

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2016

During the months of May and June I spent most of my time in Ottawa. Things are usually slow in the Cree communities during April and May because of the cultural break for the students. Many of the Native people spend time with their families at their spring goose camps. This is the third year now I haven't gone goose hunting. I really miss being at the camp with my brother Allan and his son Michael and the Lord willing I am planning to go hunting this spring. One of the reasons why I haven't gone goose hunting is because it is quite expensive to drive down from Ottawa to Cochrane, take the train to Moosonee and then to fly to the camp by helicopter. My son Joseph Seth is always watching out for me and he thinks I am too old to drive to Cochrane by myself. He used to go hunting with me but as he grew older he lost interest.

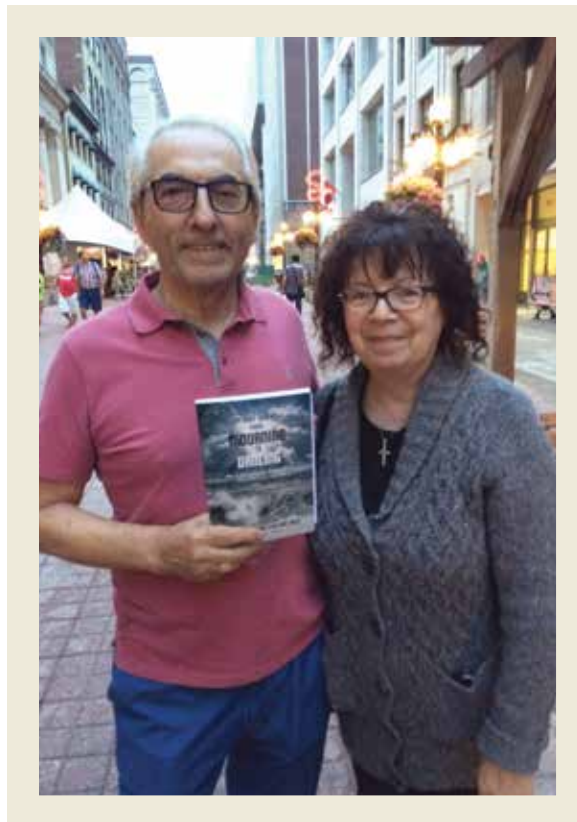
When I am not travelling to the Cree communities there is always work for me to do in the NGM office. For two weeks during the month of May I worked on our NGM News Tracker which takes some time to write. I wanted to mail it out to our friends and supporters before June to promote our July NGM Conference in Ottawa. The NGM News Tracker is a great tool for us to use in sharing

and giving an update of our ministry. When we are in Ottawa we have contact with the Native people we know in the city. With the extra time I had in May and June I spent



some time writing my book on "A History of Waskaganish." I hope to finish the book early in the New Year. The book will have some Christian content because the elders I interviewed are all believers. The profiles I did on the Chiefs lean toward Christianity because most of them were Christians. The book I am

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Top right: Rev. Huron Claus

Above: Sheila with former AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine. She gave him a copy of her book.

Right: My sister Alice and brother Harry came to the Conference. Harry has only missed one Conference.

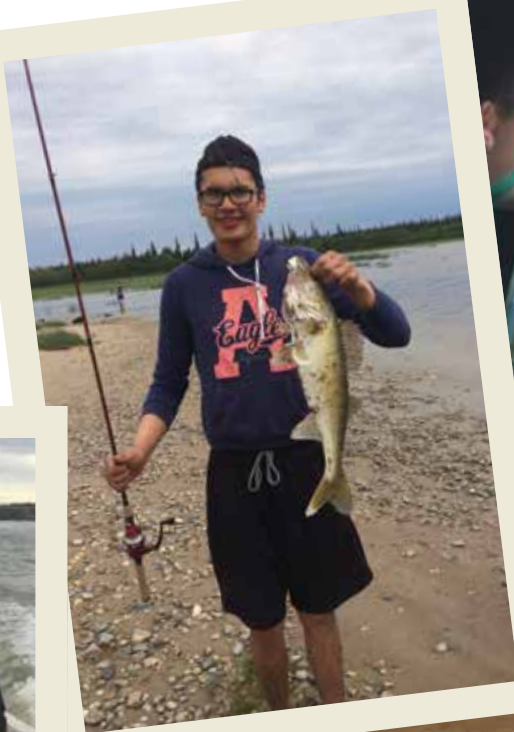


On the Go with Dr. Joe 2016 *continued*

writing is one of the best ways I can help my Cree people in Waskaganish. Pray for me to have the time to complete the book early in the New Year.

On July 8–10 we had our annual NGM Conference. We had a good attendance this year and everything went well beyond what we expected. Rev. Huron Claus did an excellent job as our keynote speaker and the music by the Jollys was great. One of the highlights of the Conference for the guests was the banquet meal that was prepared by the ladies from the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church. They did a superb job. I mentioned before that I felt this year's Conference was the most relaxing one I have ever coordinated. That is saying a lot because over the years I have coordinated about 35 annual Conferences. A week

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Clockwise from above:

Boat ride to MacLean's Camp.

This young camper caught a good size walleye.

Youth eating together in the dining room.

Young boy shows his skill on how to filet fish.

Elder Charlie Diamond setting a net with his grandson.

There was a good group of youth at the Bible camp.

22nd Annual Native Christian Conference

July 21 to 23, 2017, 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 is a graduate of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, earning Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. He has served as pastor of churches in California, Arizona and Oklahoma. He was the Director of Golden Gate Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus in Denver, Colorado. He also served as President of Cook College and Theological School in Tempe, Arizona.

In 2009 to 2011, Dr. Falls was elected as the first Native American to serve as President of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He currently serves as the Native American Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Dr. Falls is married to his wife Shirley. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

**CONFERENCE MUSIC
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Metropolitan Bible Church
2176 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Conference Schedule
Friday, July 21 @ 6 p.m.
Saturday, July 22 @ 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 23 @ 6 p.m.

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

Contact Dr. Joseph Jolly at:
613-739-0112

drijolly@sympatico.ca

www.nativegospelministries.org

21st Annual Native Christian Conference

We had our 21st Annual Native Christian Conference in Ottawa on July 8–10, 2016. All the sessions were in the theatre at the Metropolitan Bible Church. It helps that we have been using the theatre with its soft and comfortable cushioned seats because our services tend to go on for about three and half hours. No one seems to mind though because the people really enjoy listening to the various testimonies, special music and the preaching of the Word.

The attendance this year may have been slightly higher than our last Conference. We had most of our regulars but every year there are always some new people who come. It was nice to see a good group of Native people from Ottawa, Curve Lake and the Six Nations Reserve. Huron has relatives on the Six Nations Reserve located on the outskirts of Brantford and they came to the Conference.



Our keynote speaker this year was Rev. Huron Claus from Phoenix, Arizona. He was our speaker in 2011 and we invited him back because a number of people commented of how much they appreciated his preaching. Huron is a fifth generation follower of Jesus Christ. He comes from the Mohawk/Kiowa tribe of New York and Oklahoma. In the past the Claus Indian Family ministered through evangelism



Top: Rev. Huron Claus

Above: Joseph Seth Jolly and Dr. Joseph Jolly

Left: Harry Jolly



and music in Native communities and villages across North, Central and South America. Huron is President of the CHIEF organization which his late father Tom Claus founded. The CHIEF headquarters is in Phoenix. Years ago I invited the late Tom Claus to speak at our annual NEFC Conference in Caronport Saskatchewan and the people really appreciated his preaching of the Word. What I remembered the most about Tom Claus was that he a gifted Mohawk orator and could hold the attention of his audience. His love for God combined with his oratory skills

made him a good preacher. I noticed that Huron is an orator himself and has some of his father's traits in public speaking.

Rev. Huron Claus preached five times at the Conference. On Sunday morning he preached at the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church in Orleans, Ontario. The people there really appreciated his preaching of the Word. In the evening Huron preached in the theatre at the Metropolitan Bible Church for our closing service. It was encouraging to see quite a number of people from the Met at the evening service. We taped the Conference sessions so you can hear the messages that Huron preached at the Conference.



Above: Sheila K. Jolly



Top right: Group from Curve Lake, Ontario

Centre right: The Peltier girls from Wikwemikong Reserve

Bottom right: NGM Board Member Richard Peltier

There was a bit of miscommunication with the music group that we invited so they were not able to come. However, there is never a shortage of Native gospel singers so we invited Harry Jolly, Joseph Jolly, Jr. and Joe Sr. to provide the special music. Our son Joseph Seth is a gifted guitar player so he played lead in some of the songs I sang at the Conference. The music is soft compared to what he is used to playing. Joseph sang a song at the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church and he also sang one song during our closing evening service at the Met. There was a lot of music at the Conference because we always leave it open for anyone to share a testimony or a song during each session.

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before the Conference we received a generation donation of \$15,000, which helped to cover all the expenses of the Conference plus some administrative expenses that were outstanding. What a great blessing that was. We also had our NGM Board of Directors meeting during the Conference.

I was invited by the Waskaganish Pentecostal Church to speak at a youth camp they organized. The Bible camp was held at MacLean's Camp located on the mouth of the Nottaway River. I slept in a cabin for three nights but I was used to that from my fall wavy hunting trips out in the James Bay. There was a good group of young people at the camp and they seemed to be having a great time swimming and fishing. It was nice to eat fresh fish while I was there. Altogether I spoke four times to the youth group. I spoke on what Christians believe about the Trinity and God's plan of salvation. It was a little deep for some but I managed to hold their attention. I asked one of the young campers if he understood what I shared. He said he understood because he accepted Christ at a young age and always went to Sunday school and church. Both his parents are Christians. His grandparents are Charlie and Mary Diamond.



Above: I was privileged to be at the Grand Council of the Crees' Embassy to the Nation of Quebec.

Left: Shawn Coonishish and Nathalie Mettaweskum were married in Kanata, Ontario.

On July 26–28 I went to Drummondville, a city located east of Montreal, to visit a Cree young man who is doing time at the Drummondville Correctional Institution. I went to see him again on August 16–18. He says he accepted the Lord when he was young but had drifted away from the Lord. While in jail he had an experience with God and it sounds like he recommitted his life to God. I know his parents and during my visit with him we spent considerable time talking about spiritual matters.

I always enjoy doing weddings because Sheila and I get an opportunity to meet a lot of people we know from the Cree communities of James Bay. On August 12 I performed the wedding for Shawn Coonishish and Nathalie Mettaweskum in Kanata, Ontario. Shawn and Nathalie are originally from Nemaska, Quebec. Shawn is a policeman and is stationed in Chisasibi, Quebec.

On August 23–24 I went by VIA rail from Ottawa to Quebec City to meet with John Longchap from Mistissini. He is the Director General for the Cree Nation of Mistissini (CNM). We had our meeting at the Grand Council of the Crees' Embassy to the Nation of Quebec. The CNM Band asked me to help them in the development of a Scholarship Policy for the Cree Nation of Mistissini. It was a privilege for me to be at the Cree Embassy for the first time.

During the last week in August I went to Mistissini to do counseling services for the Cree Health Board.

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21st Annual Native Christian Conference *continued*



We had our fellowship meal on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. The ladies from the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church prepared an excellent meal for the Conference guests. It was like a going to a Christmas banquet because we had roast turkey and ham plus all the trimmings. The ladies and the men volunteers from their church did a superb job. The fellowship meal was one of the highlights of the Conference.

The Conference, as always, was free of charge. We rely upon the goodwill offerings and donations to cover the cost 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 the expenses a week before the Conference started. Our NGM office received a generous gift of \$15,000 towards the Conference for which we are most grateful. The gift

of \$15,000 we received helped to cover all the outstanding costs for the administration NGM. It is always a special blessing to see how God provides for each Conference and we want to thank you for your part.



Top left: Group from Ottawa, Ontario
Top right: Group from Moose Factory, Ontario

Clockwise from above right:

Serving the meal

Kitchen cooks and helpers preparing the meal for the Conference guests.

Fellowship meal in the gym

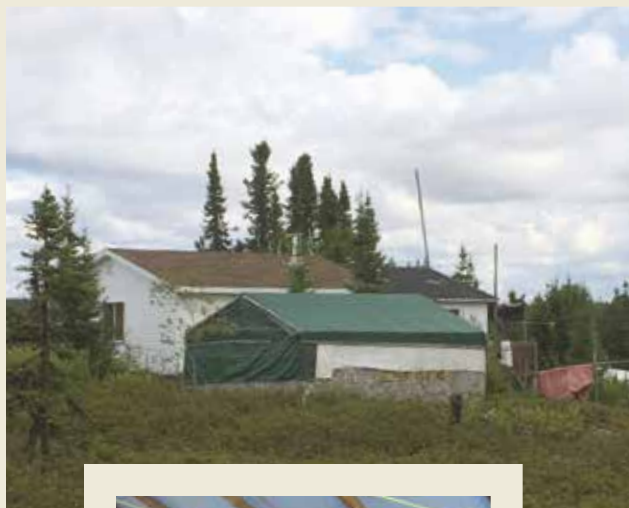
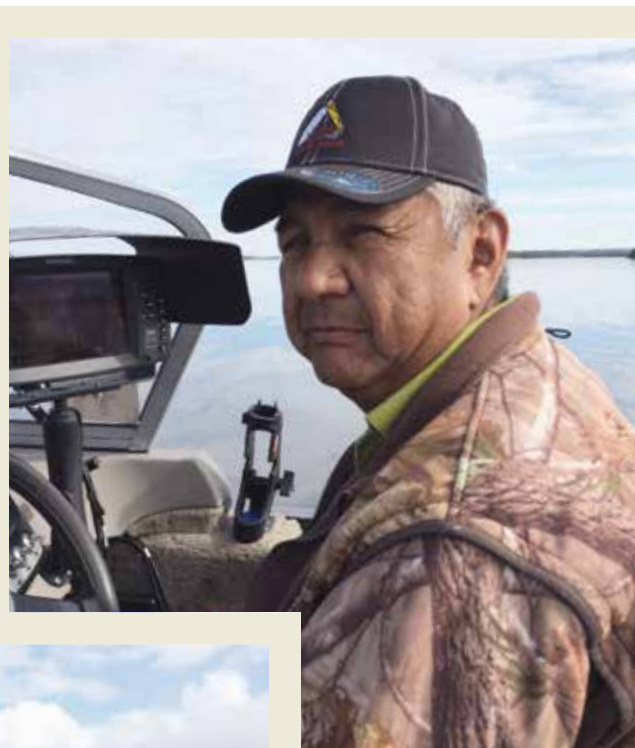
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They also asked if I could do workshops. This is a pilot reintegration project they were doing with the Cree Justice and Correctional Services. I didn't mind travelling by boat every day to get to the camp. It was nice to be outdoors and to eat fresh fish every day. While I was in Mistissini for that week I was able to attend the funeral of the late Judy MacLeod. She was the wife of my uncle Don MacLeod. They asked me to open in prayer at the funeral service and I had an opportunity to share a few words of encouragement to the bereaved family. I was very encouraged to hear from one of my aunts that Judy had made things right with the Lord before she died.

On September 18 and 25 I preached at Israel's Hope Bible Church. I also took the service on October 2. Pastor Ron Grossman was away visiting his supporting churches so he asked me to substitute for him in his absence. Ron and Hillary have asked me to counsel their son Joshua now and then. I have appreciated the time I have spent counseling Joshua and it helps that he is a strong believer.

Our son Joseph was asked to lead in worship music in September and November at The Gathering House in Chesterville, Ontario so we had to drive him there. I enjoy listening to him when he sings and plays his acoustic guitar because he has a good ear for music and his timing is always exact. He also plays his guitar now and then for worship music at the Met Youth Group he attends every Thursday evening. This is helping him to learn some new songs. He has agreed to play at our Conference again. He did not hesitate to say yes when I asked him. I look forward to practicing some songs with him with his electric guitar. The people were blessed by his music last year at the Conference.

I performed a wedding on October 16 in Edwards, Ontario for David Fisher and Donna Hester. The outdoor wedding was held at Stanley's Olde Maple lane Farm.



Clockwise from top:

Abel Mianscum used his own boat to taxi the people back and forth from Mistissini to his camp where the counseling services and workshops took place.

The women at the camp were busy cleaning and cooking fish. This woman is getting ready to clean and cook a catfish.

Inside a canvas covered tent at the camp.

Abel's camp is every hunter's dream.

This is not the first time I did a wedding there. The bride's grandparents were originally from Waskaganish, which is my home reserve. Donna's father is the late Gilbert Hester.

Joseph Seth celebrated his 21st birthday on October 26. We always make it a point to do something special for his birthdays. Joseph makes it easier for us to get his presents because he tells us in advance what he wants. Jean Ranahan from the Metropolitan Bible Church baked two apple pies for Joseph Seth's birthday. He loves her pies and it didn't take long for both pies to be eaten. My birthday is on October 29 and this year we celebrated our birthdays together by going to the Keg. It was so nice for three of us to dine and enjoy a meal together as a family at one of Joseph Seth's favourite restaurants in Ottawa.

On November 6 I shared at a Sunday school class at the Calvary Baptist Church. I shared on the impact of the residential school system in James Bay. I felt very prepared to share on this topic because I did a chapter on the residential system in my book. Former Pastor Robert Mcroberts who teaches the class helped out a lot by setting up a PowerPoint presentation for me.

On November 21 and 22 I made a quick trip to Mistissini to meet with the Chief and the Executive Council regarding the Scholarship Policy. I know everybody on the Executive Council and one of them is my uncle Willy MacLeod. Pray for Chief Richard Shecapio as he gives leadership in Mistissini which is the second largest Cree community in James Bay. Richard is follower of Christ.

My last trip was to Waskaganish on December 5-6. I went there to give an update and a PowerPoint presentation for the Elders Council, Chief Darlene Cheechoo and Deputy Chief Thomas Hester on what

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Above: I treated myself to watch at least one exhibition game at the World Cup between Canada and the USA. Both teams were playing to win the game so it was very enjoyable to watch.



Left: The Gathering House in Chesterville where Joseph Seth sometimes helps out in their music of worship.

Below: Joseph leading the congregation in the music of worship.

Below left: Joseph Seth celebrates his 21st birthday.



God Stops the Train

Back in the 80s and 90s when Sheila and I lived in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, we would always make it a point to spend Christmas with our parents and relatives in Moose Factory, Ontario. To get there we would drive to Cochrane, Ontario, and then catch the train to Moosonee. The distance from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to Cochrane is about 2,250 kilometers or 1,350 miles. That was a lot of miles to travel by car, especially in the winter. During the early years of our ministry from 1980–94, we travelled a lot by car. We didn't mind it at all because most of the time our trips were combined with business and holidays. Whenever we went to Moose Factory there was always an opportunity for me to preach at the Cree Gospel Chapel and to share on their radio gospel program. The honorariums from my speaking engagements helped to cover most of the travel expenses.

In 1983 the head office of the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada was relocated from Prince Albert to Brandon, Manitoba. The distance from Brandon to Cochrane is about 1600 kilometres which is about 960 miles, so this made our trips to Moose Factory shorter. We didn't always have our full support so for most of our trips we had to depend on God to supply our financial needs. When we lived in Brandon there was one time I remember when we really hoped to have some good mail come in so we could go down to Moose Factory for Christmas. I went to the post office three times that day because the mail usually gets sorted late just a few days before Christmas. On my last trip to the post office we were so happy to get mail with some financial donations that were enough to cover our expenses for our trip.

It was Thursday and it was already starting to get dark when we left Brandon. We knew we would have to drive all night in order to catch the Friday morning train from Cochrane to Moosonee. The train was scheduled to leave

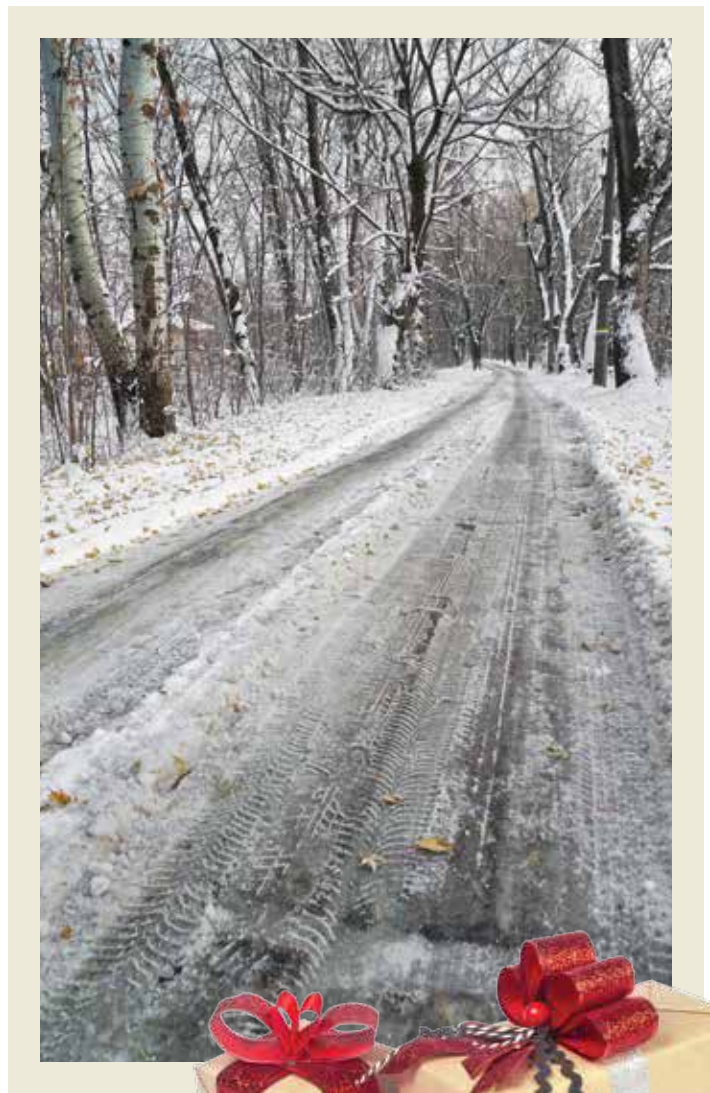


at 11:00 a.m. Sheila had her driver's license so she helped me with the driving when I would take short naps now and then. I remember in some places the weather was pretty bad so we were delayed a couple of hours to get to Cochrane. We drove all night and arrived in Cochrane just a few minutes after 11:00 a.m. We were not too worried about the time because we knew from past experiences that the train was always late when Christmas got closer. We were counting on the train to leave late as always.

When we got to the station we were both surprised to find out that the train had already left. We couldn't believe it, especially after driving all night. We went to a motel to rest and so we could make plans what to do next. The next train to Moosonee was Monday which meant we would have to stay in Cochrane for the weekend. At that time there was no access winter road to Moosonee. We checked the flights to Moosonee but the airline we called said they only had one seat available. Sheila didn't want to travel alone or stay in Cochrane by herself so we ruled that out. It looked like we were stuck in Cochrane.

I was scheduled to speak that Friday evening at the Cree Gospel Chapel's annual Christmas banquet. They also had me scheduled to preach twice on Sunday and to share on their radio gospel broadcast. They always give me an honorarium for speaking which helped to cover our travel expenses. There was no way possible to go down to Moosonee and I knew for sure I would miss these speaking engagements.

We went back to the motel but we had not checked in yet. I told Sheila that we should go back to the train station and have a good breakfast before going to sleep. I told her that we will think much clearly after we eat and are rested. We drove back to the station and when I got out of the car I thought I heard the train whistle. I looked down the tracks and I saw a couple of trucks on the freight cars which I knew were being shipped to Moosonee. I asked a train dispatcher if that was the train going to Moosonee. He said it was. I told him that I thought it already left. He said, "It did but it came back." Later we found out that the power went out in one of the diesel engines and so they had to come back and fix the problem. I asked the conductor if we could get on the train. He said, "You have five minutes because the train is ready to go." We quickly parked and unpacked our car and took our luggage inside the train. As soon as we got in the train it started to move. We both felt so good and relieved to be on the train. God had done something special for us. Oliver Small a Cree elder and a strong believer told me, "God stopped the train for you." I believed him because I had a couple of speaking engagements that I didn't want to miss out on.



I am reminded about a story I read about George Mueller who was famous for being a man of prayer. He had a speaking engagement in Quebec but the fog was too thick in London so the Captain informed him that the boat would not be able to leave. He told that Captain he had been in the ministry for 57 years and had never missed a speaking engagements and was not about to start. He went downstairs to pray for the fog to lift. In a short while the Captain informed him that the fog had lifted and the boat was ready to sail.

Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (Matthew 17:20, NLT)

Focus on the True Meaning of Christmas

The Christmas season was now upon us and I wondered how I would handle the celebration without my dear mom and loving sister. Grief escalates on special days like Christmas and my burden certainly seemed greater during this time. I was experiencing flashbacks of them lying on their sick beds. I have heard of people lashing out in anger while trying to cope with mourning and I reminded myself not to take that road. As I went down the memory lane of my grief journey, I tried to focus on the positive instead of the negative.



Sheila Katherine (Chilton) Jolly

beautiful day!" He always sounded so optimistic even though he was still grieving for his wife and daughter.

Joseph was close to my dad and he often tells stories to our son about his Grandpa Chilton. Many times I have heard him say to our son that his grandpa was a funny guy who made people laugh all the time. He was a free-spirited person and the things he did often caused his granny to get upset. He worked on the transport boat for many years and I'm sure went through fierce storms out at sea which is probably why he seemed so daring when he was hunting out in the bay with Joseph. A couple of times, they got lost out in the bay at night when it was foggy but it didn't seem to bother him too much.

When the month of December came, I did not know that my dad was having health problems again. He had injured his foot which was not good because he was a diabetic. The injury on his foot had not healed as expected and gangrene had set in. He phoned me just before he was admitted to the hospital and I noticed that he did not sound the same as before. Looking back, I wish I had seen the signs that he was seriously sick. I talked to him by phone as he lay in the hospital but he was not the same person as before. The doctors were trying to decide how

to treat him and he was very concerned. Because of the gangrene, they were going to amputate one of his toes and my dad was not happy about that.

We made definite plans to leave for Moose Factory a few days before Christmas. Late in the evening of December 19th, the telephone rang. It was my cousin who works at the hospital as a registered nurse. She called to tell me that my dad was not doing well and was having a hard time breathing. I remembered getting on my knees after receiving the call and committing my dad to the Lord. I knew that whatever happened to him was all in God's hands. I asked God to give me strength to accept His will concerning my dad's life at that time. It was hard on me to settle my emotions because the late phone call startled me. I had peace in my heart concerning my dad and I managed to go back to sleep. I knew that I had to get some rest for our long trip the next day.

It must have been around midnight or later when the phone rang again. I knew by now that this second phone call this late at night would either be good news or the news we did not want to hear. My cousin, Susan, was on the phone again and this time she was crying. Through her tears, she managed to say, "He's gone!" Right away, I remembered to focus on the positive. I told my cousin, "It's okay, Susan. He's in heaven now!" Of course at the time, I was not really there because I was in shock. When you receive the news that someone you love has died, it takes time for it to sink into your brain. I sat on the bed and my husband, Joseph, hugged me as I cried. In my sorrow, I was mostly just staring straight ahead without noticing anything in front of me.

I was shocked to hear the news of my dad's death. I asked myself, "Wait. Wait. Is this really happening to me again? But my mom and my sister just left us and we really did not have time to grieve for them yet. I was just talking to my dad yesterday and we were making plans to visit him for Christmas." After I settled down a bit,

I managed to go back to bed. One thing I learned about the grief journey is that we have to look after ourselves by giving rest to our bodies. The grief journey is exhausting work and it takes most of our energy and strength. I had a good sleep and I knew it was from the Lord. Psalm 127:2 says, "For he grants sleep to those he loves." (NIV)

Memories come into my mind when I think about the historic St. Thomas Anglican Church where I grew up learning the Word of God. I am so thankful that I was taught the Bible and the things of God as a young child. The celebration of Christmas and Easter were always an exciting time at the church where I went. I remember the church would be packed and it would get so hot inside. There was a wood stove in the centre and you could feel the heat as soon as you walked inside the doorway. I have fond memories of walking to church all dressed up in my new clothes on Christmas and Easter.

My favourite time at Christmas was the midnight service that started at 11:00 p.m. My mother made sure I was dressed warmly and I would walk up the road from my home to the church. It was cold in December—sometimes it was thirty below. The crisp white snow and the full moon made everything so bright. Even as a child, I remember that the moonlight made the snow glisten like diamonds and the scene was so beautiful. There were times when I was walking alone to church that I was afraid that Santa Claus would come riding in the sky. I would quickly make my way through the night as the cold air made my breath look like I was smoking. I could hear my boots crunch on the snow and when I got near the church, I would meet up with the other snow crunchers.

When I was growing up, our family used to go to church on Christmas morning. This was one of the happiest times of the year because it gave us an opportunity to see all of our relatives and friends at the same time on Christmas Day. We left Moose Factory in the spring of 1972 and through the years, while my parents were still living we always tried to be home for Christmas. Joseph's parents also lived in Moose Factory and we looked forward to seeing them as well.

The good memories I have of Christmas at home include traveling many miles to visit our loved ones,

exchanging gifts, feasting together and having lovely cups of tea together. Our pleasant cups of tea were often served with Indian pudding which is considered a delicacy. The ingredients for this steamed pudding include flour, baking powder, oil, water, raisins or black currants and burnt sugar. (The burnt sugar is also referred to as blackjack in some restaurant kitchens and it's used to give the pudding its dark colour.) The cake mix is then put in a clean flour sack and then boiled in a large pot for four hours. It was usually made early on Christmas Eve and served the next day for dessert with yellow custard poured over it. Everyone used to enjoy the smell of food at Christmas from all the baking and the cooking of the main meal, which in the past was roast goose and later was switched to turkey.

Right: Joseph was the sunshine and the centre of attention in my family's life.

Below: Joseph is overwhelmed with all his Christmas presents.



After December 2003, I thought Christmas would never be the same again because the three people who made my life very meaningful were now gone. I remembered that morning when the Lord had reminded me to focus on what Christmas really means. I took that message to heart and I was able to celebrate Christmas

with a fresh new meaning. Instead of just looking at the commercial side and mere sentiments of Christmas, I began to focus more on the true meaning and significance of Christ's birth. It transformed how I thought and I was able to celebrate Christmas in a worshipful way even in the midst of my grief.

Our son was the sunshine and the centre of attention in my family's life. He brought encouragement to our lives, especially to my two sisters who were still living at home with my parents. They would hold him, buy him presents, take pictures of him and sometimes watch him having

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True Meaning of Christmas *continued*

a fun time while having a bath on the kitchen table. They laughed as they watched him playing with his rubber toys and splashing the water. God gave him to us at the right time because he filled a big void in our lives after the losses in both our families.

I was amazed that no one in my family really expressed any grief and deep sorrow after my dad passed away. It seemed like the Lord in His mercy and compassion kept the sadness and sorrow away from us for a time. We celebrated Christmas the best way we knew how and it turned out wonderfully well. We all knew how much our parents enjoyed watching the kids opening their presents and we made sure Christmas would continue to be a fun time for our son and the other grandchildren who came.

This was the first time our family had ever experienced a death right before Christmas. It was so hard to accept that something so painful could happen at the best time of the year. In my grief, I thought that Christians should not have to mourn a loved one during this time. I thought that God would excuse us from this time of grief and sorrow. The truth is that we will all face death, sickness and sorrow at some point in our lives because we live in a world that is corrupted by sin. Wrong thinking says we should be happy all the time. When bad things happen to us that we cannot explain or understand, we have to leave it in the hands of God.

—Excerpt from *Sheila Katherine (Chilton) Jolly's book, My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*, p. 83–88.

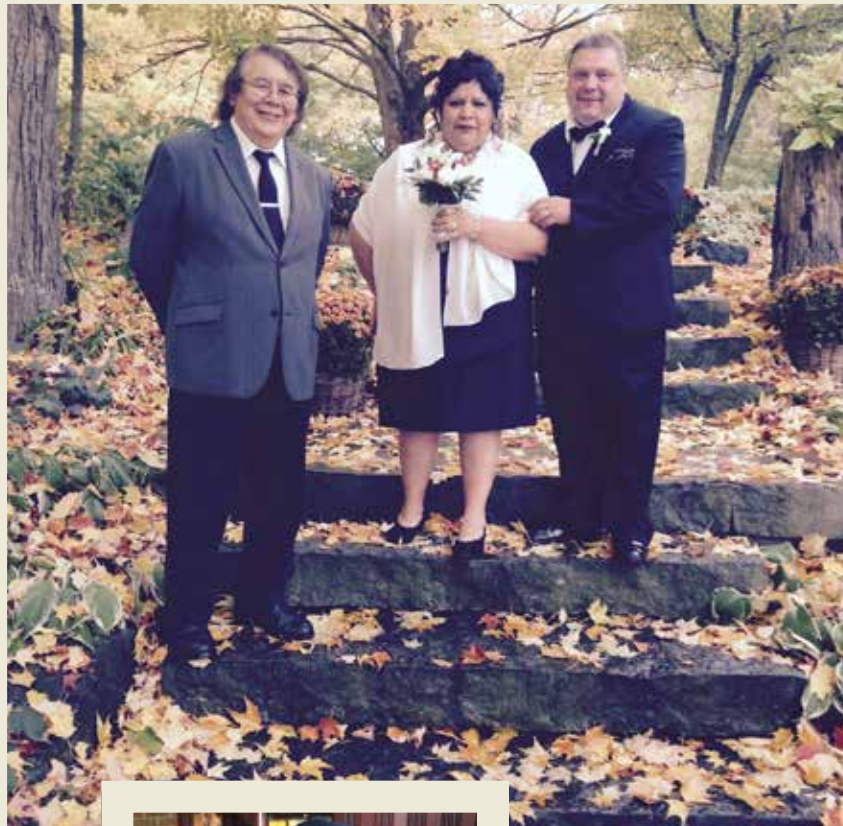
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE JOLLYS



But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20, 21 ESV)

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has been done on the book so far. For seven years I have been working part-time on this book and I am excited to know that the end is now in sight. I was really looking forward to this meeting and inform the Elders Council that the total number of pages done for the book comes to 228 pages. This includes all the layout of the book. I have a few more finished articles but the layout on them has not been done yet so that could add another 30 to 40 pages for the book. I believe this book is going to be used as a great witness for God because all the Cree communities in James Bay know that Waskaganish is considered a Christian community. The profile on the Christian Chiefs and the Elders' stories gives a strong testimony of their faith in God and this will encourage the people. I was born in Waskaganish and I feel so privileged to write this book about my home reserve. This book is going to help my people for many years to come and will be a legacy of the Waskaganish First Nation.



Clockwise from top:

Wedding picture of David Fisher and Donna Hester.

Caleb is the son of Rodney and Phoebe Hester.

Joseph enjoying his hamburger and fries at the Baton Rouge restaurant in Ottawa. Going out to eat in a restaurant is one of the best ways I spend time with him.

The Northern Store had a Christmas feast for the Elders of Waskaganish. I was invited so I had a good meal of hot turkey and all the trimmings.



Christmas Is Jesus

A few weeks ago I heard a Christmas song with the lyrics that “Christmas is Jesus.” This thought caught my attention and it has stayed with me this Christmas season. This is a simple statement but it will be hard to accept by those who are trying to remove Christ out of Christmas. The lyrics “Christmas is Jesus” mean the same thing as the popular expression, “Christ is the reason for this season.” As a Christian I can’t imagine what it would be like to celebrate Christmas without Christ. The people in the world may accept leaving Christ out of Christmas but that’s because they don’t believe in God’s Son.

One of the ways we worship the Lord Jesus Christ on his birthday is through music. For years one of my favourite Christmas songs was “Christmas Praise” by The Imperials. The lyrics are simple but the message of Christmas comes across very clear in this song. Here are the words of the two verses in the song “Christmas Praise” by The Imperials.

Verse 1

*As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord
Let us always remember why He came
And as we present our gifts to
our friends and all our loved ones
Let us offer Him the holy gift of praise*

Chorus

*Allelu, Alleluia
Allelu, Aleluia
Allelu, Alleluia
Praise the Lord
Allelu, Alleluia
Allelu, Aleluia
Allelu, Alleluia
Praise the Lord*

Verse 2

*As we offer Him our praise
Let us sacrifice our lives
So that all the world may know of His love
For His birth at Bethlehem
Was a gift from God to man
Thank you Father for Your perfect gift of Love*

Chorus

For believers Christmas is a special time of the year when we remember and celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. At Christmas we are also remembering a special event. That event is the miracle of the incarnation, the birth of God’s Son into the human race. Christmas means so much more when you know who Jesus is and why He came. The message of Christmas is very clear that God became a man to be a sacrifice for our sins. The Scriptures tell us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.



Christmas becomes more meaningful when you understand and know who Jesus is. One of the most important doctrines is: *The Lord Jesus Christ who is the Second Person of the Trinity, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins and a substitute for sinners.* Billy Graham is quoted as saying, “If you want to know God, study the life of Christ.”

The Deity of Jesus Christ means that He is God. He is the God-man. One preacher said that Jesus is a 200 percent person because He is 100 percent God and 100 percent man. He became a man but was sinless. Jesus the mediator between God and man has a divine nature and human nature. God’s Word says, “For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.” (I Timothy 2: 5, 6, New Living Translation)

The doctrine of the incarnation teaches that God came down from heaven and became a man. “”So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” (John 1:14, New Living Translation) The birth of Jesus Christ was a miracle because He was born of the Virgin Mary. Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1: 34, 35, New Living Translation)

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

Jesus the Son of God was the co-Creator with the Father. “He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him.” (John 1: 10, New Living Translation) All three Persons in the Godhead were



involved in creation. It is correct for Christians to believe and to say that Jesus Christ is the Creator.

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

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

Continued on page 19

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

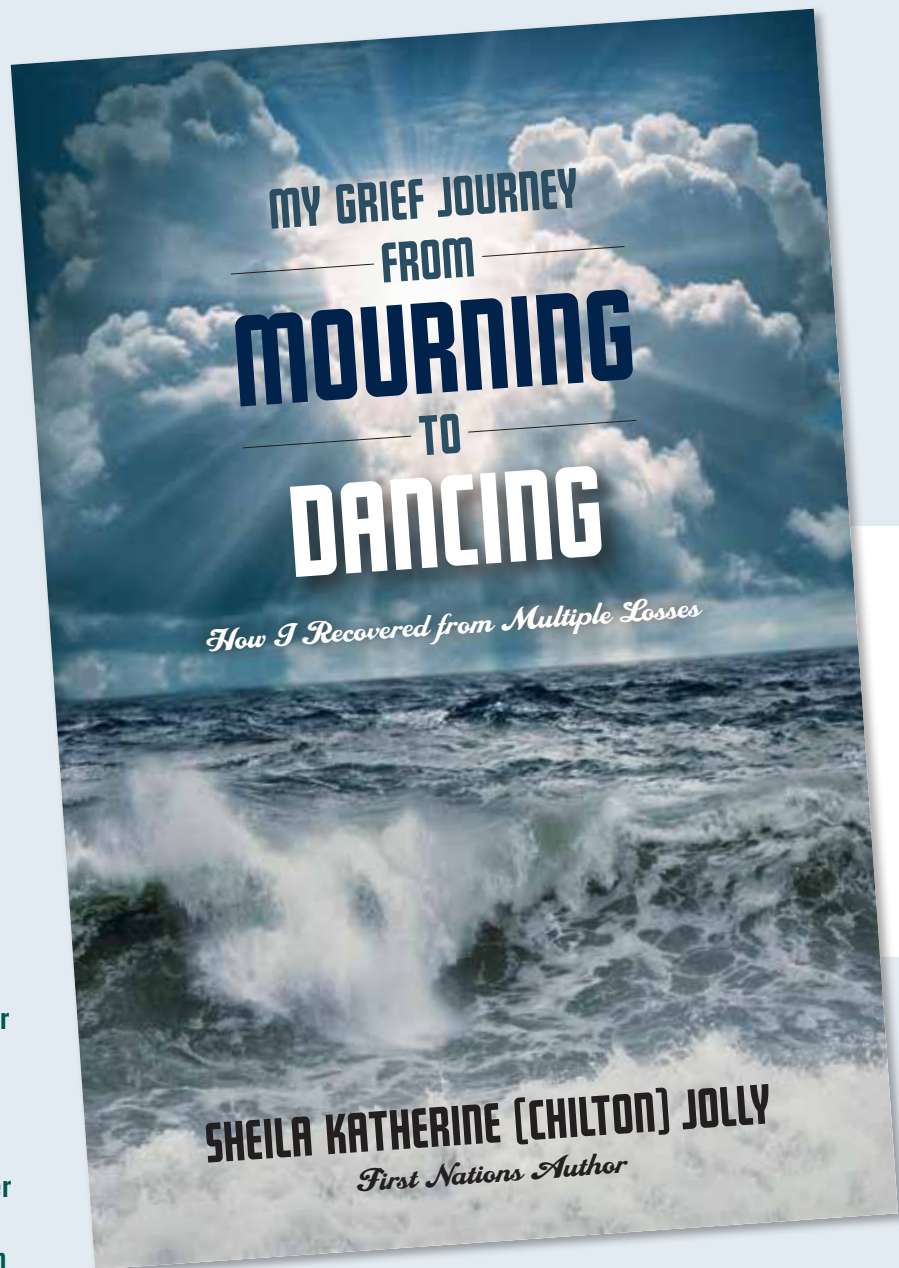
February 7, 2003, Sheila's younger sister, Daisy Mae Turcotte, died after a long battle with cancer. Two days later, her mother, Alice Chilton, passed away from ovarian cancer. She had also suffered with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years prior to her death. Ten months later, on December 19, 2003, 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 4, 1971. They have one son, Joseph Seth, who was born on October 26, 1995. A year after their marriage, they moved to Ottawa so Joseph could go back to school at Algonquin College. While they were living in Ottawa, Sheila and her husband accepted Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour at the Metropolitan Bible Church on October 13, 1974. Their conversion to Christ brought a dramatic change to their lives.

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

You can order your personal copy of Sheila's book through our NGM office. The cost per book is \$25, which includes postage and handling. Make your cheque payable to:

**Native Gospel Ministries
Box 41006, Ottawa, Ontario
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the Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. Sheila's 35 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 gives a copy of her book to former NHL player Bobby Smith and his wife Beth. Bobby Smith won the Calder Trophy in 1979 with the Minnesota North Stars and the Stanley Cup in 1986 with the Montreal Canadiens.

M E S S A G E continued

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

The Son, then, is fully God. He is not one-third God, but fully God. Yet, it is not the Son alone who is fully God, but he eternally exists along with the Father and the Spirit, each of whom possesses fully the identically same divine nature.²

Christmas is a special time of the year and praise God for His gift to man. II Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." God has given the greatest gift of all time. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his

only Son, that whoever believes in him, should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 ESV) The greatest gift you can give Jesus this Christmas is yourself. In return God will give you the gift of Eternal life.

Heaven is a free gift. You don't earn it or deserve it. It is by the grace of God we are saved. Ephesians 2:8 tells us, "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." (New living Translation) "Saving Faith is simply this: It's a personal faith or trust in the biblical Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins—a full surrender and commitment to Him."

1 Bruce A. Ware, *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, and Relevance* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2005), 30.

2 Bruce A. Ware, *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles, and Relevance* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2005), 69.

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