

## On the go with Dr. Joe 2015-2016

April 26, 2016

Dear Friends and NGM Supporters

It has been awhile now since the last time we sent out our newsletter to give you an update of our ministry with NGM and our family's activities. The Lord has been faithful and good to us this year even though at times it seemed difficult in regards to NGM's funds and our personal finances. We've been there before so we know from experience that when we face trials we have to be patient and just wait on the Lord. Besides the difficulties we faced we have been thankful to God's daily provision and for His blessing upon our health and strength daily. All of us in our family have been busy doing our individual work and responsibilities. Sheila keeps herself busy maintaining our home and doing the NGM office work. Our son Joseph is quite involved with various Christian youth groups and is still pursuing his music career. As parents our priority is to teach our son Joseph God's Word and help him find his direction and destiny in life. Recently he has been driving the car but I have to be with him until he gets his license, which will be in the near future. I am impressed of how well he drives and I feel relaxed and comfortable while he is driving so that is a good sign.

On August 10 – 14, 2015 I went to Amos, Quebec to visit the Cree inmates at the Correctional Institution. I know some of the inmates and their parents so that helps me feel at ease when I talk to them. After serving their time and they go back home sometimes I will see them when I go to the Cree communities. When they see me they will always make a point to drop by and say hello. They are young men so they look up to me as an elder.



Joseph Seth playing at an open mike in Ottawa



Joseph plays at talent shows and sometimes leads in worship music

I went to Waskaganish, Quebec on August 31 – September 4, 2015 to meet with the Elders Council regarding the history book project I am writing. The book is progressing well and the goal is to finish it in December. While I was there I attended the funeral service for the late Jimmy Whiskeychan. He passed away on August 28, 2015. Jimmy was a well-known elder in the community and I was hoping to interview him on my next visit. He married Annie Diamond on September 20, 1956 and together they had ten children. On May 31, 1997 Jimmy accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour after the passing of his late wife Annie. Sometimes I would see him at the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship when I preached there.



My sister Alice Gunner in Waskaganish

In my ministry over the years I have done many weddings. On September 12, 2015 I did the wedding for Priscilla Jean Mark and Eric Tyrone Coon. They come from Mistissini, Quebec. The wedding was outdoors at Stanley's Old Maple Lane farm just outside of Ottawa. We knew many of the guests from Mistissini at the wedding. Sheila loves going to weddings because she likes to dress up and socialize with the guests.



Jimmy and Annie Whiskeychan



Tamarack Goose by John Blueboy



Annie Iserhoff and Sheila at the wedding reception



Priscilla Jean Mark and her husband Eric



Priscilla Jean Mark and her dad





Mark and Marilyn Gagnon

On September 21 – 25 I went to Amos again to visit the Cree inmates at the Correctional Institution. Then a few days later on October 2 – 4 I went to Moose Factory, ON to do a wedding for my nephew Mark Gagnon and his fiancée Marilyn Hughie. While I was there I spoke at the Cree Gospel Chapel. I had a late afternoon flight to catch on Sunday so I had time to visit Wally Turner at the General Hospital. He and his wife were very happy to see me because my visit was totally unexpected to them. Wally was so happy to see me and was proud to show me the new Bible which George Small gave him. I read Scripture verses using his Bible and before I left he asked me to pray for him, which is the reason why I went there. He was out of the hospital shortly after that and the last thing I heard was that he went back to work. Pray for Wally to believe and trust in Christ because God answered prayer for him to be healed. My visit with Wally was one of the highlights of my visit to Moose Factory. His parents Frank and Helen Turner were neighbours of my in-laws so I often saw Wally while he was growing up.



Joe and Wally Turner at the hospital



Joseph celebrating his 20th birthday

On Sunday, November 1st I preached at the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church, Orleans, ON. My son Joseph was asked to sing a solo before my message which was the first time we ministered together. One woman accepted the Lord during the service and the believers were very encouraged to know a soul was saved. PTL! The woman who was saved talked to me after the service just to let me know that she put her trust in Jesus. This church has a burden for Native ministries and the ladies from their church mission group are going to cook a main course meal for our guests at our annual NGM conference in July. We always have a fellowship meal during the Conference.



Sheila with two ladies from the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church



Our meeting with Bill Gaither backstage

On November 7th we drove to Toronto to see the Bill Gaither Quartet in concert at the Church on the Queensway. We had backstage passes arranged so we had an opportunity to meet Bill Gaither in person. He told Joseph Jr. to read his book and told him to send a CD of his music. I read Bill's book and it is worth reading for anyone who has aspirations to make it in the music industry. Once in a while I keep reminding Joseph Seth to read his book but being young he doesn't seem to be too interested in it at the moment.

I went to Waskaganish again on November 23 – 27 and while I was there I spoke twice at the Waskaganish Pentecostal Church where my sister Daisy and her husband Jimmy attend. A couple of days before my visit there was a death of a young mother in the community so while I was there they asked me to provide counseling services for the bereaved families. I knew Shelly Ann because I did her wedding to Harvey Blackned just over a year ago. Her parents are Christians so they have hope of seeing their daughter again in heaven. Shelly Ann and Harvey had seven children together. I was asked to speak words of comfort at the feast after the funeral.



Pastor George Hester at the Waskaganish Pentecostal Church



Picture of Shelly Ann

On December 3 – 6 I made a special trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba to go to the HBC Archives as part of my research for the book. My home reserve Waskaganish is officially recognized as the first Hudson's Bay Company post so it was essential that I go to Winnipeg. While I was there I visited The Manitoba Museum and went on board the Nonsuch which is a replica of the first English ship that landed on the shores of Waskaganish in 1668. While I was in Winnipeg I went out for supper with my brother Howard. On Sunday I preached at the First Nations Community where Howard and his wife Karen have pastored for a number of years now. His son Joel did an excellent job leading the congregation in worship music. I had him for special music at our NGM Conference a few years ago.



On board the Nonsuch replica



Ed and Jean Wood



Picture of Howard and Karen Jolly



Parade march for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



The Right Honourable Paul Martin

I went to the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Gatineau on December 7 – 10, 2015. I went there as a proxy Chief for the Mocrebec Council of the Cree Nation. One of the highlights at the meetings was when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the AFN Chiefs and the various delegates. I sat at the same table with the Right Honourable Paul Martin and had the privilege to meet him and shake his hand. There are a number of AFN First Nations Chiefs who are committed followers of Christ and one of them is Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman from Alberta. Sheila and I have known Chief Yellow Old Woman for many years and it was a blessing for us to see him at these meetings.



Sheila with Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman

We spent our Christmas holidays in Ottawa. Joseph Seth likes to stay home for Christmas. He got a pair of nudie jeans that he really wanted and that seemed to make his whole Christmas. It is easy to buy gifts for him because he gives us a list of the items he wants for Christmas. I was able to get everything on his list so he had a good time on Christmas Day. I made sure I had my traditional breakfast meal of bacon and eggs. I also cooked our Christmas meal so Sheila could relax and enjoy the whole day.



Sheila and Joseph on Christmas Day



Christmas tree in our home



Sheila with MP Romeo Saganash

On January 18 – 22, 2016 I went to Amos to visit the Cree inmates at the Correctional Institute. A week later I went back on February 1 – 5. I enjoy my visits there because I get a chance to talk to several inmates one on one. Sometimes there are about nineteen names scheduled on the list for me to see. Spiritual matters often come up and I listen carefully when the inmates freely share what they understand about God. Some of them did at one time make a profession of faith. One of the young men I visit regularly made a commitment to Christ while in jail and for the past few months there has been a remarkable transformation in his life. The other inmates talk about him because they see him reading and studying his Bible all the time. When I visit him we talk about spiritual things that will help him in his Christian growth.

On March 16th I went to the Kingston general Hospital to visit George Small who has sat on the NGM Board of Directors for several years now. His wife Mary was with him at the hospital. Over twenty years ago they accepted the Lord at the Cree Gospel Chapel in Moose Factory, Ontario. I was speaking that night and altogether there was about fourteen people who came forward at the invitation to receive Christ. It was the same day I did the ordination service for Mervin Cheechoo. This was special day and it was evident that God's hand was upon us.



On March 21 – 25 I went to Kashechewan, ON to do a grief seminar and individual counseling. I was busy the whole time I was there. During the day I did the workshops and in the evening I preached at the fellowship meetings at the Anglican Church. They tore their old church building down and are temporarily meeting in another building. They had a gospel jamboree and they asked me to speak that night as well. I have gone to Kashechewan several times in the past and I know a few people there. Besides the Anglican Church there is a Pentecostal church so there are a number of Christians in the community. The people were getting ready to evacuate because their community usually gets flood when the ice breaks up on the river.



Gospel Jamboree in Kashechewan



Fellowship meeting at the Anglican Church

