

Mourning into Dancing: Briercrest alum writes book about her journey through grief

It took Sheila Jolly years to navigate through the pain and hurt she felt after the deaths of her sister, mother and father, all within the same year.

KAYLA MALANKA | NOV 18, 2013

"Losing so many people I love like that was pretty intense," Jolly, Briercrest College and Seminary graduate, explained.

Her experience of learning to cope with their deaths is now written in her book, *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*.

"I wrote this book as a ministry because I wanted to emphasize what God did for me through my training (at Briercrest) and what He also did for me during my grief journey," she said.

It is a journey that began with the death of her sister.

"In February of 2003 I just got home from Caronport (Sask.) and I had no idea my sister was going to die the same day I arrived," she explained.

"One of the prayers I had while I was at Caronport was, 'Lord please do not allow anything to happen to my family while I am away because I would not know how to deal with it.'"

It was a prayer God answered. Jolly wasn't supposed to arrive home the day her sister passed away, but with cancelled classes and a cheap flight available she was.

"I got home early in the afternoon and right away I called the hospital where my sister was staying and I was able to talk to my younger sister who told me my other sister was not doing well at all," she said.

"So I asked my younger sister to put the phone to her ear, even though she was almost unconscious with all the

medications she was on. I told her, 'pray to God either to heal you right now or take you home because you have suffered long enough.'"

She then prayed with her sister and 10 minutes after hanging up the phone Jolly received word she passed away.

"Then they called later that day and said, 'Your mom is not doing too well'. She was suffering from Alzheimer's and ovarian cancer," Jolly said. "That same weekend she died and went to be with the Lord, too. So I went home to a double funeral and that was very difficult."

"Then my father just got over his heart surgery and 10 months later we get a call on Dec. 19 saying my dad isn't doing too well because he hurt his foot and Gangrene set in. Here I was going home to visit him for Christmas with our young son and we buried him instead."

The losses devastated Jolly. Confused and hurt she drew closer to God and found the strength to continue on.



Sheila Jolly

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2013 NGM Conference

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

The attendance this year was higher than last year. The regular attendees were there and, as happens every year, there were some new people who came. There were Native people at the Conference from Ontario, Quebec, and all the way from Manitoba, Alberta and

British Columbia. My two younger brothers, Harry and Abraham, were there which was a blessing as it always is to see family members. The people appreciate Harry's presence at the Conference



Clockwise from far left: Conference guests

Claudette Shecapio-Blacksmith Esdelle

Harry Jolly

Norma Wager and Darlene Paddy from Curve Lake, ON



because he makes everybody laugh with his good sense of humour.

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

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19th Annual Native Christian Conference

July 4 to 6, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario

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

CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:



Keynote Speaker

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

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

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



Living Stone – Randy and Evangeline Jackson



Scott Towaij

THE MUSICIANS

Living Stone is a Christian pop/rock band characterized by smooth, soulful female vocals, innovative guitar work, insightful song writing and solid, tasteful percussion. Randy Jackson is the lead guitarist and his wife, Evangeline, sings and plays the bass guitar. They write songs that reflect their belief in the power and relevance of their faith and that cover a wide range of themes related to the spiritual journey.

Scott Towaij and his family live in Ottawa and he has become a regular singer at NGM Conferences. Scott is a musician, singer, songwriter and recording artist, and has several CDs that are available to the public.

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

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

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

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On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013

I was in Ottawa for most of June which is always enjoyable. I went to Montreal on June 18–20 when I was invited by the Cree Regional Authority Justice and Correctional services to visit the Native inmates from the eastern James Bay Cree communities who are serving time in the penitentiaries at Cowansville and Laval. I am thankful for this opportunity to do counseling services in the jails and at the half way house in Montreal. The inmates are easy to talk to and our time together always leads to a discussion on spiritual matters.

On June 28–30, NGM hosted its 18th Annual Native Christian Conference in Ottawa. There was a good turnout and it was a blessing to see so many people come from different parts of Canada. The keynote speaker was Pastor Jerry Quequish from Round Lake, Ontario. Kenny and Milly Jackson, Claudette Shecapio-Blacksmith Esdelle and Scott Towaij provided the special music. Our son, Joseph, played an instrumental solo with his guitar on Sunday evening



Above: Conference guests
Above right: Abraham Jolly at the Elders Gathering
Right: Outdoor service at the Elders Gathering in Mistissini

which kind of choked me up during the service. I was so proud of him. This was one of the greatest highlights for me and Sheila at the Conference. It is wonderful to have a son who is close to God.

We taped all the sessions except the Sunday evening service and we will be making the Conference DVDs available through our office once they are edited. Our banquet meal at the Conference went very well and the fellowship at the table was enjoyed by all. At our NGM Board meeting during the Conference, all the Board members were present except one.

I was invited by the Social Development Program to provide counseling services in Mistissini and conduct grief workshops at the Elders Gathering on July 19–26. On Sunday morning, I preached at the site of the Elders Gathering. While I was there, I attended a feast that was part of the walking out ceremony for my brother's

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2013 NGM Conference *continued*



Left: Pastor Jerry Quequish
Below: NGM Board member Richard Peltier from Wikwemikong, ON
Below right: Milly and Kene Jackson
Bottom right: Scott Towaij



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

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

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

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





Left, top and bottom:
Arlene Weistche and
Arnold Blueboy

Rebekah Lynn Taylor
and Barney Weistche

Right, top and bottom:
Rachelle Julie
Gagnon and Avery
Linklater's family

Rachelle Julie
and Avery with
Dr. Joseph Jolly



grandson, Mason. My brother, Abraham, shared a couple of songs at the outdoor service beside the lake which was appreciated by everyone who came.

On July 30–August 2, I was in Moose Factory, Ontario. I went there at the invitation of the Mocrebec Health Program. I did home visits and visited the sick at the hospital. While I was there, I spoke at the Cree Gospel Chapel which was aired on the local cable TV.

I presided over several weddings this summer where we enjoyed seeing a number of family members and relatives. The day after I got back to Ottawa from Moose Factory, I performed an outdoor wedding for Barney Weistche and Rebekah Lynn Taylor on August 3rd. Barney is the son of the late Robert Weistche who was a former Chief of the Waskaganish First Nation. Robert accepted the Lord at the Gospel Jamboree 2008 in Waskaganish when I was speaking there. It was a special privilege and a great blessing for me to officiate at his son's wedding.

On August 11th, I drove to Val-d'Or, Quebec, to conduct a wedding for Arlene Weistche and Arnold Blueboy from Waskaganish. There were quite a number of people from Waskaganish and Nemaska who came to the wedding on August 12th. At the Forrestal Hotel where I stayed and where the wedding was held, I had a wonderful opportunity to visit many of the invited guests.

On August 19th, I conducted another outdoor wedding at 6:00 p.m. in a park near the Ottawa Central

Experimental Farm for Rachelle Julie Gagnon and Avery Linklater. Rachelle is the daughter of my nephew, Ricky Gagnon. It was good to see some of my nieces and their husbands at the wedding. Sheila loves going to weddings so she doesn't mind at all when I get calls to preside over them. We both enjoy these community events very much.

During the last week of August, I returned to Montreal to visit the Native inmates at the penitentiaries in Cowansville and Laval. Again, I visited some of the inmates who are staying at the half way house. I am learning a lot of things about how the court and jail system works from talking to the inmates.

In September, I didn't have to do much travelling. It was good to stay at home and spend some quality time with my family as well as work in the NGM office and counsel people in Ottawa. I also visited and prayed for those who are sick in the hospital. On September 22nd, I preached at the Israel's Hope Bible Church in Ottawa and then on the 29th, I preached at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Cornwall, Ontario.

I went to Montreal on October 9–11 to visit the Native inmates at the half way house and at the penitentiary in Laval. When I go to Montreal, I always see a few Native people from the Cree communities. They come to Montreal for medical reasons or to attend meetings for the Cree Health Board and the Cree School Board. While I was

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Mike Metatawabin, Lead Commissioner for the "Peoples Inquiry" to address the suicide crisis troubling the Native communities

The Purpose of the Advent: The Four Great Values of the First Advent



Dr. Joseph Jolly

For Christians around the world, Christmas is a special time of year when we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we are remembering a special event, the miracle of the incarnation—the birth of God’s Son into the human family. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Second Person in the God-head and He existed before He was manifested. John the Baptist testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’” (John 1:15 NLT)

Some non-Christians are trying to take the Christ out of Christmas. They want to replace the old traditional “Merry Christmas” greeting with “Happy Holidays.” It’s hard to believe that some people want to leave Christ out of Christmas, especially since it is His birthday we are celebrating. The desire of the world to take Christ out of Christmas shows that they don’t know Him.

“We are in danger of losing Christmas. It may now be the biggest and most popular of all our holidays, but Christmas is in jeopardy just the same. A subtle but sure erosion is eating away the Season’s true significance.” (John MacArthur)

There are two prevailing philosophies that are stealing Christmas. The first one is an effort to mythologize the Christmas story. The world has reduced it to little more than an elaborate fable. Tradition has turned the unnumbered visitors from the east into three kings and has even given them names. In the nativity scene, the wise men did not visit Jesus the night of His birth.

The second philosophy that is stealing Christmas is the growing tendency to secularize it. For example, Santa Claus, reindeer and talking snowmen seem to dominate our Christmas decorations. The spiritual values of Christmas have mostly been taken away.

In the past, Christmas was focused on the worship of God. Most of the current celebrations have left Christmas outside of Christmas, commercializing the season to the extent that worshiping God is pushed to the side. People shop, wrap, and give gifts, cook, serve, and eat food, go to parties, send Christmas cards, attend movies, plays, visit friends and family, and the like, to the exclusion of worship and acknowledging the birth of Christ. Of course, we can celebrate Christmas with joy but let us also make it a time of worship.

The world does not see that Christmas is first of all a celebration of the birth of the Saviour. Christmas is a time to worship and praise God. “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.” (Matthew 2:11) Christmas means so much more when you know who Jesus is and why He came.

The true joy of Christmas comes from knowing what Christmas is really all about and from knowing the One whose birth we celebrate. Why did Jesus come? He came because Scripture had to be fulfilled. “The virgin will conceive a child? She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means God with us). (Isaiah 7:14) He came into this world with a mission and that was to die on the cross and save us from sins.

Two thousand years ago, divinity took part in humanity. God became a man. The angel of the Lord told the shepherds not to be afraid. He said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” (Luke 2:10, 11 NLT)

There are four great values of that first Advent:

I. To Destroy the Works of the Devil

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (I John 3:8 NIV)

The “Son of God” is Jesus and the use of this title refers to Jesus’ Deity. The word “appeared” shows us that Jesus existed before His incarnation. Jesus is God.

Jesus described the devil as a murderer and a liar. (John 8:44) The works of the devil are the destruction of life—physical and spiritual death. All diseases and all pain are ultimately results of sin and are among the works of the devil. “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” (II Corinthians 4:4 NLT)

Christ was manifested to bring the gift of eternal life. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Christ came into the world to open the eyes of those who were spiritually blind. When I accepted Christ on October 13th, 1974, my eyes were opened and the devil’s works in my life were destroyed. I was born again and became a new person in Christ.

II. To take Away Sins

“And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him.” (I John 3:5 NLT) Sin means missing the mark of God’s divine purpose. We have all sinned and missed the mark. God is holy and must punish sin. Jesus was manifested to bear our sins. Jesus, the Son of God, was sinless and was a perfect sacrifice for our sins. “He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds, you are healed.” (I Peter 2:24 NLT)

III. To Reveal the Father.

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the father.” (John 14:9)

By that statement, Jesus claimed absolute identity with God. If you want to know what God the Father is like, study the life of Christ. God incarnate means that God became a man. “So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” (John 1:14 NLT)

“If you want to know what God is like, then take a long look at Jesus Christ—because He was God in human flesh.” (Billy Graham)

“It is not an optional truth. Anyone who rejects Christ’s deity rejects Christ absolutely—even if he pretends otherwise.” (John MacArthur)

“He who resided in heaven, co-equal, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. He breathed our air, felt our pain, knew our sorrows, and died for our sins.” (Charles Swindoll)

Have you ever wondered what it was like for Mary to bring up Jesus? Max Lucado raises some questions for Mary that are thought-provoking for us as we ponder the humanity and deity of Christ: Mary, what was it like watching him pray? Did you ever feel awkward teaching

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First Advent *continued*

him how he created the world? Did you ever see him with a distant look on his face as if he was listening to someone you couldn't hear? Did you ever think, that's God eating my soup?

Christ revealed the Father to humanity. As Christians, it is our privilege and duty to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the Father to others in our lives.

IV. To Prepare For a Second Advent

"So also Christ died once for all times as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28 NLT) He came once in order that He might be able to come again.

Jesus came to destroy the devil's work but the works of the devil are not yet finally destroyed. Jesus came to take away sins but we still struggle with sin in the world and in our own lives. He came to reveal the Father but God is not yet perfectly known. Something more is needed. The First Advent demands something else.

Christ's ultimate victory will take place at His Second Coming. Christ will appear a second time. That's the Blessed Hope we are waiting for. That event will happen someday. If not in our lifetime, it will take place in the future. "And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame." (1 John 2:28 NLT)

Christ shall appear a second time apart from sin. By His First Advent, sin was revealed. He not only revealed it but bore it. Now having dealt with sin and destroyed its root in the First Advent, His Second Coming is to be that of VICTORY. He will come as the King of kings and set up His kingdom. He will come to judge.

The Second Advent will be for those who wait for Him. His Second Advent will mean salvation to those who heard the message of the First Advent and believed it. We stand between two Advents. Our relation to the First Advent creates our relation to the Second Advent. To trust in Christ is to wait for the Second Advent.

The birth of Jesus, His death and His resurrection were the result of His First Coming. The Bible clearly teaches that He is coming again.

What does Christmas mean to you? To some people Christmas means hard work. The stores are crowded with shoppers. The post office is overflowing with mail. The trains, buses and planes are full. In all this busyness, people go through a lot of physical and emotional stress at Christmas.

To some people, Christmas means a visit home. It is wonderful to be with family members at Christmas. To many people, Christmas means a sad memory as they are still grieving the loss of a loved one.

To some people Christmas means partying. That's how I used to celebrate Christmas before I was a Christian. I'm so glad God delivered me from that kind of lifestyle.

But to millions of people, Christmas means nothing. They do not know Jesus and Christmas for them is just another day. To them it is just a holiday or perhaps, not even a holiday.

The message of Christmas is very clear. God became a man to be a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus came down from heaven to save sinners. We are saved when our sins are forgiven. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

The greatest gift you can receive is ETERNAL LIFE. If you can't find Christmas in your heart, you'll never find it under a tree. The greatest gift you can give to Jesus on His birthday is yourself. Have you done that yet?

Before giving the invitation at his evangelistic crusades, Billy Graham often told his audience that getting saved is as simple as ABC. What he meant is that the steps to salvation are these:

- A. *Admit* your need. Tell God you are a sinner. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV)
- B. *Believe* in the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith simply means to believe. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31 NIV)
- C. *Confess* your sins. We need to ask for our sins to be forgiven. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and will purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 NIV)

Here is a simple prayer you can pray to receive Christ:

Heavenly Father, I thank You for your love to me. You showed how much You loved me when You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I admit I am a sinner and I have sinned against You. I am sorry for my sins and I ask for Your forgiveness. I want to turn from my sins and I surrender my life to You. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and make me His child. I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen!

May the Christ of Christmas be in our hearts and minds and may He be revealed anew to each of us this Christmas season!

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013 *continued*

in Montreal, I had a chance to go out for supper with my aunt, Dorothy Nicholls, who was attending a meeting. She has been a Christian for many years and it was wonderful to visit and have fellowship with her.

Joseph and his cousin, Derland, made plans to go to a B.B. King concert on October 12th in Kitchener, Ontario. Both of them like music and they were excited and anxiously looking forward to going on this overnight trip. I was tired after driving there and back. I look forward to the day when Joseph will get his driver's license. I know he will be a great help as the extra driver on these kinds of long trips. He registered himself this fall to take the driving instruction training that is being offered through his school. He must be learning a great deal because he is quick to point out to me when I fail to signal or yield to pedestrians. He helps his mom when she drives him to school when I am away.

I went to Moose Factory again to participate in the public hearings that were held in Moosonee and Moose Factory regarding suicide awareness. I was asked to be a support worker and a counselor during these sessions. It was open for anyone to share so I spoke three times during these hearings. I spoke twice on grieving a suicide. The third time I addressed the question: "When a person commits suicide, do they go to heaven?" That got a lot of attention because people have different views on this. I had read several books on grieving a suicide in which this question was often discussed so I felt comfortable sharing what I had learned and what I personally believe from a biblical perspective.

While I was in Moose Factory, I made a point to visit Stan Louttit who is the Grand Chief of the Mushkegowuk Council. Stan and his wife, Sharon, both accepted the Lord on January 26, 2013. This past year, Stan has been suffering with cancer in his stomach and has been undergoing treatments in Kingston. I prayed for his healing and anointed him with oil which he appreciated very much. Pray that God will do a special miracle in Stan's life and that he will fully recover from this sickness. He is a fighter and wants to beat this disease.

Joseph Seth had his 18th birthday on October 26th. That was a very special day for us as parents and we will always

remember and treasure it. We were invited for supper by our friends Lou and Jean Ranahan so that was part of his birthday celebration. We had a special birthday cake made for him and we made sure he blew out his candles. Besides playing the guitar, Joseph also plays the piano very well and so for his birthday he wanted a Roland keyboard that had all the special effects and sound. He never took piano lessons but he plays like he did which is quite amazing to



see. He learns a lot of it from the YouTube. He is also a songwriter and has written quite a number of songs already. Pray for Joseph to continue to develop this gift and to excel in his music.

On November 4–8, I was invited by the Social Development Program in Mississauga to do counseling services. I talked to many people while I was there. As a Christian, I am a biblical counselor so I often share spiritual matters

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Top and above: Joseph Seth on his 18th birthday

Sheila Jolly did not consult any books when she wrote her story about her grief journey. She did not want to follow someone else’s model on how to deal with grief. Rather, she wanted to tell her story in her own words from a Native perspective. A good understanding about the grief process and the various stages of grief that she went through are central to her book. It is evident in her story that her grief through multiple losses affected her emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

When a person goes through a great loss like the death of a loved one, it is normal to grieve. Even spiritually minded people will grieve because it hurts when you lose a loved one. On February 7th, 2003, Sheila’s younger sister, Daisy Mae Turcotte, died after a long battle with cancer. Two days later, her mother, Alice Chilton, passed away from ovarian cancer. She had also suffered with Alzheimer’s disease for a number of years prior to her death. Ten months later, on December 19th, 2003, Sheila’s father, Samuel Chilton, died after suffering a massive heart attack.

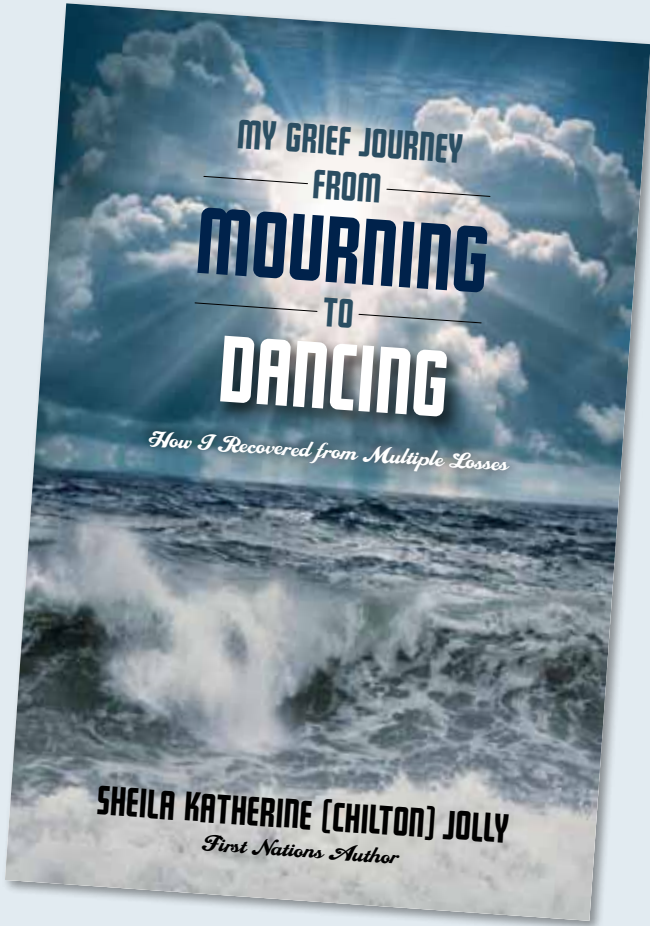
The loss of three family members so close together had a profound effect on Sheila. Multiple losses fall under the category of complicated grief which is more difficult to cope with than normal grief. Studies show that it can take about two years for a person to recover from normal grief and to move on with their life in a healthy way. Evidence that a person has recovered from their loss is that they are able to move on with their life without the physical presence of their deceased loved one. On the other hand, it can take much longer for a person to recover from multiple losses. In Sheila’s case, it took her six years to finish her grief journey.

As a grief counselor, I have always felt that there was a need for this kind of book to be written. Most of the books I have read deal with normal grief but very few deal specifically with multiple losses. There are many people in the Cree communities who go through multiple losses and do not know how to deal with their grief and sorrow. Some social workers are not adequately trained to counsel those who go through complicated grief. This book will be a valuable tool and resource material to share with their counselees.

Sheila has always had a strong faith in God and she says that this relationship was her greatest source of comfort and strength. The techniques of psychology are evident in her book but her personal views lean more toward a biblical perspective. Sheila has worked among her own people since April 1980 and she shares her philosophy on the application of the indigenous principles which helped her in her grief work. Her book is unique because it includes the principles necessary for the grief process, the indigenous principles and the biblical principles.



Dr. Joseph Jolly



Sheila Katherine (Chilton) Jolly

was born in Moose Factory, Ontario. She married Joseph Jolly on June 4th, 1971. They have one son, Joseph Seth, who was born on October 26th, 1995. A year after their marriage, they moved to Ottawa so Joseph could go back to school at Algonquin College. While they were living in Ottawa, Sheila and her husband accepted Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour at the Metropolitan Bible Church on October 13th, 1974. Their conversion to Christ brought a dramatic change to their lives.

In the fall of 1976, Sheila and her husband went to Caronport, Saskatchewan to attend Briercrest Bible College. Sheila graduated with a Bible Diploma in 1978 and a Bachelor of Biblical Studies in 1986. After her son started school in 2001, she decided to pursue further studies and began work towards a Master of

Arts degree majoring in Leadership and Management. It was a dream that came true for her when she graduated with an MA in April 2009.

Sheila and her husband have been married for forty-two years and since April 1980 they have worked together as a team in Native ministries. She worked as Office



Secretary for the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Inc. from 1980–94, also serving a three-year term as Board Secretary/Treasurer for the organization. In addition, Sheila sat as a Board Member for Prison Fellowship Canada. Since 1995, she has worked as Office Secretary of the Native Gospel Ministries of Canada, Inc. Sheila’s thirty-three years in Native Ministries have given her a wide range of practical experience which is evident in this, her first book, *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*.

You can order your personal copy of Sheila's book through our NGM office. The cost per book is \$20, which includes postage and handling. Make your cheque payable to:

**Native Gospel Ministries
Box 41006
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 5K9**

Mourning into Dancing *continued from cover*

“A simple faith in God and immersing myself into His word is what helped me get through. I soaked myself in the Word of God every day,” she said.

The support she received from Briercrest during this time also kept Jolly moving forward to complete the management and leadership program she was in.

“I was almost ready to give up on my program towards the end because my grief work was becoming so long and I was struggling to finish my last assignments,” she explained.

“One day my son and I were sick with the flu and my husband was away. So I told the Lord, ‘I will give up this program as a sacrifice. I will not graduate.’ I was sitting on the edge of my bed praying when the phone rings and it was Dr. Paul Magnus. He called to show interest in his student.”

The phone call was just what she needed.

“I was so surprised and encouraged that I forgot about being sick and then next day I was practically fine, so I got on the ball and started working again. He had a sense of healing in his words to me,” she explained.

Jolly said writing about her grief journey was never something she had planned on doing, but was something she felt compelled to do after attending Briercrest.

“Without the program and training I was in I don’t think I would have written the book. It was very intense to lose so many people in my family, but with the training I had received I had the confidence I needed,” she said.

The book, which was released this past September, explores Jolly’s losses, but goes beyond just that.

“This is because you have to bring out your years to show who you are, where you are coming from, the goals you set for yourself, and the dreams you had,” she said.

“I wrote about my expressions and the feelings I had during my grief and about the years leading up to their deaths.”

Worried writing the book would reveal too much weakness or seem like she lacked enough faith in God, Jolly said she is grateful God gave her the strength and encouragement to finish it.

“At first I doubted that I had written in a manner that would attract an audience to gain help or knowledge in the area I was writing about, and I doubted if I should have written this type of book because I felt I was going to maybe let my guard down too much with exposing too much weakness in my life and so much trauma it may not appeal to the general public,” she explained.

“Then I realized God does not excuse us or exempt us from grieving and sorrow in this world. How I experienced it and how I shared it in my books shows to the world God is there to help us no matter how weak or how devastating no matter how our feelings are so crushed and broken. God is still there to keep us going and pick us up once again.”

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2013 *continued*

with some of my counselees. Most of the people I talk to have told me that they accepted Christ at one time in their life but have been pulled back into the world. I also talk to many Christians who are going through the grief process and they are encouraged when we talk about spiritual truths. Through my counseling services, I have contact with many people in the Cree communities.

When I got back to Ottawa, there was a Missions Conference at the Metropolitan Bible Church. I did a presentation on *The Holy Scriptures and Native Traditional Religion*. For a few years now, I have noticed a strong emergence of the old Native traditional religion in the Cree communities and abroad. The conference was a great opportunity to address this issue from a biblical perspective.

I made a quick trip to Montreal by train on November 14th to help Paul Rickard who did the taping of the 2013 NGM Conference. I had watched all the DVDs he sent me a couple of months ago and I thought it would take too much time to edit the footage with him over the phone or by email. So to save myself some time, I went to help Paul with the editing in person at his office. We edited eight hours of footage on the Conference in about four hours and I was able to return to Ottawa earlier than I expected. This was a major job to accomplish and I am thankful that we completed it so quickly. The Conference DVDs should be available soon through our office.



Left and below:
Fellowship meal
in Ottawa
Bottom left:
Waskaganish
Cree Pentecostal
Church service



Since we came to Ottawa, one of the things we do every year is to have a fellowship meal with the Native people we know in the city of Ottawa. We had our fellowship meal on November 20th and the people who came had a great time. It's a lot of work to do this but it's a great way to have contact with people. We had wild meat on the menu and I roasted three Canada geese and also made some traditional moose stew. Sheila cooked her special recipe of moose meat and she was glad when it was all eaten at the dinner. To share a meal

is still one of the best ways to socialize with people you know.

I left for Waskaganish on November 22nd and didn't return to Ottawa until the 29th. I was kept busy the whole time I was there. I preached twice on Sunday at the Waskaganish Cree Pentecostal Church. Then from Tuesday to Thursday I did a grief seminar in the church each night from 7:30–10:00 p.m. The meetings went very well and quite a number of people shared their grief experiences. During the day, I was busy counseling students at both the elementary and high schools. There are a number of students who are grieving and they wanted me to talk to them individually. I shared about grief in two of the classrooms.

On December 1st, I spoke at the Israel's Hope Bible Church in Ottawa. This is the second time I preached there. This is a new work that is involved in a church planting ministry to the Jewish people in the city.

After a busy six months, I anticipate this Advent season with a thankful heart. At this time, our family would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year full of God's richest blessings!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
from the Jollys!

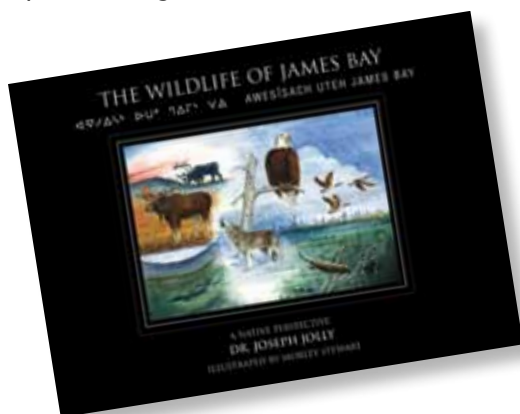
Give Christ the Freedom to Build His Native Church

**Give Christ
the
Freedom
to
Build His
Native
Church**

The main emphasis in the dissertation focuses on the

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
of Canada
Box 41006
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9



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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To order the book "The Wildlife of James Bay,"
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Or you can order a copy from the NGM office.

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The official newsletter of
Native Gospel Ministries of Canada



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The headquarters of NGM are located in Ottawa, Ontario

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