



News Tracker

2008 VOLUME 15

2007 NGM NATIVE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. (NGM) hosted its 12th annual Native Christian Conference at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa from June 15 - 17, 2007. Ray Aldred a member of the Swan River Cree Nation, Alberta was the keynote speaker for the Conference. Ray is currently enrolled in a PhD program at the London School of Theology and Asbury Theological Seminary. He is a scholar with a tremendous vision to apply missiological principles in Native ministries today. Excerpts of his message, "Reconciliation in Diversity" is included in this issue of the NGM News Tracker. Reverend Ray Aldred is ordained with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. We were happy that Ray's wife Elaine was able to accompany him for the weekend.

Special music for the Conference was provided by our special guests The Singing Hills. Sheila and I got to know Roger and his wife Patti while we were students at Briercrest Bible College back in the 80's. Over the years we have stayed in contact with them by occasionally inviting their family to minister in music at various Native conferences and local outreach ministries. It was a blessing to have them minister at the Conference this year and to hear firsthand of what God has been doing in their lives. The Singing Hills gave a concert of music on Saturday evening which was enjoyed by everyone who came to hear them. Rick Small from Moose Factory, Ontario came with his family and his music was greatly appreciated by everyone. His brother Wayne played the bass guitar for him.



Ray Aldred



Rick Small and his brother Wayne



John Corston and his wife Virginia

Attendance for the Conference was slightly lower than 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.



The Singing Hills



Sheila chats with Marlene

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UPDATE

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

During this past year our ministry was mainly focused only on the Cree communities of James Bay. I speak the coastal Cree language so that has opened a lot of doors for me to minister among my own people. Whenever I am in the Cree communities I often get a chance to preach in church or speak on the radio. I was asked to speak in a couple of gospel meetings this year and it was a blessing to see some people put their trust in Christ.

My schedule was quite full in April last year and I wasn't sure about going on my annual spring goose hunt. However, in the end I decided to take my son with me for a quick trip to Moose Factory. He had two good chances to kill his first goose but he missed both times. He used my 12 gauge shotgun and it was a bit big for him to hold properly. The Lord blessed our overall hunt and I was happy to spend some quality time with him for a few days in the bush. After we got back to Ottawa I went to Ouje Bougoumou on April 26 – 30 to do my regular counseling services there.

In May I usually stay in Ottawa most of the time so I could make final preparations for our annual Native Conference in June. The only trip I made was to Nemaska. I went there twice to do counseling services and conduct a couple of seminars. I did a marriage seminar on the relationship and roles of the husband and wife. On my next visit I did a seminar on management and leadership.

In June I made trips to Waskaganish, Ouje Bougoumou and Eastmain for counseling services. On June 15 – 17th we had our 12th Annual NGM Conference in Ottawa. We usually have our Board of Directors meeting during the Conference but we had to postpone the meeting because there was no quorum.

I always look forward to the summer months so my family can accompany me on my trips to the Cree communities. They came with me to Moose Factory, Waskaganish, Ouje Bougoumou and Eastmain. We try to combine business and pleasure on our trips so that it seems like we are on holidays.



Harry Jolly from Deseronto, Ontario is one of the regulars at the conference

On July 3 – 4 we went to Moose Factory where I was asked to do counseling services for the Mocrebec Health Program. It was nice to see and visit our families while we were down there. Then on July 10 – 14 we went to the *A Time for Hope Gathering* hosted by the Waskaganish Youth Council. I was invited to facilitate workshops on the topic of grief. There were other workshops and special events that were going on at the gathering for the youth. It was a special blessing for me to work with the young people in Waskaganish because they are from my own reserve.



Waskaganish youth at the seminar

After a couple of days there we noticed that our son was starting to feel more comfortable in attending the sessions and special events. There were a lot of young people in attendance and he especially liked the humour and comical theatrics of Stan Wesley who was the MC for the meetings. We really enjoyed the evening entertainments which featured music, short skits and Cree comedian Stan Wesley. He was a big hit with the young people and I'm sure they will get him back again.



Stan Wesley from Moose Factory was a big bit with the youth in Waskaganish

There was a Cree speaking contest that was open for anyone to enter during one of the evening sessions. I would be the first to admit that my ability to speak Cree is not the best but just for the fun of it I decided to take part in the contest. I was surprised when they declared me the winner but that was probably because only a few people participated. Little Joe thought that was really something for me to win and he was quite eager to help me pick out my prize. He chose a walkie talkie set which he said would be good for the goose camp.



These two children did a terrific job imitating top country singers

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Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc.

13th Annual General Conference

*Gospel Music
Celebration*

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
June 6-8, 2008

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ED SEALY



Singer, songwriter, and evangelist Ed Sealy has recorded six Cd's. His latest is "Thy Kingdom Come." Many of the songs on this Cd, all written by Sealy, deal with the return of Christ. One song "When the Horses Ride" covers the complete book of Revelation. His previous recordings have enjoyed international success. Socan, a company which tracks air play for artists, has recorded air play in some forty different countries around the world. Sealy records at Outreach Productions, in Fredericton, N.B., which is one of the finest studios in the land. The Cd features some of the most versatile musicians you will find anywhere in your travels. Sealy plays a lot of guitar on this session. As usual the songs come out of a wide range of experiences that Ed himself has faced. This lends itself to comforting and encouraging the listener.

At the 2004 N.B. Gospel Music Hall of Fame awards, Sealy received a Mercy Award for male artist of the year

Nova Scotia where he opened a chain of fast food restaurants. It was here that he began a spiritual search to quench the thirst deep within his soul. His quest ended when he was converted to Christ in 1978.

After his conversion to Christ, Sealy left the business world to study for the ministry. After graduation from Bible school, he pastored a church in Belleville, N.B. for five years before answering the call to return to the Bible school to teach Old and New Testament Synthesis and personal evangelism. In 1998 he resigned his teaching position to found a ministry known as "Furtherance Ministries." The ministry has a board of directors and is registered with the Canadian government as a charitable organization. The purpose of the ministry is to further the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Sealy is a gifted evangelist who brings the gospel message to needy people through message and music.

During September 2000, Sealy's life story was broadcast around the world in 147 countries on 1150 radio stations. "Unshackled," a ministry of Pacific Garden Mission, based in Chicago, Illinois, dramatized his life story and presented it to the world during their September broadcast.

Sealy is married with three children. He and his wife Theresa now make their home in Wakefield, N.B., a small community outside of Hartland.

Ed Sealy was born in Bathurst, New Brunswick, the oldest of eight children. After graduation from high school, he moved from Bathurst to Amherst

Calvary Baptist Church
107 Main Street

Conference Schedule

Friday June 6th 7PM

Saturday June 7th 10AM and 7PM

Sunday June 8th, 11AM

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

Contact Dr. Joseph Jolly
at (613) 739-0112
e-mail drjjolly@sympatico.ca
www.nativegospelministries.org

CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:

ALLAN & JUNE HOWSE AND THE SMALLS



ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

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After our trip to Waskaganish we drove back to Ottawa. A couple of days later I went by myself to Nemaska. While I was there I had a chance to go by boat and visit the old Nemaska site. It is a beautiful spot and I found it relaxing to visit and socialize with the people that were camping there for this annual event. During one of the days while I was there the canoe brigades from Mistissini and Waskaganish that were on their healing journeys stopped by to camp overnight. My older sister Gertie and her husband Luke Diamond were the elders leading the group of young people from Waskaganish and I was happy to visit with them for the day.



Youth canoeists from Mistissini



Youth canoeists from Waskaganish



Winnie Moar and her daughter Diane smoke fish at the camp in old Nemaska

I went back to Nemaska again during the first week of August. There have been several deaths in the community during the past few months and a number of people needed follow-up and grief counseling.

On August 6 – 10 I went to Waskaganish with my family. There was a drowning death of a young man from Moose Factory and I was asked to come by the Council of the Waskaganish First Nation. My services there were to help and provide counseling for the bereaved family, friends and relatives. In August I also went to Ouje Bougoumou and Eastmain. During the last week in August I went back to Waskaganish for counseling services and the body was not found yet. The only good news about this tragic incident is that after several weeks of continuous search the body was eventually recovered. Everyone involved in the search was relieved and thankful when the body was finally found. PTL!



Chief Steve Diamond and his wife Harriet

On September 1st I did a wedding in Ottawa for Louie Rene Kanatewat and Marlene Shecapio. This was a big wedding and quite a number of people from the Cree communities came to Ottawa for the wedding.



Louie Rene Kanatewat and Marlene Serapio were married in Ottawa

Once we got our son settled in his school for the coming year I went by myself to Nemaska on September 11 – 14th. Nemaska is one of the Cree communities where the surname Jolly is quite popular. Sometimes people ask me if I am from Nemaska. I do have a few relatives there on both my father and mother's side. Several years ago I did a wedding in Nemaska for my niece Angela Jolly and now she has her own family. My nephew Aaron also lived and worked in Nemaska for a couple of years.

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M E S S A G E

RECONCILIATION IN DIVERSITY

When I was studying for my Masters degree, I found myself at a place where faith had become intellectual, something in my mind that could not speak to my heart anymore. I thought that there was nothing good in my Aboriginal culture. Believe it or not western theology has tended to see no value in culture. It is something that we try to get rid of so that we can capture this kernel of Biblical truth. When we say that what is truly important is the soul, we make Christianity and faith something in our head, in our private life, but not important for public life. Our faith in Christ is meant to be more, to be recognized in the context of where we live.

When I stopped running away from who I was and embraced being Aboriginal, being Cree, it was easier to understand what scripture was saying. Maybe it was because Aboriginal people are a little more eastern than western in our thinking. But I think also because Scripture was written in the context of suffering, and our people do suffer many hard things. In the rest of North American culture, about 20% of the population loses someone to a tragic death. In Aboriginal culture, 80% lose someone tragically, and that produces all kinds of emotions. So in the midst of a suffering people I began to read the Gospel through eyes that saw suffering differently, and I discovered the gospel story. The Bible is not so much a rule book as the story of God working with his creation, his people.

This Scripture is from 2nd Corinthians 5:16 – 6:13.

From now on therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view. Even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we now no longer know him in this way. If anyone is in Christ he is new creation, everything old is passed away, everything has become new. All of this is from God who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And He is trusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ. Since God is making his appeal through us, we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. . . . Our heart is wide open to you, there is no restriction in our affection but only in yours. In return, I speak as to children, open wide to us also.

If you listen to this as a story, you are reminded that the gospel is reaching across cultures. The gospel begins with mostly Jewish people, but towards the end of Acts the church centre moves from Jerusalem to Antioch which is mostly Gentiles. It continued moving across culture for the last 2000 years, from Alexandria in Egypt to Rome to Northern Europe to North America, and again to Africa, South America, and Asia. It is always moving across cultures.



Ray Aldred

God had said to Abraham, I will bless all the families of the earth through you. So when Paul began to reach out to the Gentiles, he became who he was supposed to be, despite Jewish persecution. It is God's plan that we reach across cultures, to have many different people in unity. Yet we try so hard to make all people the same. Christian history is filled with stories of discrimination. In residential schools the government and the church tried to make our children just like them and remove the culture from them. The German government, in a Christian nation, caused the holocaust. All because we see no value in diversity. That's racism. That's not understanding what God has been doing.

Reconciliation restores God's diversity. This is God's plan for the church: Not that we go out and make everybody like us, but that we go out and spread the gospel so that people will become

who God created them to be. We tend to view reconciliation as one event that happened in time. It is accomplished, and we can move on. But this is just the beginning. Our conversion and reconciliation are more than that. The toughest thing about reconciliation is that we must open our hearts. Then we become vulnerable and make our faith public, when we want to keep it private. Men, when we have a fight with our spouse, we don't want to open our hearts and feel the pain. We just want to say, "No, I said I'm sorry, so forget about it. Let's move on." Paul says no. Open your hearts. God is continually remaking us, recreating us, and all things are becoming new. Reconciliation is an ongoing process.

Paul seems to be saying that reconciliation with God should be revealed by our relationship with one another. I have noticed in Aboriginal churches that many times our children reject the faith because they see how we fight among ourselves. I thought you were serving a God of love and yet you fight constantly. The goodness of God should reveal to a fighting world that there is a better way. Reconciliation means to be friendly and harmonious.

Paul says, be reconciled because reconciliation reveals the righteousness of God. We urge you, do not accept the grace of God in vain. The Corinthians, like our North American society, had received many good things. But if that does not translate into a community wanting to work together towards a better relationship, then the grace of God has been received in vain. The goodness of God is supposed to lead to repentance, not to thinking that we have created heaven here on earth.

Paul says, "We urge you Corinthians, open your heart to us. We have not closed our hearts to you but you have closed your hearts to us. I urge you, be reconciled to God." Make friendly and harmonious again. That is God's plan for diversity, that we embrace one another as Paul wants the Corinthians to do. Many new people are coming to this country. God's plan is that we reach out to them because they bring something different. As we embrace one another in diversity and we experience reconciliation not just with God but with one another, then Christ is made known in a bigger way. This is why Joe has these conferences. And this is why we are always on the brink of something.

TESTIMONY

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY By Paul Moses

I was born and raised in Moose Factory, Ontario. However, I am presently living in Waskaganish, Quebec. My grandparents raised me. I never met or knew my father. I only saw him in a picture that my uncle showed me. I was told that he died in a car accident when I was about three or four years old. My mother and grandparents were not originally from Moose Factory but from Eastmain, Quebec.

As I was growing up, there was a long time where I called my mother by her first name. Maybe I did not know she was my mother until I was older and understood. In my teenage years the only time I had the courage to call her mom was when I was under the influence of alcohol. When I gave my life to Jesus Christ, he helped me call my mother, mom. Then there came a time I told her that I love her.

I began getting involved in a sinful lifestyle in my early teens. This kind of life only led to despair and a lot of shame. I longed to have a father in my life that would love me, teach me things like hunting, carpentry or other things that fathers were doing with their children that I saw. Even though I did some of these things with my uncles, but I probably realized it was not the same as a real father-son relationship. I was trying to reach out to fill the emptiness in my life that can only be met by a close and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I accepted Christ when I was about 12 years old but struggled and failed a lot in my Christian life. As I started to get more serious about my walk with God, I began to grow and mature in Him. Eventually serving and working for Him in anyway that I can. In addition, the Lord led me to become a Pastor, which I am presently doing in Waskaganish, Quebec. I attended Briercrest Bible College in Caronport, Saskatchewan from 1993 to 1997 where I obtained my Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Leadership.

I am married with four sons. My wife's name is Hannah. Our boys are Jason, Darren, Devin and Tyler. I brought all my emotional baggage and unresolved hurts and issues into my marriage and parenting. My grandfather who was my father figure was a withdrawn person and pretty much spent his time to himself. As a young adult and even into my marriage and raising our children, I was a very withdrawn person. I would withdraw into myself and became a very self-centered, selfish person. I struggled a lot with feelings of rejection and had a lot of self-hatred. I wondered in hopelessness if I could



Paul and his wife Hannah

really succeed in life and even as a Christian. I withdrew into a world of a lot of daydreaming even when I was teenager. In my dreams I was somebody and successful. I sought out things that would bring me relief and pleasure to cover the pain and shame I was feeling in my life.



Pastor Paul Moses

I did not spend enough time with my children as my wife did most of that when some of them were younger. I remember my oldest son as he began to learn how to skate. My wife took him to the arena. However, as I began to spend more time with my boys and their hockey, I eventually took over. I did not really know how to parent since I did not have any good role models to learn from.

I also became physically and verbally abusive to my children. There were times when they were disobedient and defiant. I felt I was losing my control and authority over them, especially as they got into their teenage years. I would explode in raging anger and would physically handle them and hurt them. I probably thought I could gain control and authority

over them with my anger. All this did was to distance myself from them. This left a lot of hurt and pain on them, my wife and me. When this happened, I withdrew into myself and hated myself for what I did.

My road to healing and recovery began as I started to deal with the issues of my life. This happened in the context of pursuing Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord and growing and maturing in Him. I began to read books and attend various conferences and workshops that helped my Christian life and parenting. I occasionally went to different conferences and workshops giving the Lord the opportunity to teach and convict me. Through the help of close friends, relatives and counseling, I began to understand and see more clearly the problems that I needed to deal with.

One area I discovered was that I needed to grieve some of the losses in my life. Especially I needed to grieve the loss of never having a real father in my life. As I truly realized this, I shed many tears sorrowing for what I missed in life and what every child should normally have. Another area that has helped was being able to talk to my mother about our past issues and sharing our hearts with each. My mother and I have come a long way and have come to loving terms with each other.

With the Lord's help, I began to reach out to my children by seeking their forgiveness where I have hurt them. I began to look for ways to get to know them and spend time with them. Some things I did were being interested and attending functions and activities that they were involved. I started spending time with them in travels together and sitting with them to have a meal in a restaurant one on one. I began to help my wife out more in the chores of the house. I began to open up and share about my anger and to turn to someone when I fell into anger.

I used to play hockey when I was younger up to age of about fourteen. I used to be quite overweight but then I began to diet, exercise and skate and started losing weight. I thought to myself that it would be nice to play hockey with my boys. This has come to be as I was able to skate and play hockey with my boys on a few occasions. One of my sons told me that I was a role model. I have told them that I am very proud of them when I watch them play hockey. I want to live a life that will encourage and build up my children so that they will be successful in life. I want to model the Christian life before them that is real and genuine. My children know my failures but I also know they see my growth and change for the better in my life.

2007 NGM NATIVE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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The Conference, as always, was free of charge. We rely upon the goodwill offerings for the special guest's 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!



Fellowship meal at the Conference



Richard and Miriam Williams with Harry Jolly



Pot-luck meal at the New Life Christian Church in Akwesasne, New York



In Loving Memory Of *Ellen Margaret (Nellie) Faries*

October 19, 1923 - January 7, 2008

Nellie was the aunt of Sheila Jolly. She has fond memories of her late aunt and admired her as a spokesperson, leader and the first female Chief of Moose Cree First Nations. She is comforted to know that her Aunt Nellie had a strong faith in God.



How To Help Someone Who Is Depressed

Introduction

1. Depression: a painful experience, a feeling of hopelessness.
2. Depression is no respecter of persons. It affects the young and the old of all races.
3. Depression is an emotional disorder.
Depression is likely when your emotions weigh a ton and you want to die.
Illustration: If you want a very attentive audience when you preach or teach, speak on depression.
4. Depression is a normal and natural emotion. We all have gone through periods of depression.
5. Depression is a broad subject and people struggling with depression need to be educated about it. It might take a few sessions to cover the subject.
6. I would advise a person going through depression to see a counselor. There is hope that you can recover.

Lesson: How To Help Someone Who Is Depressed

I. There are three primary causes of depression

A. Physical - Chemical Causes

Physical illnesses can trigger depression. Diabetes, a malfunctioning thyroid gland, and other ailments can cause us to be preoccupied with our “blue” moods. Even physical exhaustion can lead to that “burned out” feeling that may bring about pessimism and despair. The body can also have a chemical imbalance.

Note: When a person suffers from a chemical imbalance that causes depression, the individual needs to see a physician or psychiatrist.

B. Psychological Depression

This kind of depression comes about because of upsetting circumstances.

Circumstances that lead to depression

- A death
- A job loss
- Long periods of extreme stress, anger, grief and anxiety
- A divorce or betrayal
- Rejection
- A move
- A church change
- Health problems
- Loss of property or position
- Abandonment, neglect or abuse
- Guilt, shame, regret

C. Spiritual Depression

Spiritual depression is caused by the presence of sin in the life, ignorance of the Word of God, or failure to draw upon God’s grace for victory.

II. Symptoms of Depression

In order to help someone who is depressed, you must know the symptoms of depression.

A. Feelings

- Feels sad and hopeless
- Is apathetic, bored, has little motivation
- Feels guilty
- Feels worthless
- Feels no one cares
- Is easily irritated or angered
- Expects the worst

B. Physical Symptoms

- Sleep problems
- Significant weight loss or gain
- Stomach problems
- Chest tightness, shallow breathing
- Headaches, chronic aches and pains
- Fatigue
- Frequent sighing

C. Behavioral Patterns

- May withdraw from people
- loses interest in routine activities
- Cannot concentrate
- May neglect appearance
- Makes pessimistic comments
- May discuss suicide or wish to die
- Cries easily
- Cannot make decisions
- Is restless



Dr. Joseph Jolly

III. What About Medication For Depression?

- A. Even ministers of the gospel can get depressed.
- B. Some Christians are against the use of medication for depression.

Note: A common mistake that Christians make is that we can dictate God’s method of healing us just because we have faith. Even the great Apostle Paul had Dr. Luke with him in his missionary travels.

Note: Personally I have nothing against medication for those would benefit from it. When we are feeling better we can work more effectively. However, I am concerned when doctors are too quick to prescribe medication for patients. There can be side-effects.

- C. There are excellent medications available today for depression.

IV. Counseling the Depressed Person

A person who is depressed should seek help. Don’t get stuck in your depression – talk to somebody who can help you.

Conclusion

1. God is our greatest source of strength.

Psalm 34:17-18 “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles, The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in the spirit.”

Psalm 147:3 “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

2. Some steps to help us defeat depression:

- a) If possible, identify the cause.
- b) Refuse to pull down the shades of self-pity. Depression causes us to withdraw.
- c) Fulfill your God-given responsibilities. Work and care for the needs of your family.
- d) Develop a life of praise. Keep trusting the Lord even you go through hard times. God may be teaching you to walk by faith.
- e) Self-discovery, or personal revelation, is part of the process of counseling.
- f) A depressed person will reorganize his lifestyle and in some way his personality.
- g) Positive thinking to overcome negative thoughts.

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

Continued from page 4

I went to Kashechewan on September 18 – 21 where I was scheduled to do a grief seminar and some individual counseling. After my engagement in Kashechewan I stopped in Moose Factory to do a wedding for (Clara) Darlene Small and Bradley Isaac at the Cree Gospel Chapel. Since I was there on Sunday I preached at the Cree Gospel Chapel.



Bradley Isaac and (Clara) Darlene Small were married in Moose Factory

In October I was away from home a lot because of my visits to Eastmain, Ouje Bougoumou, Nemaska and Waskaganish. However, I made sure that I would be home to see Little Joe celebrate his 12th birthday on October 26th. His birthday is always an important event in our family.



Little Joe celebrates his 12th birthday wib his friends

There was a suicidal death of a 17 year old teenager in Waskaganish on November 3rd and I was asked if I could go there and help the bereaved family with grief counseling. There were actually two deaths on the same day and the deceased were very closely related. One of them died from a natural cause of death. There were two separate funerals in Waskaganish and I was asked by the families to take a part in both services. It is comforting to know that the parents and grandparents are Christians and they have hope in seeing their loved ones again. We know that Christians are not exempt from grief because the death of a loved one is always so painful.

While I was in Waskagansih I had a chance to talk to the parents whose son had committed suicide. I believe it was the Lord's will for me to go to their home that evening. Prior to my visit they were just talking about me and were ready to call my room at the lodge when I knocked at the door. There was a good group of close relatives and friends in their home who were there to give them support during this difficult time. I spoke to the

whole group and they were all very receptive to hear some words of encouragement from God's Word. One of the things we did as a group was to go downstairs and pray to cleanse and dedicate the whole house to God.

On November 9 – 11th I was privileged to be one of the keynote speakers for the Cree Gospel Chapel's Annual Mission Conference. The overall attendance for the meetings was good and there were a number of people that came from Waskaganish. The Christians were greatly blessed by the special music, testimonies and by the three people who came to know Christ as their Personal Saviour.



Cree Gospel Chapel's Mission Conference

During the second last week In November I went to Nemaska again for counseling services. A couple of days after I returned to Ottawa I went back to Waskaganish to conduct a three day grief seminar at the Waskaganish Penetcostal Church. Brian and Martha Hester who lost their son Brendan on November 3rd attended the seminar and I'm sure it helped them tremendously. I was encouraged to see both grandparents at the seminar and to hear their own grief experience in the loss of their beloved grandson. It was powerful and moving to hear the other people who shared their grief and losses during the seminar.

In December we went to Moose Factory for the Christmas holidays. While we were there I spoke 8 times at the Cree Gospel Chapel and two young people committed their lives to Christ. It is always a blessing to see people put their trust in Christ. Before we went to Moose Factory I led a woman and man to Christ from two different Cree communities. I don't have much time to practice singing as I used to but I still minister in music wherever I go to preach the Word.



Pastor George Hester from the Waskaganish Pentecostal Church shared some of the grief experiences he went through



Christmas Banquet at the Cree Gospel Chapel

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LITTLE JOE KILLS HIS FIRST CANADA GOOSE

Last spring my son Joseph Seth who was 11 years old at that time had two very good chances to kill his first goose. He used my 12 gauge shotgun to shoot two loners who had landed at our blind but he missed both times. They were within range and I was really hoping he would kill his first goose. My firearms license was for possession only so I was not able to buy a proper shotgun that would have been more suitable for his size. He missed because the 12 gauge shotgun was too big and awkward for him to handle. After our hunt I made up my mind that I would get my acquisition license in the coming year so I could get him either a 410 or a 20 gauge shotgun for next year.

I wrote my test back in February for my acquisition license and my son was so happy to know I passed. It takes time to process the application so there was a waiting period of at least 60 days. He kept checking the mail often to see if it came in. Finally the license came a few days before we left for our spring hunt in Moose Factory. As soon as I got the license we went to Le Baron Outdoor Products, Ltd. where I usually buy my shells and hunting gear. In advance he had already picked out the 20 gauge shotgun and the 22 caliber he wanted. I suggested a 410 but his mind was made up to get a 20 gauge. Now that we had the right sized gun I was hopeful that he would kill his first goose this time.

Every hunter knows that it's difficult to know the exact time when the geese will fly. We arrived by helicopter to our goose camp on April 14th. It was still kind of cold and there was quite a bit of snow yet and the geese were not really flying. When we were at the blind I noticed that my son was kind of reluctant to try out his new 20 gauge. He practiced loading and unloading the gun but somehow he seemed afraid to shoot with it. I tried it out for him and he told me the gun blast was too loud for his ears. I also noticed that it was slightly big for him because he had some difficulty to position it properly on his shoulder. However, he was quite attached to his 22 caliber and seemed quite eager to do target shooting with it. I told him that he can't kill a goose with his 22 caliber and I tried to encourage him to shoot his 20 gauge but he just wouldn't. I began to have my doubts for him to kill his first goose.

One of the things that impressed me about him was to see how natural it was for him to fit in at the camp. He must have inherited that from his grandparents. He has a hard time to get up for school in the city but at the camp he didn't mind waking up early in the morning to have breakfast before we went to the blind. He was really excited about hunting and sometimes he would wake me up while it was still dark at night and say, "Dad, what time is it?" As far as he was concerned we went there to hunt and kill geese. One time a large flock of geese flew close to our blind but I told him they were too far to shoot. The next thing I knew he was standing up in the blind and shooting at them with his 22. I had to smile to myself as I was watching him shooting at the geese. He seemed content to be at the blind as long as he was shooting his gun.

It was Wednesday afternoon on April 17th when he killed his first goose. The way it happened it was very dramatic and I don't think I will ever forget it for the rest of my life. We didn't have much food and snacks in our pack sacks so I thought it would be a good idea to go back to the camp. I



Joseph Seth Jolly displays the goose he shot

planned to cook a hot meal for us so we could enjoy our evening hunt better. We walked back to the camp using snowshoes because the snow was getting soft and was quite deep. Shortly after we ate lunch we made our way back to our blind. He had his 22 with him and he was walking slowly ahead of me. Once in awhile he would turn around towards me and tell me to keep quiet. He really expected geese to be at the blind because he knew that sometimes they will land at the blind when nobody is there. I was not as optimistic as he was because I kept thinking to myself that even if there were geese there they would hear us and fly away.

His pace got even slower as we got closer to the blind. As it turned out there actually was a goose amongst the decoys at the blind. At first

he didn't see it but finally he did when I pointed it out to him. He took off his snowshoes and proceeded to walk slowly towards the blind while I stayed at the back to watch and coach him. The goose was still quite far from us when he took his first shot at it. It jumped up in the air but didn't fly away when it heard the shot. He took another shot and this time it started to fly away but just for a few seconds. It landed close to the blind. Apparently he wounded the goose so it couldn't fly away but it started to quickly walk away for safety. He started to chase it and kept shooting at it with his 22. There were actually two geese at the blind and I managed to get inside our blind, grabbed my gun and shot it. Meanwhile, he was still shooting at his goose and needed help loading his gun. He was really excited that he was shooting at a goose and in his haste he kept missing it. He distinctly told me not to shoot it because he wanted to kill it all by himself. I told him to get closer to it while I was busy filling his magazine with bullets. He must have shot it at least 12 times before he finally hit it again. This time the goose was fatally wounded and couldn't move. It was a proud moment for me as a father to pick up the goose and then to congratulate my son for killing his first goose.



Little Joe carries the two geese we killed

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U P D A T E

ON THE GO WITH DR. JOE

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We had a good time over the Christmas holidays and Little Joe had a great time playing video games with his two cousins. He was also excited to ride around on the skidoo. After Boxing Day there was hockey tournament in Moose Factory and he was registered to play. This was his first hockey tournament and also his first hockey game. He could hardly skate a year ago so I spent a lot of time with him to help him improve his skating. He did okay in the tournament and I was proud of him but he still needs to work and develop his skating. To help him practice his skating and shooting the puck I sometimes rent ice time for us at an arena close to where we live in Ottawa. We go on the ice fully dressed so I get a chance to work out too. I'm hoping he will do better in next year's tournament but the main thing is that he has a good time.

In January 2008 I went to Nemaska twice. I also went to Kashechewan for a couple of days because I was invited by the Chief to help counsel two families that were grieving the loss of a family member. During the last week of January I also went to Waskaganish for counseling services.



Joe Jolly, Jr. with his dad on Christmas Day

I went to Mistissini on February 5 – 8th because of a crisis situation that occurred. A young man from the community committed suicide at the beginning of the New Year and I was asked to help and provide counseling for the bereaved family. The father cannot understand or speak English that well so he requested for a counselor who could speak Cree to help him with his grief work. There were two other deaths in the community so there were several people who were going through grief and mourning. I talked to a number of people while I was there.

During the last 3 weeks in February I went to Nemaska, Eastmain and Ouje Bougoumou. There are quite a number of Christians in Nemaska and I have been asked to preach a few times at the Community Church. There are also some Christians in Eastmain and Ouje Bougoumou. During this past year a number of young people have been saved in Ouje Bougoumou. One person casually made a comment to me that there is a revival movement in Ouje Bougoumou. This is one of the communities where I visit regularly to do counseling services. Whenever I am in the Cree communities I talk to a lot of Christians who come to seek spiritual counseling and guidance.

I was invited by the Omushkego Education to return as a presenter for the Great Moon Gathering 2008 on March 5 – 7th. The GMG was held at the Northern College, South Porcupine Campus in Timmins. I was asked to do workshops on Grief Counselling. I used my grief book as a textbook so I was able to sell a few copies while I was there.

During the month of March I spoke at the Calvary Baptist Church in Ottawa. On Easter Sunday I spoke at a Native Baptist Church on the Akwesasne Reserve, NY.

I went to the Cree communities quite a bit this past year. Some of the communities I visited more than once. Whenever I am in the Cree communities I often do home visits and if the opportunity comes up I will share words of encouragement and comfort from the Word of God. If there is a major crisis in the communities I will sometimes get a call asking me to help out with grief and spiritual counseling for the bereaved families.

Through the grief seminars and counseling services I provide in the various Cree communities, I come in contact with a lot of Native people. In fact, of all the years I have been in ministry, I have never had so much contact with Native people as I do today. It seems like every time I go to the Cree communities I always get an opportunity to witness to a number of people. During the last 12 months I must have talked to over 200 Native people individually. A few have accepted Christ during my counseling sessions with them and quite a few have recommitted their lives to follow the Lord.

We thank God for the open doors to share His Word. Thank you also for your support to NGM and our personal ministry.

LITTLE JOE KILLS HIS FIRST GOOSE

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When Little Joe killed his goose I knew without a doubt that it was an answer to our prayers. My wife Sheila and I were praying for him to kill his first goose on this trip. The odds seemed to be against him but nothing is impossible with God. I remembered what my late uncle Walter Katapatuk once told me about the animals. He said that when God gives you animals as a gift their reasoning is taken away and they will not be afraid. I was so amazed that the two geese we killed were not afraid at all. The goose I killed kept circling close to the blind so that I couldn't miss. When I told my older brother Allan that Little Joe killed a goose with his 22 he was surprised and found it hard to believe.

As a parent one of the things I try to do with my son is to spend quality time with him as much as I can. I do this because I know it is essential for fathers to connect with their sons. When my son and I are by ourselves we talk a lot and share a lot of laughs. He has a good sense of humour and sometimes tells me some of his jokes. As his father I feel proud to teach him some of the things I personally enjoy doing like swimming, baseball, golfing, hockey, guitar playing and of course goose hunting. He enjoys my company and says that I'm his best friend. Probably one of the greatest compliments he ever gave me was when he told me, "Dad, you're the best teacher." I know that the most important thing I can ever teach him is to know God and to have a right relationship with Him. I feel I have succeeded in that area.

