 13–17. I counseled a number of people while I was there and spoke at their mid-week Bible study. I had no plans to take part in their church business meeting but it turned out that I was able to attend it. That may be the real reason why I went to Nemaska at that time. There is dissension among some of the members over their affiliation with the PAOC. At the meeting, I tried my best to help the believers to look at and carefully examine their church constitution. I used to be a troubleshooter for the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Inc. and I could see that most of the problems in the church could be easily resolved if they would enforce and abide by their church constitution and by-laws. Pastor Malcolm Tanoush and his wife, Doris, were very grateful that I came and they said the information they received definitely helped them to feel more confident about how to deal with the situation. NGM is a parachurch organization and one of our ministries is to help the local churches. Since then I have made it a point to remember to pray for their church on a daily basis.

After my visit to Nemaska, I was invited to go to Mistissini on January 27–31 by the Social Development

program. They were receiving a number of calls at their office from people who were requesting to talk to somebody. I always look forward to going to Mistissini because I get many opportunities to talk to people. Some of the people who come to see me for counseling want to talk about spiritual things. While I was there, I prayed with a man to accept the Lord and I also prayed with a couple to have assurance of salvation. One young man I prayed with last summer came just to talk and let me know that he is still walking with the Lord. He has received some good follow-up by some of his cousins in Mistissini who have been Christians for a long time. I saw his father at the

Metropolitan Bible Church

a few weeks ago and he shook my hand and thanked me for talking to his son.



On February 13–15, I went to Val-d'Or to do a wedding for Angela Moar and George Loon who were married on Valentine's Day. I was so encouraged and blessed to do their wedding because

they planned it for over a year. It was wonderful to finally see their wedding day a reality. I've done a number of weddings over the years in my ministry but it has been awhile since I saw a man so happy to get married. George made sure the preacher was well taken care of. He paid for my airfare from Ottawa to Val-d'Or plus he covered all my meals and accommodation. Angela is from Waskaganish and George is from Mistissini. At the wedding, I got a chance to visit with guests from the communities of Waskaganish, Mistissini and Wawanipi.

After the wedding, I went to Waskaganish to do grief counseling for the students at the Wiinibekuu School. I was in Waskaganish from February 18–23. While I was there, I preached twice at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship. On Sunday afternoon of the 23rd, I flew to Chibougamau and from there went to Mistissini. I was there for the Social Development program until the 28th. Altogether, I was away from home for 11 days. This was a long trip for me.

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On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013–14 *continued*

Our son, Joseph, is a musician and one of his favourite artists is Billy Joel. He managed to get two tickets for his concert in Toronto on March 9 and he was looking forward to going there. We made definite plans to take the VIA train from Ottawa to Toronto but it fell through due to the political protest by the Mohawk First Nation. They set up a blockade in Marysville so we ended up driving to Toronto which is about a five-hour drive. We stayed two nights at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, which is close to the Air Canada Centre where Billy Joel had his concert. I am not really into that kind of music but I was quite impressed by Billy Joel's performance with all the lights and special effects. To see other well-known artists perform is very educational for Joseph as he has plans to become a full-time musician. Our trip to Toronto was very meaningful to me personally because it gave me a chance to spend time with my precious son. I never get tired of his company.



Above: Nemaska Community Church

Left and below: Angela and George Loon with Dr. Jolly; holding the triplets from Mistissini

On our way back to Ottawa, we stopped to visit my brother, Harry, and his family in Tyendinaga Reserve in Deseronto, Ontario. He works at the Sunoco restaurant which is a good place to eat. (Bobby Hull used to have a ranch in Belleville and he would sometimes go there for breakfast.) Harry and his wife, Frances, had their grandson, Jayden, with them. He looks like a Jolly alright. My brother, Allan, calls him a Creehawk because he is half Cree and half Mohawk. Harry is looking forward to the Conference in July.

The day before we went on our trip to Toronto I received a call from Social Development in Mistissini to counsel a man who was suicidal. I counseled him again

three days later, the day after we got back from our trip. The good news is that he is doing much better today. During the same week, I received another call from Social Development to talk to a woman who was suicidal. Whenever I counsel a woman, I always get Sheila to help me. They went out to a restaurant so



they could talk freely in a relaxed setting. Both of the people I counseled had at one time made a profession of faith so we talked about spiritual matters during our sessions.

On March 16, I spoke at the Israel's Hope Bible Church. I rarely turn down a speaking engagement because I love preaching the Word of God.

On March 17–21, I was invited by the CRA Justice and Correctional Services to do one-on-one counseling with the Cree inmates at the Correctional Institution in Amos, Quebec. They booked me at the Quality Inn in Val-d'Or and I had to drive back and forth to Amos everyday by car, which is about 36 miles one way. During the three days I was at the Correctional Institution, I had an opportunity to visit and talk to fourteen young men altogether. The inmates I talked to were from Chisasibi, Mistissini, Nemaska, Wemindji, Waskaganish and Oujé-Bougoumou. I spent good quality time with each of the counselees and some of them were very open to talk about spiritual things. I was encouraged to hear most of them say that they read the Bible and talk to God in prayer while they are there. Some of them told me they get a pastoral visit once a week from a nearby evangelical pastor. Most of the young men I counseled knew who I was because I counseled them before in their respective communities. This was the second time I went to the Amos Correctional Institution in the past couple of years and I thank God for this open door. The CRA Justice and Correctional Services purchased several copies of my grief book and also Sheila's book which they make available as resource material for the inmates.

On March 23, I spoke at the Israel's Hope Bible Church. I preached a message on the prophet Elijah and his showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. I preached this same message at the Pentecostal church in Waskaganish early in the New Year. When I got to the part where Elijah prayed and the fire came down from heaven, the congregation surprised me when they applauded loudly and shouted "Amen!" They were waiting for me to get to the climax of the story. It was wonderful to experience that moment as a preacher.

In the afternoon of the 23rd at 2:00 p.m., I dedicated the baby of Paul and Paula Iserhoff in Barrhaven. I was surprised to see so many people from Mistissini at the dedication service. It was good to see the grandparents,



Left: Emerson Whiskeychan is the grandson of the late Chief Robert Weistche and the well known Cree translator Annie Whiskeychan

Below: Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship. The WCGF was full on Sunday morning.



Matthew and Nellie Petawabano, and most of their family members at the dedication ceremony. We had communion together and then a feast for this special occasion.

On March 24–28, I was invited by the Wellness Centre in Oujé-Bougoumou to do individual counseling and a grief seminar for the elders. In the past couple of years, I have gone to Oujé-Bougoumou and taught the Elders Council on such topics as the role of elders, cross-cultural

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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

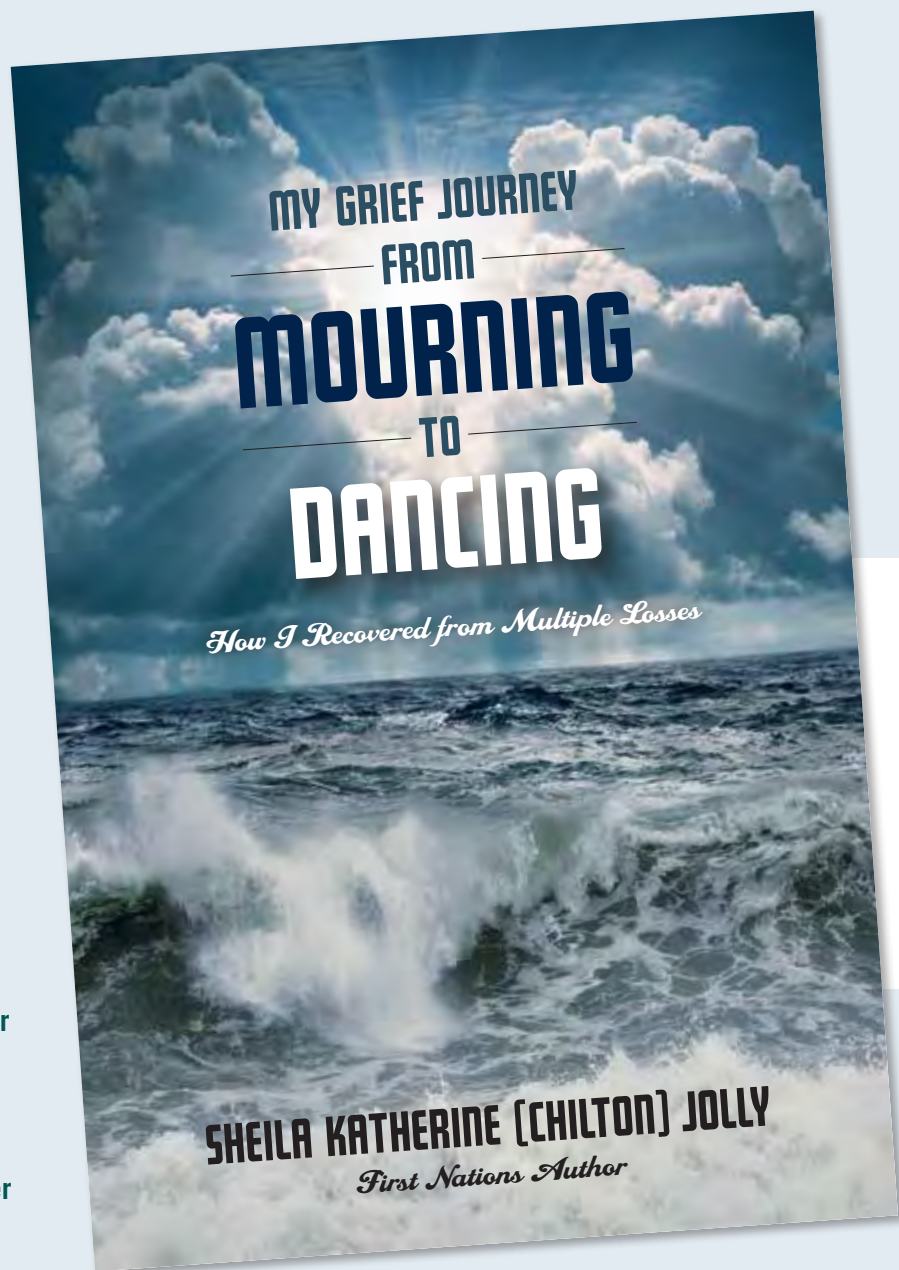
February 7, 2003, Sheila's younger sister, Daisy Mae Turcotte, died after a long battle with cancer. Two days later, her mother, Alice Chilton, passed away from ovarian cancer. She had also suffered with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years prior to her death. Ten months later, on December 19, 2003, 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



Sheila Katherine (Chilton) Jolly was born in Moose Factory, Ontario. She married Joseph Jolly on June 4th, 1971. They have one son, Joseph Seth, who was born on October 26th, 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 13th, 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 \$25, which includes 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 forty-two 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 thirty-three years in Native Ministries have given her a wide range of practical experience which is evident in this, her first book, *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*.



Sheila signed her book for former NHL player Laurie Boschman and his wife Andrea

2013 Annual NGM Native Christian Conference DVDs Now Available

You can now order a set of DVDs for the **2013 Annual NGM Native Christian Conference** in Ottawa. You will enjoy watching and listening to the special music by various musicians we invited, personal testimonies and the preaching of the Word of God by Pastor Jerry Quequish. We taped all the main sessions of the Conference and each DVD is about two hours in length. The set of DVDs have been produced by Mushkeg Media Inc. and I am sure you will receive a blessing and encouragement as you watch the DVDs on your TV or computer. To cover some of our expenses for making the DVDs, we have to charge \$30 for the whole package, which has four CDs. This is one way you can also support NGM's ministry and get something in return that will bless your heart.

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Above: Dr. Jolly and Jayden

Right: Paul and Paula Iserhoff and baby Josiah Terence Matthew

communications, indigenous principles, self-government and leadership. One of the topics I always had in mind to teach them about was the grieving process so I was particularly happy to get this invitation. I was glad that there was a good response for all the sessions and quite a number of the Elders came out. My late uncle, Walter Katapatuk, once told me, “When we have these workshops, I feel like we are going to school.” So now when I do a workshop for the Elders, I always picture it as being in a classroom setting. I learn a lot from the elders but some of the things I share are new to them. It is good to stretch their minds a little. It helps that I can teach these workshops in Cree. Most of the elders are Christians so we always end up talking about spiritual matters during the workshops.

The motel restaurant in Oujé-Bougoumou was being renovated so I had to stay at the Chibougamau Inn. I had to commute back and forth from Chibougamau to Oujé-Bougoumou every day. While I was in Oujé-Bougoumou, I saw my brother, Abraham, for a few days because he was attending meetings for the Commissioners of the Cree School Board in the Conference Room at the Band Office. They had lunch prepared every day and I was thankful they invited me to join them. I know all the Commissioners so I had a few moments to visit with each of them.

I spoke at the Israel’s Hope Bible Church on March 30. Their pastor, Ron Grossman, was away for a few Sundays in March so he asked me to substitute for him.

On April 4–5, I went to Mississauga, Ontario for the *New Paths: Canadian Baptist Indigenous Peoples Ministry Conference*. The meetings were held at Lorne Park Baptist Church. The Conference was a great success for those who organized it and there were quite a number of Native people in attendance. Dr. Terry LeBlanc, Executive Director for NAITs, and Chief Stan Beardy, Ontario Regional Chief, were two of the Native plenary speakers at the

Conference. Rick Martin, Gordon and Mary Jane Petawabano, Alec Wesley and Levi Beardy and his family were also at the Conference. I spoke twice during the workshops on the topic of grief. At the conference, I sold all the grief books I had on hand which was an answer to prayer.

Sheila went to Quebec City on April 10–12 to visit her niece, Debbie, who was recovering from major surgery. Sheila had not seen her for over 30 years and her visit with Debbie and her

husband, Tom, was very special and meaningful. It was a wonderful change and new experience for Sheila to travel by herself on the VIA rail and to stay alone in a nice motel.

On April 24 and 25, Sheila and I counseled a young married couple in Gatineau, Quebec. This young couple is from Mistissini and recently they have been going through marital problems. This is quite common in the various Cree communities because of the problems with alcohol and drugs. On June 4, Sheila and I will be celebrating our 43rd wedding anniversary so we have much to share about married life with younger married couples. I always encourage couples who are living common-law to get



married. Besides grief counseling, I also do quite a bit of marriage counseling in the communities.

Down the road, I can envision Sheila and myself doing marriage seminars together. In Bible College, I took some courses on marriage counseling which focused on God's plan for the family. Today when I counsel couples, I always tell them how they can have harmony in the home. The key to have harmony in the home is to understand from a biblical perspective the role of the husband, the role of the wife and the role of the children. As a pastor, I did a series of messages on God's plan for the family. In my personal library, I have a number of books on building your marriage and raising children that I use as resource material. It helps as a counselor to have solid theological training because divorce is a topic that often arises. Christians have different views and maybe one of these days, I will write an article on divorce in the *NGM News Tracker*.



On April 27, I spoke at Israel's Hope Bible Church. The last two times I was there, I spoke on the miracles and ministry of Elijah. This time, I spoke on "King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard," which is one of my favourite messages. Years ago when I was pastoring the Prince Albert Native Christian Fellowship, I did a series of messages on all the miracles of Elijah and Elisha. As readers may have noticed, I have used some of the messages that I preached in the past as articles in the *NGM News Tracker*. I have kept all my messages and someday I hope to compile them together into two books. One of my goals in the future is to write Christian books.



Above: Dr. Terry LeBlanc, one of the plenary speakers

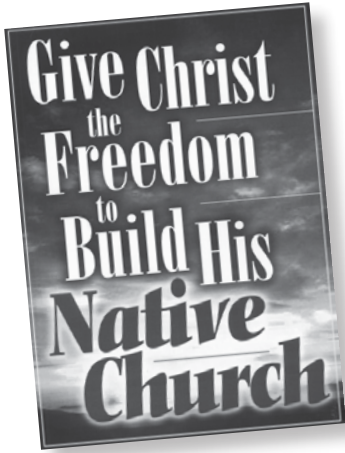
Above left: Elders in Oujé-Bougoumou

Left: Richie Gillingham, Levi Beardy, Dr. Joseph Jolly, Dr. Thomas Michael McDonald and Alec Wesley at the New Paths Conference in Mississauga, Ontario

DISSERTATION PROJECT:

Give Christ the Freedom to Build His Native Church

Give Christ the Freedom to Build His Native Church by Dr. Joseph Jolly is a review of cross-cultural principles that examines the strategies and methodologies of planting indigenous churches.



This dissertation is written, first of all, to provide a resource book for Native leaders, incumbent missionaries, and missionary candidates who are or will be working among the Native Indian people of Canada. It is also written to provide information to anyone who is interested in knowing more about Aboriginal people and their cultural values.

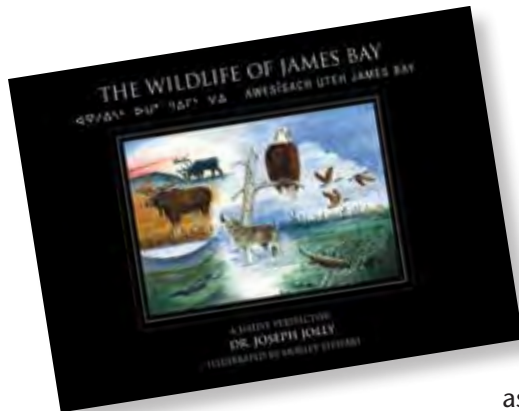
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GRIEF BOOK ON SALE

The author Joseph Jolly is Native, so the 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 sorrow and the hardships of life. The book informs the reader that people going through grief are affected emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually.

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