



News Tracker

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2006 NGM NATIVE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. (NGM) hosted its 11th annual Native Christian Conference at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, June 9-11, 2006. Vincent Yellow Old Woman of NAIM Ministries was the keynote speaker for the Conference. Vincent, a Blackfoot Indian from Siksika, Alberta, is a Native Christian leader well known across Canada and the United States, and has been in the ministry for many years. He is a dynamic speaker with a good way of blending his messages with stories and Indian humour. We were happy that Vincent's wife Vicki was able to accompany him for the weekend.

Special music throughout the Conference was provided by Flaming Fire Ministries from Mistissini, Quebec. Abraham Jolly was scheduled for special music but was unable to come because of the roads being closed on account of the forest fire that threatened the community of Mistissini. Rick Small from Moose Factory, Ontario, came with his family and his music was greatly appreciated by everyone.

Attendance for the Conference was about the same as the year before. Everyone really enjoyed the close Christian fellowship throughout the weekend. On Saturday night, the Conference guests had a fellowship meal together in the Met's Fellowship Hall. This is becoming an annual event at the Conference and we plan to have another fellowship meal again this year. After the meal we had our regular service in the Met's sanctuary.



Vincent Yellow Old Woman



Flaming Fire Ministries



Pastor Willie Jock and his wife Sandi came with a few people from Akwesasne Reserve.



Rick Small from Moose Factory, Ontario sang a few songs at the Conference.



John and Verna Trudeau from Wikwemikong Reserve, Manitoulin Island.

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UPDATE

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

This past year our ministry was primarily focused on open doors in the Cree communities of James Bay. I was born in Waskaganish, Quebec, and as a family we are members of the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. Speaking the language has opened many doors for me to minister among my own people. God has opened doors for me to minister occasionally in other locations as well.

During May 2006 I spent most of my time making preparations for our Annual NGM Native Christian Conference in Ottawa. The only trip was to Maniwaki where I preached on Sunday morning at the Eglise Baptiste Church. Maniwaki is not far from Ottawa so I took Sheila and Little Joe with me.

NGM hosted its 11th Annual General Conference on June 9-11, 2006, in Ottawa. The Board of Directors also met together during some free time at the Conference. A week before the Conference I went to Waskaganish for a few days of counseling services, and shared at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship.



The children had a great time at the Conference.

On June 19-22, I was invited to be one of the facilitators for Waswanipi's Healing and Wellness Gathering. I was asked to do workshops on the grieving process, marriage enrichment and cross-cultural communications. Since Little Joe had finished with school for the year I took him with me while Sheila stayed in Ottawa. He had a lot of freedom and fun playing with the Native children his own age. I purposely take him on trips with me alone so I can develop a closer bond and relationship with him. Although I was quite busy in May, the two of us still managed to make a trip to Niagara Falls by train. We stayed at the Great Wolf Lodge, a water park for the family, went to Marineland and sightseeing for one day.



Clifford Mianscum plays the keyboard for Flaming Fire Ministries.



Sightseeing in Niagara Falls

During the last week in June we went to Ouje Bougoumou. I always look forward to the summer months because it gives me an opportunity to travel with my family and be with them for long periods at a time. In Ouje Bougoumou Little Joe and I went fishing with Roger LaCroix and his son Alexander. We didn't catch anything but it was just good to be out on the lake and enjoy the outdoors.

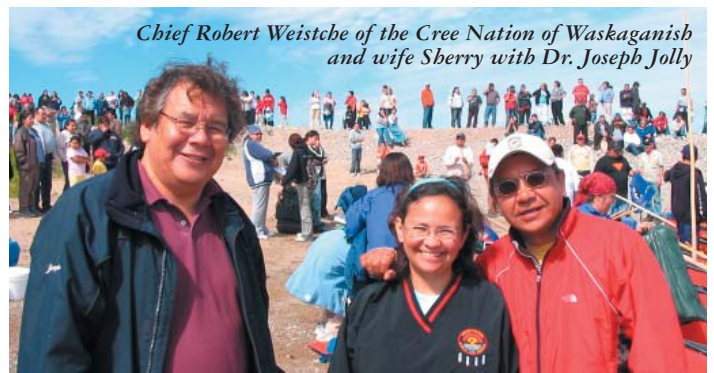


Debriefing sessions at the elders' home in Mistissini, Quebec after the forest fire that threatened the community.



Waswanipi's "Healing and Wellness Gathering"

On July 4-7 we drove to Eastmain for counseling services. After Eastmain we went to Waskaganish. July 10-13, the Waskaganish First Nation Band Council hosted a Special Assembly On Healing Our Community, and invited me to be one of the facilitators for the various workshops. I was asked to do a workshop on the grieving process. The Band purchased 166 copies of my book *Going and Growing Through Grief* and passed them out to the participants.



Chief Robert Weistche of the Cree Nation of Waskaganish and wife Sherry with Dr. Joseph Jolly

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Native Gospel Ministries
of Canada, Inc.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RAY ALDRED



Reverend Ray Aldred is a member of the Swan River Cree Nation, Alberta. Ray currently is part of the team at My People International. He is former Director for the First Nations Alliance Churches of Canada where he worked to encourage pastors ministering to Aboriginal people. He is currently the chair person

for the Aboriginal Ministries Council for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Ray received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Canadian Bible College and a Master of Divinity Degree from the Canadian Theological Seminary. He is currently enrolled in a PhD program at the London School of Theology and the Asbury Theological Seminary. Ray and his wife Elaine have four children and make their residence in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ray is ordained with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

12th Annual General Conference



OTTAWA, ONTARIO
June 15-17, 2007

Metropolitan Bible Church
on 453 Bank Street at Gladstone.

Conference Schedule

Friday June 15th 7PM

Saturday June 16th 10AM and 7PM

Sunday June 17th 11AM

New Life Christian Church,
Akwesasne, NY



Special Guests The Singing Hills

Conference music by

various Native
Music Artists

Rick Small and
Wayne Small

Note: The Singing Hills will be giving a concert of music at 7PM on Saturday evening.

The Annual Conference is a wonderful time to be encouraged from the excellent preaching, testimonies and singing. Be sure to attend.

Contact Dr. Joe Jolly
at (613) 739-0112 or
e-mail drjolly@sympatico.ca

NGM's website is: www.nativegospelministries.org



ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

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In August, Sheila and Little Joe went with me to Waskaganish, Ouje Bougoumou and Eastmain where I did some counseling services. On August 18th I officiated a wedding in Val'd'Or for Anthony MacLeod and Melissa Rickard. Anthony is my cousin who stayed in our home briefly when he was going to Algonquin College in Ottawa. It was good to see my own family members and close relatives at the wedding.



Anthony MacLeod and his wife Melissa Rickard with their son William Samuel.



Chief John Longchap of the Cree Nation of Mistissini and his wife Ellen were at the wedding reception in Val d'Or.

During the last week in August I had another wedding in Gatineau, Quebec, for Philip Sheshamush and Jeannie Fleming. They were living common-law for many years and raised a family. After they got saved a couple of years ago they wanted to get married. It was a blessing to do the wedding for them at their apartment.



Philip Sheshamush and Jeannie Fleming with their family.

During the month of September I spent all my time in Ottawa. This gave me the time I needed to get caught up on my office duties and to finish a couple of chapters for the book I am writing on the wildlife of James Bay.

In October I went by myself to Ouje Bougoumou, Eastmain and Waskaganish. Little Joe celebrated his 11th birthday on October 26th, a major event for us. I prepared a hot meal for his birthday party and we invited some of the



Little Joe's birthday party.



The adults enjoyed the hot meal at the birthday party.

Native people we know in the city. The friends he invited to his party had fun bowling before the meal.

On November 20-24, I went to Ouje Bougoumou for a grief seminar because there was a death of a young boy in the community. The young children were affected by the death of their fellow student so I went to the classrooms to talk about the grieving process. I had a chance to meet and talk with some of the bereaved family.

Little Joe made up his mind to go to Moose Factory for the Christmas break. The presents he was expecting from his two aunts, Sheila's sisters, was a big factor in his decision making. Before we took our trip I had some engagements in Eastmain, Ouje Bougoumou and Montreal. This didn't leave much time to catch the last train from Cochrane to Moosonee. However, we had seats reserved for the special train going down to Moosonee on Sunday of Christmas Eve. Normally there are no regular trains on Sunday so that was truly a blessing from the Lord.

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MESSAGE

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS

BY VINCENT YELLOW OLD WOMAN

*Condensed from a message given at
Native Gospel Ministries Conference, June 11, 2006*

In Acts 20:17-38, we have Paul's farewell message to the elders of the church at Ephesus. He called them together to remind them of several things, because he would not see them again. Paul was instrumental in introducing them to Christ, in teaching, helping, guiding, and disciplining them. They saw and knew his ministry and the kind of man he was, a faithful man who loved the Lord Jesus Christ. His integrity was in powerful shape. They loved the dear man.

In verse 29 we read, "29For I know this, that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock." And they do that today. I was in a church several years ago in the State of New York. A family there started supporting our ministry. That church was growing by leaps and bounds. They had a building program, and then suddenly no more letters and no more checks from that church. Letters we wrote came back to us. The wolves had come in. I found out later that the church had a split and another split and another split. The enemy is out there moving, moving around. We need to be on guard.

Here are six things about Paul that jump out to me: Serving the Lord, Teaching, Testifying, Preaching, Warning, and Labour.

First, he served the Lord with humbleness. One of the things that mom told me, and preachers and missionaries told me, was this: Never use pride. God hates pride. Be humble in all the things that God has done in your life. Paul set an example and he could say, "You know, you've seen me, you know that I served with humbleness of mind." I bet if you did research into that church I talked about you would find pride. In everything that God has done, we want to return to Him the glory, the praise and the honour. I've been serving the Lord for 35 years now. Some things I know now I should have learned in the first five or ten years. This one is no secret. The more Vincent Yellow Old Woman gets out of the picture and allows Christ to get all the glory and the honour, the more He can do tremendous things in all of our lives.

"19Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with many tears, and temptations which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews."

His own people troubled him, challenged him. There are going to be such people. When I was in politics, the elders of our tribe counseled me, "Now that you're in leadership here, you're outside with those that are not related to you. You can handle all the hits from them, but where it hurts is from your own family." It's a spiritual principle too. Here in the church is family.

It doesn't matter that the world can throw hits at you. But sometimes when these things are coming from within it destroys us, and we need to stay away from them. Allow the Spirit of God just to move in a powerful way so that you can continue to serve Him in an effective, powerful way.

Secondly, in verse 20 Paul said, I've shown you how to teach, publicly and from house to house. Don't just leave your teaching and your service in a public arena. You need to go out, as Paul said, from house to house. That means that when you leave the church doors, your service is not over. What you did at this conference yesterday, inviting people from the street to come and share your feast, was a powerful and good testimony. We need to go out.

The third point is in verse 21. "21Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks." Paul is saying don't teach only the people you feel comfortable with. He could have just said teach, but he named the Jews and the Greeks. I think he was trying to tell us, "Hey, not just your own group. You need to tell others of the goodness of God. Greeks need God just as the Jews need Him." Often times we develop a comfort zone. We get ourselves into a spiritual rut, and God is saying come out. Paul is instructing them to reach all people who need the Lord. Then he goes on to outline a two point sermon: first, "repentance toward God," and second, "faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Fourthly in verse 25 is preaching. "25And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." All who came into his life, Paul was willing share with them all things that were profitable to them. In verse 27, "27For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Not holding anything

back. There are times when we'd sit back and wonder if we should tell them. God is saying go ahead. We regret those moments when opportunities are past. And in verse 28, "Feed the church of God." Feed them, feed them!

People are searching for things in this world. They're in the street corners trying to satisfy their souls, longing for something that's missing. There's a void in their lives. They fill it with cocaine. In the suburbs they are trying to fill it with RVs, boats, work, and money investments. But they're coming up empty – spiritually empty. Feed them. The Psalmist tells us God has prepared a table full of all the goodness of God. We never have to say as a Christian, "I can't take it any more." Not when we're sitting at the table feeding on the goodness of God.

The next point in verse 31 is warn. "31Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears." He never quit. I was invited by a good friend years ago to be a speaker at a missions conference. One day as we were leaving the service, my brother was crying. He said to me, "See those guys? They were my

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VINCENT YELLOW OLD WOMAN

TESTIMONY

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF DAVID W. CHEECHOO

It was through my parents that I first heard about what God did for me. My parents taught their ten children the Word of God and through these teachings I realized the extent of God's love. He loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to dwell here on earth for some 33 years, His sole purpose being to die on the cross for me, to defeat sin, death, and our enemy, Satan. At a young age I realized I was a sinner. In August 1972, I gave my heart and my whole life to Jesus. I memorized John 3:16, and to this day I thank God for sending His Son to die for me, and for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort me, guide me and dwell in me.

In my late teens, I turned my back on God and lived a life of shame and sin for fifteen years – years that I wish I could take back. Then came the sudden passing of my mother-in-law, Annie, a kind, gentle lady who loved the Lord. The lifestyle she represented caused me to think about what direction my life was heading. I began to realize the very people I loved, and who loved me, were the ones I was hurting. I needed to mend my sinful, broken heart, and mend my relationships with the people I loved so dearly. In June 1997, in the back room of my parents' home, I asked God to forgive my sins and to be Lord of my life. I thank God for hearing my prayer that Sunday morning. We serve a forgiving, gracious and loving God.

The next year and a half was a struggle for me spiritually. I was hanging on to things that didn't help my spiritual growth. On the first work day in 1999, the Lord spoke to me. I remember crying at work, and not understanding what I was going through, I went home. I never experienced this before, but that very morning, the Lord gave me a verse in Matthew

6:33: "Seek Ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these will be added unto you." I got on my knees and asked the Lord to forgive me for not putting Him first in my life. It was like a new beginning in my Christian walk. It was then I committed myself to reading of His Word every day and attending church regularly.



DAVID W. CHEECHOO

I became more involved in church work and ministry, and in 2001 the church elders invited me to be part of the church leadership. A year later I was asked to be the church administrator. Again, with much thought and prayer, I agreed to take on this role. I realized that holding a secular job and being the church administrator just couldn't work for me personally, so I decided to leave my secular job and work for the Lord in the church.

It was six years ago that God called me into ministry. I came to the point that I need to learn and study His word, and to learn more about God and His character. Being equipped to do His will in my life is so vital. I have applied and been accepted to enroll in Biblical and Theological Studies at Providence College for three important reasons. First, the Lord's leading in my life. Second, there is so much that needs to be done in local churches, teaching God's Word, counsel-

ing, encouraging the church member, etc. 2Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Third, the moral and spiritual decline of Aboriginals in Canada is at an all time low, and I have such a deep burden for my people.

If it is the Lord's will, my wife, Greta, and I will be attending Providence College and Seminary in Otterburne, Manitoba, this fall of 2007. I pray that my studies at Providence will equip and assist me in reaching out to my people for His glory and honour.

2006 NGM NATIVE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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On Sunday morning Vincent spoke at Willie Jock's church on the Akwesasne Reserve. It was a good experience for the Conference guests to attend a Mohawk church in New York state. Vincent and Vicki lived in New York state a few years ago so this was kind of a homecoming for them. The distance is about 60 miles from Ottawa to Akwesasne. On Sunday evening Vincent shared at the Metropolitan Bible Church where the people really appreciated his preaching of the Word. Flaming Fire Ministries shared a couple of songs before Vincent's message.

The Conference, as always, was free of charge. We rely upon the goodwill offerings for the special guests' accommodations, meals, travel expenses, honorariums and other related expenses. With the offerings at the Conference and other donations we received through our office during the year, we thank the Lord that we were able to cover all of our expenses. PTL!



The fellowship meal was enjoyed by the Conference guests.

The New Life Christian Church on the Akwesasne Reserve, NY had a pot-luck meal after the morning service.



The people enjoyed listening to different testimonies at the Conference.

MINISTRY CHAMPIONS

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Sunday school teachers. See that man over there? He was my youth teacher. See that old couple there? His wife was just a pillar in our church." I said, "What's happening, brother?" He answered, "They're going away. There was a time, brother Vincent, when I would sit down and talk to them about missions. And they couldn't get enough."

Paul is simply saying, I warned everyone. It never stopped, never ceased. I warned everyone night and day. Beloved, the people we lead to the Lord Jesus Christ are going to see how our hearts beat with compassion and love for them. Paul is sharing a powerful testimony, telling us it never, never ends. Are you a pillar in this church? I hope it never ends, that you continue to be

a pillar in this community for the Lord.

The sixth point in verse 35 is labour. Remember, I showed you how to labour. You labour for the Lord this much – this much is all you're going to get. The ministry is hard work and Paul is saying it's not a picnic. You've only heard a glimpse. These people throw stones. The reason is very simply saying, "We don't want to hear the gospel. Get out of this community." And they figure if they throw a mouse into the pastor's home, break the window, and throw all these things, the pastor might get afraid and run away.

There are many trials. But they laboured hard. God is looking for champions in his work force. Are you one of them?

▼ Creative Responses to Grieving ▼

PART TWO

A BELIEVER'S JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

My wife Sheila suffered three great losses in the year 2003. She lost her younger sister, mother and father. She went through the grieving process, and this is her testimony in Sheila's own words.

The grieving process following the death of my family members was very devastating. Their long period of sickness prior to their deaths was very difficult for all our family members. To lose three family members so close together was overwhelming and difficult to accept. During my grief work I wrote my thoughts in a notebook to keep a record of the steps I followed in dealing with my grief, mourning and sorrow.

a. The Word of God was a great comfort to me.

God speaks to us through His Word and comforts us. The Holy Spirit indwells each believer. Matthew Coon Come encouraged me with these words from the Word of God, "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:11)

b. Prayer

I poured my heart out to God through my prayers. I practiced spiritual warfare prayer. I didn't give the enemy an opportunity to gain any entry into my life during this sensitive period. I realized I was vulnerable in my grief.

c. Meditation

I claimed the promises of God and meditated on my choice of Scripture. I made time during the day to focus on God alone.

d. Music

I listened to a lot of music, especially hymns. I would sing from a hymn book and worship the Lord.

e. Christians and Family

I tried to surround myself with people whenever possible. Phone calls from friends and relatives really helped me. God ministers to us through His people. Charles Stanley in a devotional said, "Let's not despise the Word of God in our brothers and sisters. They may be the ones to guide us through a tough trial."

f. The Ministry

As our strength is renewed we need to carry on the

ministry or work. We need to remind ourselves that "God is our strength." We should not only focus on ourselves but try to help and encourage others who are also going through a difficult time.

God has called us into the ministry and sometimes I've witnessed that the most effective time of our ministry is also when we are in the middle of a crisis. Share what God is doing in your life and how He is speaking to you even in the midst of heartache and sorrow. Grief is a hard teacher. What you have learned during this time is a gift and worth more than anything in this world. Share this gift with others.

g. Blessings of God

Remind yourself of how God has blessed you. Count your blessings. Your faith will be encouraged as you look back and reflect on how God has answered your prayers. A familiar thought that came to me was, "what God has done in the light, he will do the same in the dark."

He has strengthened and given us many victories in the past. I know He will continue to do so because He has promised this in His Word.

h. Other helps

I have habit of note taking so this was helpful to me during this trying time of my life. In my notes I was especially aware of scripture verses that may illumine my mind.

I looked to mature spiritual people for support, guidance and counsel. I sometimes called Dr. Bill Webster, my counselor and professor in a course on "Grief and Crisis." I would explain to



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

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

Continued from page 4

him whatever question or difficult situation I was in, but only when it was absolutely necessary.

My husband and I have always worked as a team. We often sat down and discussed the negative feelings and difficulties I was facing that day.

Select outings you enjoy.

Listen to others as they share their experiences in life.

Collect books on the topics you struggle with. Learn all you can about the grief and loss you are facing. You are not alone.

i. Claim a passage of Scripture for this time.

The Bible teaches that the battle takes place in the mind. To help me focus my mind on the things of the Lord, I chose Romans 12:2. “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will prove what God’s will is –his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

There are times when we cannot think for ourselves. Let God change our thinking and our mind will be transformed. I have learned negative thinking is not of the Lord.

j. Choose steps to take you through this difficult time.

It is not just a one time situation. Every day can be a real challenge for you.

You may encounter other setbacks and need encouragement to make it through each day.

Don’t give in to your difficult situation, for the Lord may bring healing sooner than you think. God does not leave us in the desert, the valley, or the darkness alone. God is closer and his presence is more evident at this time.

Determine what helps you the most. This may be God’s pathway for you to follow.

* * *

These ten steps helped me a great deal in my grief work. Even in the midst of my grieving, there were times when God brought such gladness and joy. When we go through the dark valley of grief, God still blesses and gives us supernatural strength. My prayer is that these simple steps will help you as you go through your crisis.

Psalm 103:2–4: “ Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases**, Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, . . . ” Amen!

In Moose Factory Little Joe had various activities to keep him busy over the holidays. He liked sliding and skating but his biggest thrill was driving the skidoo around. I had opportunities to preach a couple of times at the Cree Gospel Chapel and to share on their radio gospel broadcast. It was a special blessing for us to spend Christmas and New Years with the believers at the Chapel. We decided to extend our visit a few extra days so I could do some individual counseling, home visits and hospital visitation for the Mocreebec Health Program. There were some deaths in the community this past year, and George Small, Jr., who is the Mocreebec Health Director, felt that there were some people who needed to have follow-up in their grief work.



George and Beatrice Cheeboo with some of their family members at the Cree Gospel Chapel's annual Christmas banquet.

On January 27, 2007, we had a fellowship meal with the some of the Native people we know in our city. Now and then we have these fellowship meals as a means of local outreach. At the end of January, I went to Waskaganish for a few days and shared at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship.



Fellowship meal at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa.



Elijah Harper and bis wife Anita came to our fellowship meal.

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TESTIMONY

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF GRETA WHISKEYCHAN-CHEECHOO

Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! My name is Greta Whiskeychan-Cheechoo. I am a Cree from Waskaganish, Quebec. I was born and raised on the shores of James Bay, Quebec. As a young child growing up, our late mother Annie Diamond-Whiskeychan took us to Sunday school every Sunday morning. This was the first time I heard the stories of Jesus. The missionaries from out west came to our community to share the gospel with the native people back in the early 1960's.

I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour on August 19, 1985, after a tragic car accident of a missionary family who had been residing in our community.

In late 1970's, Dallas Roberts, his late wife, Gloria, and their four children were placed in our community to do missions work. My late mom, Annie, who was a believer in the Lord was very good friends with this family. She always took us with her whenever she would go to Sunday services and Wednesday night Bible study. I am not sure how long this family lived in our community. If I'm correct, it was about 10 years. Then, in June of 1985, it was time for them to leave to head back to Alberta, where they would be ministering. Two months later, they were in a car accident near Youngstown, Alberta. Dallas' wife, Gloria, and their eldest son, Gordon, died in the accident. The family wanted two people from our community to attend the funeral, so my mom and I attended the funeral in Alberta. At the funeral service, the Lord really spoke to me about my life and the direction I was heading. It was during the service and through the speaker that the Holy Spirit began to speak to me. The Lord convicted me of my sin and later on that evening, Dallas Roberts led me to the Lord. I felt so much better after I prayed; a heavy burden was lifted off me and I had peace that I never had before. I knew that the Lord forgave my sin and He made me to be His child. Praise God!

In my daily walk with the Lord, it hasn't been easy and I



DAVID AND GRETA CHEECHOO

have failed and come short of the glory of God. But, it is through God's grace that I am still walking with Him today. Living one day at a time for Jesus. But with God's help and strength, I can overcome these struggles and obstacles. I can gain victory with Christ's help and strength.

To give you a brief background of my duties and responsibilities in the church ministry, I have been teaching children's Sunday school for about 10 years, and leading Sunday school children's songs. I've been a church treasurer for many years and I have been involved also in different church activities (kids' club, young people's group, women's fellowship, assisting in organizing a yearly Gospel Jamboree).

I would like to learn and study more of God's Word in order to help and benefit the lives of other people. I feel that we native people have a task to do for the Lord to help our own people. I believe that attending Providence College will help to prepare me for the task that God is calling me to do.

In closing, I would like to share a verse with you in 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB): "God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."

UPDATE

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

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I went back to Moose Factory by myself, February 6-9, to do counseling services for the Mocrebec Health Program. I talked to a number of people while I was there. I went back to Ottawa for a couple days, then returned for the Great Moon Gathering in Moosonee on February 14-16. I was asked to present 3 workshops on how to recognize and manage grief and loss. Each workshop was 3 hours in length and all of them were well attended. During February I also went to Waskaganish, Ouje Bougoumou and Eastmain.

March 6-9, I was invited by the Wellness Centre in Nemaska to do individual and group counseling services. I was also scheduled to give two presentations on Grieving and The Art of Communication. It has been a few years since I last went to Nemaska and I was glad to be there again. There had been a suicide in Nemaska the week before, so I was able to do some debriefing sessions with the immediate and extended family members.

I was scheduled to go to Kashechewan on March 12-16 to do a grief seminar and to provide counseling services. Sheila and Little Joe came with me to Moose Factory because it was during the school break. My plan was to fly from Moosonee to Kashechewan and leave them in Moose Factory. But I wasn't able to go to Kashechewan for the first days because I had to attend a funeral in Waskaganish for my late uncle Walter Katapatuk. After the funeral I went to Kashechewan for two days only.

I went back to Nemaska on March 20-23 for counseling services and to do presentations on The Grieving Process and How to Build Lasting Relationships. There was a good turnout for both workshops and the people enjoyed the interaction and dialogue on each topic. My workshops are always based from a biblical perspective.



Grief seminar in Waskaganish, Quebec.

The Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship asked me to do a grieving workshop during their Healing Conference on March 26-30. There was a good attendance for all the workshops. Gary Quequish and Joe Kakekagamic, Rick and Linda Martin and Mervin Cheechoo were the other speakers.

In April there was a suicide in Waskaganish. I was invited by the Cree School Board to help the students that were affected by this death in the community. I went to the classrooms in the elementary school and did a debriefing with the staff. I also counseled individual students in the secondary level and had a debriefing session with staff members.

I wasn't sure I would be able to go goose hunting this spring but in the end I decided to take Little Joe with me for a quick trip to Moose Factory. Sheila stayed in Ottawa to work on her research paper. We drove to Cochrane and the next day took the train to Moosonee. A couple of hours after we got off the train we took the helicopter to go to our goose camp. My older brother Allan and his son Michael were the only ones at the camp.



Little Joe enjoyed being in the bush for a couple of days in April.

It was a blessing to spend time with my son in the bush. The Lord blessed our overall hunt and I was glad that Little Joe wanted to stay longer at the camp. My prayer is that he will like hunting also. Now he is talking about going hunting in the fall too.

Since February 1998 the Lord has opened a door for me to conduct grief seminars in the various Cree communities of James Bay. It's been encouraging for us to see a great response for these seminars. Literally hundreds of Native people have attended these sessions. My own book on the grieving process has been a good seller, mostly amongst the Cree in the James Bay area. So far we have sold about 3,000 copies. The grief seminar and the book are from a biblical perspective so I consider them valuable tools for evangelism.

The Lord has also opened another door for me in the area of individual counselling. The late Dr. Henry Hildebrand once told me that if the Lord opens the door, by all means enter it. Since then I have counselled hundreds of Native people and several of them have accepted Christ as their Saviour. It has been a great personal blessing for me to see some positive results with the people I counselled. Some Native pastors have told me that they heard some positive comments about my counselling. The greatest satisfaction I have as a counsellor is helping someone have a closer walk with God. I always encourage people to read the Word and go to church.

When I counsel people I integrate psychology with theology. Some of the people I counsel like the books I use for resource material and have asked me to order the books for them. During the grief seminar I had recently in Waskaganish I had four books on grief which I recommended for reading. The Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship told the participants to order the books that they wanted and the Fellowship would pay for them. Altogether they ordered 41 books which I'm sure will help them in their grieving process. All these books are written from a biblical perspective. My book *Going and Growing Through Grief* continues to be well received.

Sheila often tells me that healing is also a part of the ministry the Lord has given me. Over the years we have seen many people healed miraculously through our prayers for them. When we were in Moose Factory over the holidays, a young girl approached me after the Sunday morning service to ask me to pray for her. She said her ear was sore because her eardrum had busted and she was scared. I placed my hands on her ears and prayed for healing. Three days later I saw her again and she was happy to tell me that everything was okay now. The doctor checked her eardrum and told her everything was okay. I also prayed for Sheila's older sister, Gloria, who was suffering from a terrible cold on Christmas Eve. A couple

of hours later she was eating and was on the way to recovery. Little Joe was also congested with a cold on Christmas Eve and the Lord healed him. Then on New Year's Day Sheila suddenly got sick from a flu virus that was going around. She had to lie down because she was feeling nauseated. After we prayed for her she took a nap for a couple of hours and when she woke up the sickness was gone. She was well enough to eat the turkey dinner with us. It was amazing to see her fully recovered.

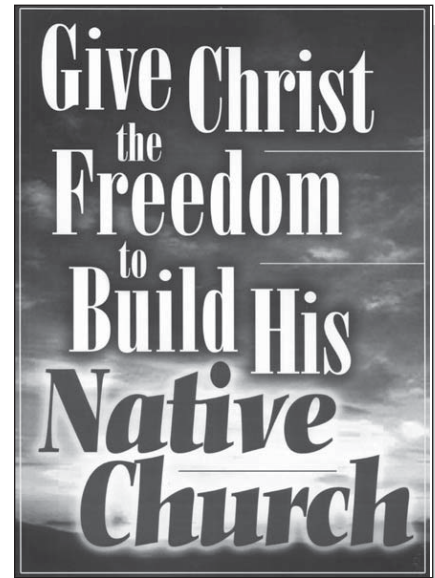
We are thankful to God for open doors and answered prayers. Thank you for your support to NGM and our personal ministry.

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 which 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. The main emphasis in the dissertation focuses on the strategy and principles of indigenization and contextualization in church planting.

The cost of the dissertation project is \$20.00 which includes mailing and postage. Send your cheque or money order to our NGM office.



Native Gospel Ministries
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The headquarters of NGM is located in Ottawa, Ontario

MAILING ADDRESS:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. Box 41006

OTTAWA, Ontario K1G 5K9

Telephone: (613) 739-0112 Fax: (613) 739-7513

Email: drjolly@sympatico.ca

Website: www.nativegospelministries.org

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Editor: Joseph Jolly

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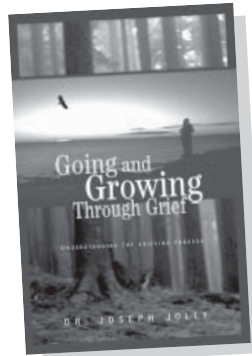
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Grief Book On Sale

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.

The cost of the book is \$16.95 which also includes mailing and postage. If you order twenty copies or more, the wholesale price per book is \$12.00. Please send your cheque or money order to:



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One More Hallelujah
- Joseph Jolly

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