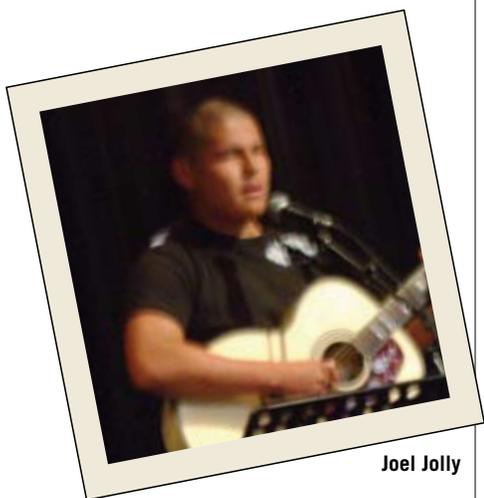


## 2010 NGM Native Christian Conference

*Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. (NGM) hosted its 15th annual Native Christian Conference in Ottawa at the Metropolitan Bible Church from July 16–18, 2010. The Conference was well attended this year and we thank the Lord for answering our prayers. The Conference guests really enjoyed the comfortable chairs and the seating arrangement of the 200-seat theatre in the Met's new church. The theatre had good acoustics and a spacious stage which made it ideal for the musicians to set up their instruments and equipment. There was air conditioning and the temperature was set for the comfort of the people.*



Joel Jolly

Howard Jolly was the keynote speaker for the Conference. He is Cree and is a member of the Waskaganish First Nation. He grew up in Moose Factory, Ontario. He is married to Karen and they have two children. When he was younger he travelled with the Sunrise Indian Gospel Band all over North America. He has received his Masters of Divinity from Providence Theological Seminary, was interim pastor of his home church in Moose Factory and now pastors the First Nations Community Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has spoken at the Rising Above Conference and also currently sings with the Rising Above Band. It was a blessing to have Howard's whole family at the Conference.

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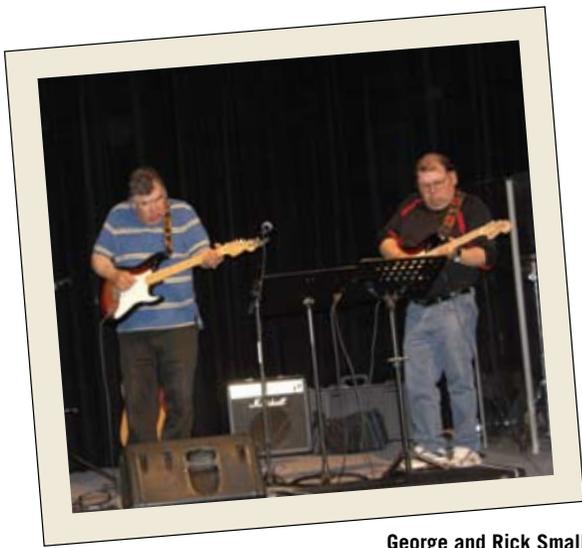
Samuel Mianscum



Isaac Mianscum



Rising Above Band



George and Rick Small

Native people like to listen to gospel music and this year we had plenty of music at the Conference. We invited Isaac Mianscum and his brother Samuel to each provide special music at the Conference. George Small and his brother Rick were also special guests. Scott Towaij also shared a couple of songs at the Conference, which was a special treat for those who never heard him sing before. Howard performed special music with the Rising Above Band. Joel Jolly, Howard and Karen's son, also blessed the people with his singing. Some of the Conference guests also shared songs during the open session before the message. We taped all the Conference sessions and we made DVDs available for people to purchase.

We had a good group of people this year and there were a lot of Native Christians from the northern communities in Ontario and Quebec. I often tell the Native people in the Cree communities that attending the weekend Conference in Ottawa is one of the best ways to have a special outing for their family. The people who come always enjoy the close Christian fellowship at the Conference. We had our regular fellowship meal and we want to thank Sheila for preparing

some of the main dishes. After the meal we had our regular service. On Saturday evening we also had a special healing service. Some of the people we prayed for later shared that they experienced healing physically and psychologically.

We went to Akwesasne, NY for the Sunday morning service. Howard preached the message and the Rising Above Band provided the special music. The Mohawk Christians at the New Life Christian Church provided a hot and cold buffet for everybody after the service. Howard was committed to speak in another church on Sunday evening



Conference fellowship meal



Preparing the banquet meal

so I preached Sunday evening at the Metropolitan Bible Church. They gave us

the whole service so I asked Isaac and his brother Samuel to provide the special music. Sheila also gave a report and an update of our ministry with NGM. We were both saved at the Met on October 13, 1974 and the church has been faithfully supporting our personal ministry since 1980.

There is no charge to attend the Conference. NGM pays all the expenses of the invited special guests but the Conference guests look after their own personal expenses.

To host a Conference is always a major expense and we rely upon the freewill offerings during the Conference. We also try to raise extra financial gifts and donations through our NGM News Tracker. I also talk to individual people who may be able to send a financial gift for the Conference. God has been good to NGM each year to be able to cover all the Conference expenses. PTL!

Enjoying the Conference meal





# 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference

*Gospel Music Celebration*

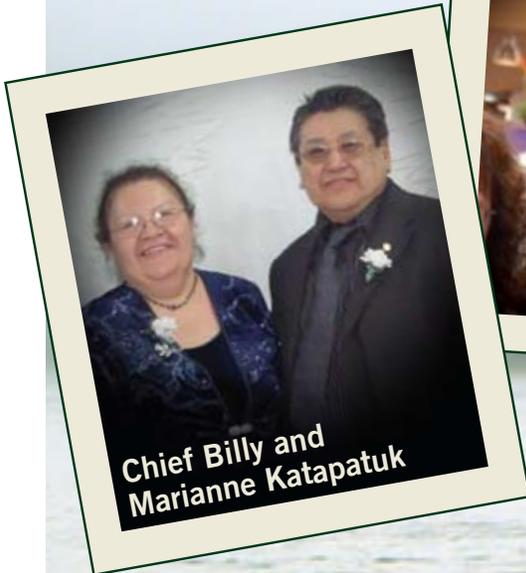
Ottawa, Ontario

July 15–17, 2011

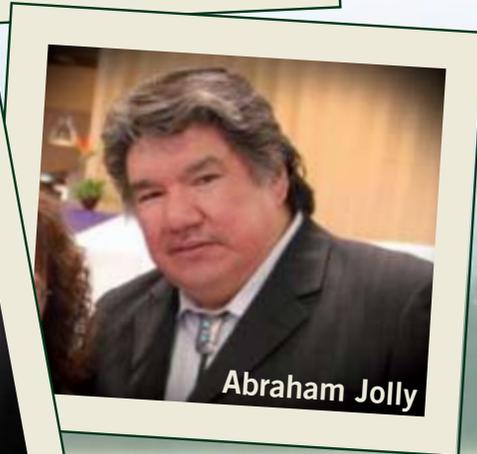
## CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:



The Chief Shepherd Band



Chief Billy and Marianne Katapatuk



Abraham Jolly

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

## Keynote Speaker:



Huron Claus

Rev. Huron Claus, President of CHIEF Inc., is a fifth generation follower of Jesus Christ. He comes from the Mohawk and Kiowa Nations. CHIEF has served among the First Nation Native American communities for the past 36 years from Alaska to Peru, South America. Their emphasis of ministry is in evangelism, discipleship/leadership training and through the ministry of helps. Huron and Lois Claus have been married for 32 years, have 2 adult children and four grandchildren.

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

### Conference Schedule

Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 6 PM

Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 10 AM and 6 PM

Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM service,

the New Life Christian Church in Akwesasne, NY

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

**Contact Dr. Joe Jolly at:**

phone: 613-739-0112

fax: 613-739-7513

email: [drjolly@sympatico.ca](mailto:drjolly@sympatico.ca)

[www.nativegospelministries.org](http://www.nativegospelministries.org)

# On the Go with Dr. Joe 2010–11

Joseph came with me to Moose Factory for our annual goose hunt on April 11–14, 2010 but our trip was cut short. I received a call from Sheila in Ottawa while we were at the camp to let me know that a young man was missing in Eastmain. They suspected that he may have

fallen through the ice. I was asked to go to Eastmain right away and help the Tomatuk family who had suffered

this great loss. There was a massive search and rescue effort by the community members and several Native people helped out from the other nearby reserves. After almost two months of intensive search the body was found. I was in Eastmain 4 times during the months of April, May and June. During that time I was available to provide counseling and spiritual support to the family and also to the people of Eastmain, which has a population of about 800 people. During those 3 months I also went to Mistissini, Waskaganish and Nemaska.

I made a special effort to be home for June 18–23, 2010, which was Joseph Seth's graduation week from Junior High. It was a blessing to see him all dressed up in his new suit for this special occasion. Sheila and I were so proud of him.

There were a few crisis situations in the different Cree communities and so my schedule was quite full. I was asked to go to Wemindji on July 20–23, 2010 for crisis counseling services. While I was there I was encouraged to know that the Christians in Wemindji are finally building their own church.



Above and right: Dr. Joe and Joseph goose hunting

Below: Joseph's graduation class





Baptismal service and campmeeting (below) in Garden Hill

I went to Waskaganish to do crisis counseling on July 30–August 3, 2010. While I was there I preached twice at the Waskaganish Pentecostal Church.

I was invited to speak at a campmeeting in Garden Hill, Manitoba on August 6–8, 2010. The last time I went there was about 15 years ago. It was such a special blessing to see so many of the Native Christian people we have come to know and love over the years. I praise God that the Garden Hill Fellowship, which is one of the oldest NEFC churches, is still in existence today. I was very encouraged to see that the Fellowship is still going strong and is blessed to have two mature Native

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Pastor Randy and Michaela Decarlo outside the construction of their new church Wemindji Christian Fellowship and Healing Center



Joseph's graduation banquet

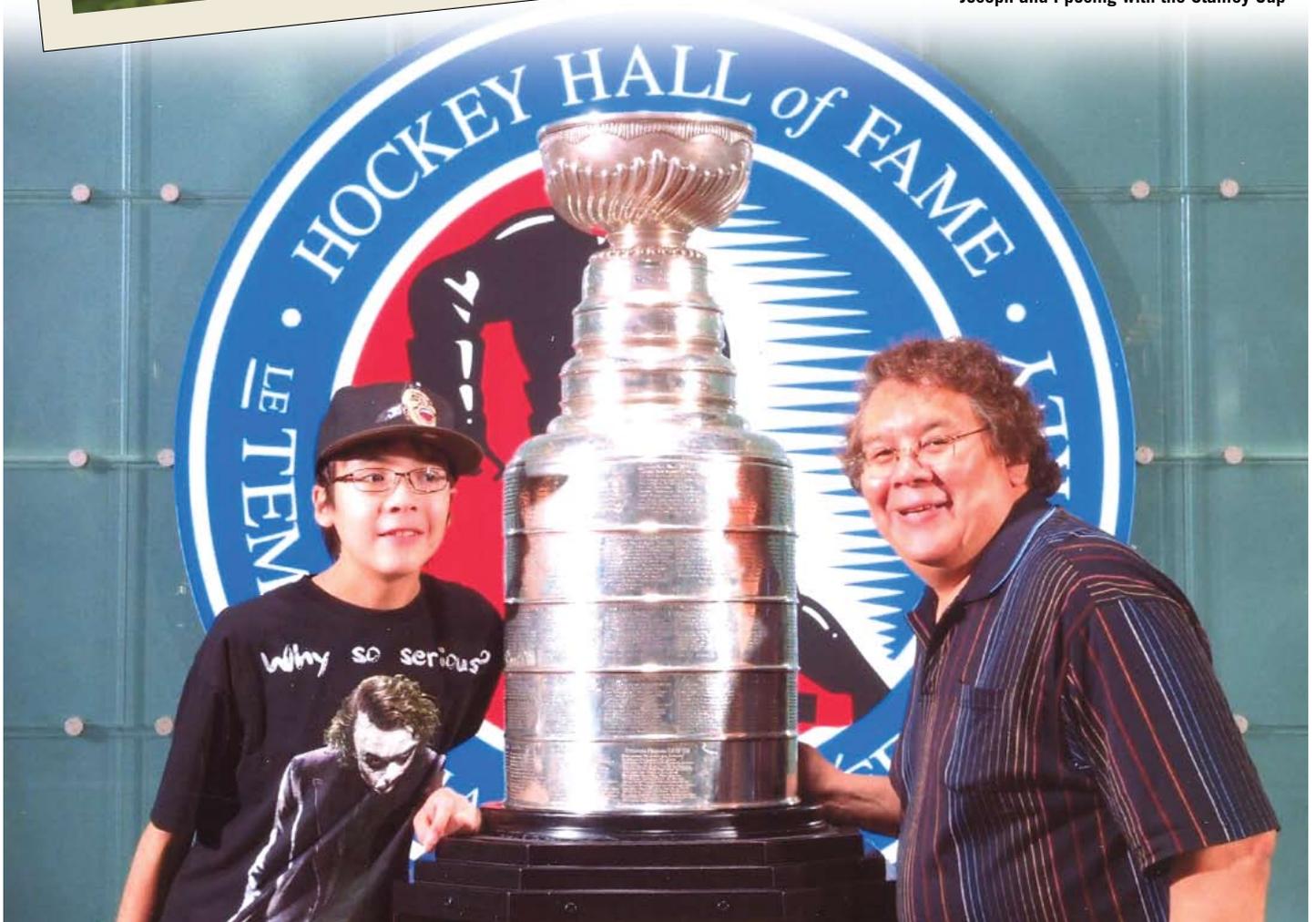
## On the Go with Dr. Joe 2010–11 *Continued*

Right: Kenny and Wanda Loon

Below: Memorial service for the late Albert Diamond,  
President of AirCreebec



Joseph and I posing with the Stanley Cup





Waswanipi people

Christian leaders in Pastor Arnold Flett and his brother-in-law John Charles Monias. There was a baptismal service for 7 young people after the Sunday morning service.

Joseph is growing up fast and he is not too excited about going on long trips anymore by car. However, I did manage to take him on a trip with our new van to Niagara Falls on August 10–14, 2010. He was motivated and excited to go there because his cousin Drayden from Wemindji was going to be there with his family. He had a great time hanging around with his cousin at Marine Land and at the arcades downtown so that made the whole trip worthwhile for him.

On our way back from Niagara Falls we spent two nights in Toronto. This was part of his summer vacation. While we were in Toronto we did some sightseeing and went to the Hockey Hall of Fame. We got the chance to touch the Stanley Cup and see the “golden puck” that Sidney Crosby scored for Canada’s gold medal win.

I went to Nemaska on August 17–19, 2010 to do counseling services. Then on August 23–27 I went to Waswanipi to do crisis counseling after a suicide in the community. While I was there the community was getting ready to vote for those running for Chief and Council.

I went to Waskaganish on September 9–13, 2010. While I was there I spoke at the memorial service for the late Albert Diamond. I felt at liberty to share a message of hope and salvation to the family members and relatives

of Albert’s family. There was a good group of people there. While I was there I preached twice at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship.

In October I only went to Eastmain and Mistissini. It seemed quiet after being so busy the past 4 months. On October 9, 2010 Kenny and Wanda Loon celebrated their renewal of their wedding vows on their 35th wedding anniversary.

The Metropolitan Bible Church had their Missions Conference on November 3–7, 2010. As a missionary for the Met I was asked to participate in their Mission Conference. I shared twice in the missionary workshops. One of my topics was on “Developing A Native Theology.”

On November 15–19, 2010 I went to Moose Factory, Ontario for the NADAP Awareness Week. After that I went to Waskaganish on November 22–26 for my regular visit. Then I went to Eastmain on November 30–December 3 for my regular visit. After that I went to Mistissini on December 13–17. This was my last trip before the holidays and I was anxiously looking forward to having some time off.

We decided to spend our Christmas holidays in Ottawa again. I am away a lot during the year so it was good for me to spend some quality time with Joseph Seth and Sheila. Joseph said this Christmas was better than last year so that was encouraging for both of us. He was happy on Christmas Day because he

*Continued on page 13*

# Eulogy

Juliet Gagnon (nee Blueboy) was born December 20th, 1945 at Cabbage Willows near Waskaganish, Quebec to Minnie (nee Katapatuk) and Mark Blueboy. She has two older sisters Daisy Moar (Jimmy) and Gertie Diamond (Luke) and one younger brother, Patrick Blueboy (Beulah). Her father passed away when she was two years old and her mother remarried to George Jolly. From this marriage she gained five brothers, Allan Jolly (Lorraine), Joe Jolly (Sheila), Harry Jolly (Frances), Abraham Jolly (Linda) and Howard Jolly (Karen) and one sister, Alice Gunner (Gary). She was raised by Ena Whiskeychan after her father passed away until the age of sixteen when she came to live with her mother in Moose Factory.

On December 10th, 1965, she married the love of her life, Charlie Gagnon.

Together they raised seven children, Rick Gagnon (Dahlia), Elaine Innes (Gary), Judy Mcleod (Louie), Jessie Gagnon (Wayne), Sheila Gagnon-Wesley (Curt), Mark Gagnon (Pam) and Chris Gagnon (Amy). From their children they were blessed with 27 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She also had a stepson Bruce Moses (Marlene) and, along with their 5 children, she embraced them as her own.

She started working at the Moose Factory General Hospital as a dietary aide when she was a teenager. She continued at the hospital as a nurse's aide until she retired



## *Juliet Gagnon (nee Blueboy)*

*December 20, 1945–January 24, 2011*

*A loving wife, mother, sister, aunt,  
granny, jaban and a dear friend*

*“Truly I tell you, today  
you will be with me in paradise.”*

*Luke 23:43*

December 2008. This job suited her well because she loved to interact with people and she loved helping people. She always had a smile for everyone. She had received an award from the hospital for her exemplary nursing care, she was nominated for this award by her peers. She also received an award for recognition of 25 years of service to the Weeneebayko General Hospital. Even after she retired from the hospital she continued to do casual work as a nursing assistant in the Family Medicine Clinic, she could never say no.

She accepted the Lord as her personal Savior in 1974. She took her children and grandchildren to Sunday school. She was always reading her Bible and enjoyed singing, especially Cree hymns. She faithfully went to the Cree Gospel Chapel and taught

Sunday School for many years. She was faithful to her Lord right up until the day He called her home.

Juliet's life was a testimony to the grace of God in that when she accepted Christ into her life, she lived a life that was a witness to others of what God had done for her. She was loving and caring to all, putting others needs before her own, and she joyfully finished her course. She prayed consistently for her family and friends, commending them to God, that they would receive his grace and receive an inheritance with those who are sanctified, as Juliet, herself has received.



Juliet's children and husband Charlie (centre)

Juliet loved the outdoors; it was where she was happiest. Charlie and Juliet have a camp at Car Creek and have been camping there for over 20 years. Their children built camps there as well along with their good friends Archie and Virginia Hester. I am sure that each one of their grandchildren has been to their camp at least once. She loved to prepare wild meat and was always eager to teach her children, grandchildren and anyone who wanted to learn.

She and Charlie loved the outdoors so much that they were part of the Outdoor education programs at the Christian Academy and Ministik School.

Another big part of Juliet's life was her sewing club. Twice a week she looked forward to going, where she could



Juliet's grandchildren

spend her time sewing and chatting with many of her good friends and she also made many new friends through here. She was always willing to teach others her handcrafting skills.

Juliet was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, but she never complained. She continued to live her life to the fullest and relied on God to see her through her illness. Although we will miss her, we are comforted knowing that she is no longer suffering and she is now with her Lord and Savior. We can only imagine how happy she must be at this moment.

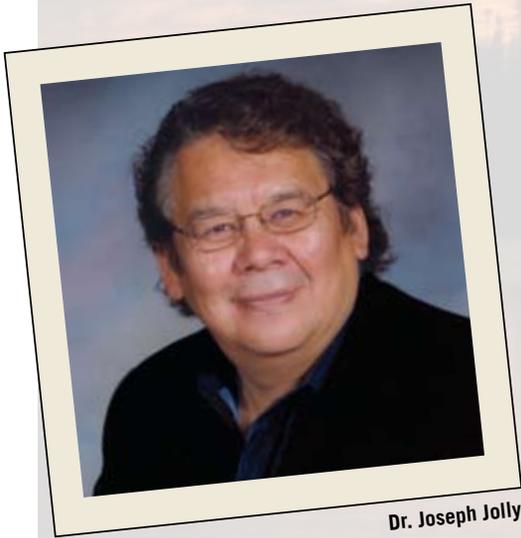
As someone loved very much it is especially hard for her family to let her go. But we do say good-bye to her for now knowing that in Christ we shall see her again in the next life.



Juliet's brothers and sisters

# Living the

*“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.”*  
(Colossians 3:1-4, NLT)



Dr. Joseph Jolly

Believers live in touch with two worlds—physical and spiritual. Colossians 3:1-4 is an exhortation for Christians to live in a completely different way than the people of the world. It is call to have different goals, thoughts and passions—a completely different world view. The text calls us to direct our minds out of the temporary, the sin, corruption, pain, death, and the evil of this world and to focus our thoughts on eternal life, who we will be with and what we will be doing for all eternity.

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, you were raised to be co-resurrected. Because of their union with Christ, believers spiritually entered His death and resurrection at the moment of their conversion. This is one of the many phrases used in the New Testament to describe one who is truly saved.

What does it mean to be saved? When we repent of our sins it means we have a change of mind and turn from our sins to follow Jesus. We place our faith in Christ, what He accomplished on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead. Romans 10:9 reminds us that, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

When you are saved you are placed in Christ and Christ is placed in you, spiritually speaking. Before coming to Christ you were spiritually dead, but now you have come to Christ in faith. He gives you His life, His very resurrection life, so that death no longer has power over you. You receive Christ’s life at the moment of conversion and it is yours for all eternity. You are right now, raised up from your spiritual deadness and exalted to newness of life in Christ. God wants you to live differently.

Set your sights on the realities of heaven—**SEEK THE THINGS ABOVE**. Keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. The phrase keep seeking is a present active command which means we are to always seek the things above. Keep seeking heavenly things not earthly things. The heavenly things we can obtain here on earth are things like Christ’s righteousness, holiness and truth. We can also win souls to Christ by sharing the gospel. When we are seeking the heavenly things it will make us want to be holy and not sin. It will put into proper perspective the passing pleasures of this world. It will give us joy, hope, and perseverance to live for Christ now in a sin cursed world. It will cause us to be full of wonder, praise, and thanksgiving.

Think about things of heaven, not the things of earth—**SET YOUR MIND ON THE THINGS ABOVE**. God wants you to fix, set, and cement into place your mind so that it is directed to think about heaven not earthly things. Meditate on the word of God. Think about what it will be like to walk the streets of gold. What your glorified body will look like. If your mind is set on heavenly things you will invest in eternal things, which will make it easier to give to missions.

Excerpts from a message by Dr. Joseph Jolly, which was delivered at the Metropolitan Bible Church on July 18, 2010.

My wife Sheila and I first met Don Miller when we lived in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He was visiting his daughter at that time and since we were missionaries with the Met he decided to look us up while he was in the area. This was back in 1980 and from that time on he began supporting our ministry

# New Life

for many years. Don was retired from his work with the government and him and his wife Marion lived in Ashton, Ontario. Ashton is not far from Ottawa and we often took time to drive out there with our son and visit them in their home.

After his wife died Don continued to live by himself in their house. What I remember about their house was that it was old and not very big. The furniture and appliances had served their purpose well and needed to be replaced. Some of the household items were antiques like the cushioned dining room chairs, silver tea pot and kerosene lamps. The refrigerator was over 40 years old and Don was proud that it was still in good working condition. His garage tools and shovels were old. He showed me his metal garbage can that was 57 years old, which he still used. Don was a Christian for over 60 years and he was a spiritual man. We learned a lot of things about the Christian life from him. He would often tell us that when you tithe and give to the Lord, He will make your things last longer. He didn't have too much money with just his pension cheques but one year he was quite amazed that the total amount of his charitable donation receipts came to \$24,000. Don gave generously to the church and missions because his mind was set on heavenly things.

For you died to this life and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. REMEMBER YOU HAVE DIED. Paul is speaking of spiritual things. Before coming to Christ we are dead to Christ and alive to sin. After coming to Christ, we die to sin and are made alive to Christ.

Watchman Nee read Romans 6:6, which said, "We know that our old self sinful lives were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives." Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, he leapt from his chair, ran downstairs, and grabbed a kitchen worker by the hands. "Brother," he shouted, "Do you know that I have died?" His biographer wrote it was impossible to say anything that might offend Nee. Why should he be offended? That Watchman Nee was long since dead. We identify with Christ in his death and resurrection. Consider yourself dead to sin.

One day Martin Luther was answering a knock at his door, "Does Dr. Martin Luther live here?" asked the visitor. "No," Luther answered, "he died, Christ lives here now." Believers are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. When he died for our sins we died to sin and when he arose from the dead we arose with him in new

life. We are to walk in newness of life. "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

"For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:3) As a believer you have spiritually died to your former slavery to sin and Satan. Sin is no longer your master. Satan is no longer your lord. Pleasure seeking, power, money, and fame are no longer to be goals of your life. You have been crucified with Christ, died with Christ to your sinful manner of life. Now your life "is hidden with Christ." You have Christ living within you and you are in Him. You are hidden in Christ. This is the reason you can seek and set your mind on the things above. You are right now a heavenly creature in Christ.

And when Christ (who is your life), is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. REMEMBER CHRIST IS COMING. The motivation for Christian service is the soon return of Christ. Many people do not know that Jesus is coming again. At any moment you could be raptured into glory! You could be transformed in the twinkling of an eye and glorified, given a perfect body and instantly translated into the presence of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 4:17) When Christ is revealed to the whole world there will be bodily resurrection of the dead. "But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

Do you know the secret of spiritual living? You need to start dying to start living. You need to grow in your Christian life. A Native Christian from one of the Cree communities told me that his friend became a born again Christian but afterwards said it was not for him. He became a Muslim, which makes me question his friend's conversion to Christ. You don't try being a Christian, it is a lifetime commitment. Christianity is not a cafeteria where you take what you want.

As a Christian you need to recognize your spiritual position in Christ and you also need to understand the nature of sin with your intellect-mind. If you seek the things above, set your mind on the things above, remember you have died to sin but have been made alive in Christ, and constantly remember that Christ can return at any moment to rapture you into glory.

# Letting Go of a Loss

by Nancy (Neeposh) Wapachee

I would like to share my story of the experience I had after the loss of our baby son. To all who have suffered in the loss of a baby maybe my story will touch you in a special way and I pray that you will feel the power of God as I have felt when I let go of our loss.

On April 12, 1980 our second baby was born, a baby brother to my first born daughter Esther. Our baby son was named after (my Dad) Tommy and (my husband) James.

When our baby son was two months old he became very ill and at that time our community didn't have a clinic so we had to travel to Val-d'Or to bring him to the hospital. After his check up, the Doctor informed us that he would be admitted without really knowing his condition. The Doctor told us that more tests needed to be done and would inform us once the results were in. We returned home leaving our baby in the hospital.

On August 11, 1980 we received news that our baby son had passed away. I could not believe he was gone. It was not until the funeral when I saw our baby son lying in his small coffin that I realized he was really gone. I really wanted to believe that this was only a dream and I was trying to wake up.

I cried each time his birthday came and sometimes I felt that someday I would see him. My heart ached for him and I longed to touch and hold him in my arms. I felt my arms aching and longing to hold him just one more time.

As the years went by and the year he would have turned eighteen, something happened that I will never forget. I was lying on the bed remembering him and tears flowing down my cheeks then I thought to myself. Why do I always cry when I think about him and yet deep down in my heart I believed that he was safe in the arms of Jesus.

I got off the bed and looked out the window and with tears flowing down my cheeks I looked up into the beautiful blue sky and I said "Thank You Lord for taking our baby son home." At that moment I felt that something poured down from my head through my whole body down to my toes. Not knowing what to do I ran outside and I felt that everybody was seeing this bright light shining down on me.

I was thanking the Lord over and over again. Something came over me because I was almost running down the road not knowing where I was going. It was then I knew the Lord had touched me and lifted the grieving that I had carried throughout the years.

Since that day I will forever be thankful to the Lord God Almighty for giving me the opportunity to feel His touch and for helping me to know that He is always there to help us to deal with our losses.

Let us not forget the Lord God is a healer and He will heal every hurt that we carry if we let him take control.

## On the Go with Dr. Joe 2010–11 *Continued*

got almost everything that was on his wish list. To give Sheila a break and help her relax and enjoy our family time I used my chef skills to cook the Christmas meal. Joseph is not a big eater so it was nice to see him pile up his plate with turkey, dressing and potatoes with lots of gravy. Altogether I was home for 23 consecutive days in December and January so we were able to celebrate both Christmas and New Years at home.

I was invited to do workshops on grief and losses by the Waswanipi First Nation on January 10–14, 2011. Altogether I did two workshops for the Youth at the Youth Centre and I shared twice at the elementary school for the grades 4–6. When I talked to the grade 4 class some of the children felt free to share their grief and losses. As a result a number of them were crying as they shared about their grief experience. At one point there were about 4 of them crying at the same time. It was encouraging to see them release their emotional feelings and the adults who were present were moved by what they witnessed.

It was a privilege for me to be asked by the Chief to speak at the General Assembly. He gave me an hour to speak but the session lasted for about 3 hours. I talked about the grief process and afterwards I left it open for people to ask questions. A number of people got up to ask questions and shared briefly about their grief experience. I was

Allan and Lorraine Jolly with Jessie Gunner



Joseph opening his Christmas presents

thankful I knew the grief process because it is always a challenge to answer questions from the audience. Some of the questions were related to spiritual matters so my theological training was a big help to me.

I went to Waskaganish on January 24–28 and while I was there I received a call from Sheila to let me know that my older sister Juliet had passed away. She had cancer and I made a point to see her in the Kingston hospital. She seemed so peaceful even though she was going through a lot. She was a Christian for many years and her faith in God was strong right to the end of her life. The verse of scripture that stands out for me when I remember her is, “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.” (Isaiah 26:3) The funeral was in Moose Factory so I flew there on the charter plane along with my family members in Waskaganish. I was close to my sister and I was thankful that her family members asked me to do the funeral service. She knew lots of people in Moose Factory and Moosonee so there was a large attendance for the service.

My calendar was full during the month of February. On February 1–4 I went to Nemaska for counselling services and then I went to Eastmain on February 8–11 for the same thing. I went to Mistissini on February 15–18 at the invitation of the Wellness Program to conduct workshops on the grieving process and to do individual counselling. On February 21–25 I went back to Mistissini again for counselling services with the Mental Health Program. My calendar fills up quick when unexpected new engagements come up. I always make

*Continued on next page*



**Sheila and Joseph with Jeff and Sheri Easter at a concert in Waskaganish two years ago**

a point to try and respond to any invitations I get from the Native communities.

I went to Nemaska for counselling services on March 15–18. One of the tasks I have been doing is helping those who went to residential school with their application forms for the Common Experience Payment (CEP) and Independent Assessment Process (IAP). It is recommended that a counsellor be present when the applicants tell their story of the kind of abuse they went through in the residential school. Some of them went through a lot of abuse in residential school and quite a number of individuals in the Cree communities have already received a substantial amount of money as part of the compensation package from the government.

I went to Waskaganish on March 23–27 for counselling services. After that I went to Montreal on March 29 for the Mental Health Program meeting. Joseph came with me on this trip.

On April 1 Joseph's classmate and friend Zach came with us to Montreal for a Rod Stewart concert. We took the train and stayed overnight in Montreal at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. We stayed there because we got a good rate for the room and because it was a fun outing for the two boys. Both of them like music and play the guitar so it was a nice feeling to witness their excitement for this special event. I was personally impressed with Rod Stewart's performance and showmanship. Another time the three of us went to

see a John Fogerty concert in Ottawa. Sheila also likes going to concerts whenever she can.

I was scheduled to visit Eastmain on April 3–6 but I had to change my dates so I could go to Waswanipi instead for crisis counselling. A young girl from the community committed suicide and I was invited to help out with the counselling services.

Joseph had made plans to go to Montreal on April 7 to see Buddy Guy in concert. I like music too so I don't mind going to these concerts. We took the train and stayed



**Sheila with Jesse Dixon in Ottawa**

overnight in Montreal. I always look forward to our father and son times because it gives me an opportunity to spend some quality time with Joseph.

I had set aside the middle of April in my calendar for our annual goose hunt. My calendar was full for the whole month so for the first time in a long time I didn't go hunting. April 12–15 was the only time I had available to go to Eastmain for my regular visit. The reason my calendar was full in April was because I went to Waswanipi twice for crisis counselling and intervention.



Standing on the Grand Ole Opry stage

On April 18–21 the community of Waswanipi invited me hold workshops on grief and do some crisis counseling. I don't often go to Waswanipi but they have gone through a number of crisis situations this past year and I felt it was important to respond to their invitation to do workshops and individual counseling. While I was there I shared on the radio a couple of times to talk about the grief process and suicide.

On April 25–29 I went to Mistissini for my regular visit. It seemed kind of quiet because the people were getting ready or had already left for their goose break.

On May 16–20 I went to Nemaska. I was invited as a counselor and to continue helping the residential school

students with their Independent Assessment Process (IAP) applications. It is a gratifying feeling to help someone with their application forms and to know that everything was processed and approved.

I went to Waskaganish on May 23–27 for my regular visit. The next day after I got home from my trip Joseph and I started on our long trip to Nashville, Tennessee. He had arranged this trip a few months in advance for me and him to go to Nashville and take in a live concert by B.B. King and Buddy Guy. It was a long drive from Ottawa but it was nice to spend some quality time with him for 6 days. I love my son and I want to create a lot of good memories of him spending time with me.

On June 6–10 I went to Eastmain for my regular visit. On June 9th I went to Waskaganish because I had to do a wedding the next day. I performed the wedding for Virginia Moses and Michael Katapatuk.



Above: Virginia Moses and Michael Katapatuk

Left: Dr. Joe at the radio station in Waswanipi



