

Jesus is the Only Way

DR. EMERSON FALLS

One of the things we commonly see in the post-modern secular society that we live in is a heresy called *Universalism*. People who believe in this heresy think that because God is a loving God we're all going to be in Heaven someday. Our society believes that all that really matters is that you sincerely believe in whatever religion you practice and if you're sincere then you're going to get to heaven. Related to that is the idea that no one religious group should think that it's better than any other. Society labels Christians who say otherwise as narrow-minded, uneducated, and even bigoted. Therefore, we as Christians are swimming against the tide of secularism. The question I want to deal with is the issue of Universalism—the notion that all roads lead to heaven.

In John 14:1-6 we find these words:

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJV)

Jesus says, "I am the way. I am the way, the truth and the life." Notice in the Greek of the New Testament, the definite article in the phrase "I am *the* way." Without the definite article in the Greek it would read, 'I am *a* way,'

and the secular people would be right in saying Christianity is one of many equally valid ways to God. But Jesus says, "I am *the* way," meaning there is no other way. To make sure the disciples understand he says, "No one comes to the Father but by me." Can I tell you why I believe this claim and why it makes sense to me?

Firstly, one of the things I know is that I'm a sinner, the Bible says it in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The picture is that of an archer firing an arrow but, missing the mark, his arrow falls short. We were created to be in the image of God, we were created to reflect the holiness of God but we fall short of

that daily. We are not what God created us to be, we fall short, and we miss the mark. None of us are what I would call 'bad people' in the sense of being criminals; however, the Bible tells us that all have sinned. Although, by world standards, we may not be the worst people in the world, the Bible says that we are all sinners. Before I read that I was a sinner in the Bible I already knew I was a sinner deep in my heart. I know that I'm a sinner who messes up, sometimes I come to church and look pretty good but deep down I know I'm a sinner. Even though I'm a

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Dr. Emerson Falls

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follower of Jesus Christ I still fall into some of the common ways that we all fall short of the glory of God.

Secondly, the consequence of sin is separation from God. Adam and Eve were created for fellowship with God and one of the consequences of their sin was separation from God. The Bible says that God is a holy God. Habakkuk says God's eyes are so pure that he cannot even look upon evil. God had to separate himself from his sinful creation and thus Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden. We might think, "If only they hadn't sinned," but even if they hadn't we would have because we're sinners. The reason we're separated from God today is because we also commit sin. We are separated physically from God. If we are believers in Jesus Christ we are seated in heavenly places and by the Holy Spirit we have fellowship with him; however, physically we are still separated from God. We live in a fallen world. We live in a world that's evil. We live in world that's sinful. We live in a world where there's injustice, war, and violence. We are not what God created us to be and because of sin we find ourselves separated from God.

Thirdly, I know that Jesus is the way to God. God is a loving God and he created us for a relationship with him; doesn't it make sense that he's going to find a way to restore that relationship? We can't be with God because we are sinners but God wants to be with us. God found a way to restore that relationship. God's plan was the cross. God made it possible for me to have new life because Jesus went to the cross and died for my sins so that my sins could be atoned for and as a result I have God's righteousness imputed to me. I stand before you today, still a sinner as long as I live in the flesh, but pure and righteous in God's eyes, not by what I have done but by what Jesus has done for me on the cross.

Jesus prayed that if it was possible the cup of the Father's punishment would pass from him yet he submitted to the Father's will. The Father couldn't let the cup pass from Jesus because if he did you and I would be separated from God forever. God loves you and God loves me so much that he allowed his Son to suffer the agony and pain of the cross. For the first time in his life Jesus knew what it was like to be separated from God. On the cross he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me."

The reason is because without the cross there would be no room in the Father's house. Were there other ways to get to heaven I don't believe that the Father would have allowed the crucifixion because a loving father would never allow that. The simple fact remains, there is no other



way. Jesus had to go to the cross. When he says, "I am *the way, the truth, and the life,*" we need to accept and believe it. I know what the people in the world say, "You're just narrow-minded, stuck in tradition, bigoted, thinking you guys have the only way to heaven." I am guilty as charged. Because God allowed Jesus to go to the cross for my sake there is no other way.

Let the world cry out and say, "There are many ways to heaven, as long as you're sincere that's all that matters." Somebody has to stand up in this secular world that has turned its back on God and it's us. We are called and we have to stand up and say, "Jesus is the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ."

(Excerpts of a sermon delivered July 23, 2017 by Dr. Emerson Falls at the Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa, Ontario. You can listen to the whole sermon by going on the website of the Metropolitan Bible Church and clicking on sermons.)

22nd Annual Native Christian Conference

We had our 22nd Annual Native Christian Conference in Ottawa on July 21–23, 2017. All the sessions were in the theatre at the Metropolitan Bible Church. We have been using the theatre with its soft and comfortable cushioned seats because our services tend to go on for about three and a half hours. No one seems to mind though because the people really enjoy listening to the various testimonies, special music and the preaching of the Word.

Our keynote speaker this year was Dr. Emerson Falls from Oklahoma City, OK. Dr. Falls is a second generation Christian and is of Sac, Fox and Choctaw Native heritage. We were glad that his wife Shirley was able to accompany him again. Shirley has a beautiful singing voice and we invited her as a guest for special music. I always encourage all our special speakers to bring their wives and we make sure all their expenses are covered.

Dr. Falls gave five powerful messages on *Affirming What Christians Believe*. He always does an excellent job ministering to the people with the Word of God. His Sunday morning message at the Metropolitan Bible Church was on the heretical teaching of universalism. His text was on John 14:1-6 and Dr. Falls emphasized that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way

to God and heaven. After the morning service a number of people who regularly attend the Met approached me and commented on how clear the message of salvation was communicated by Dr. Falls.

You can hear Dr. Falls' Sunday morning message *Jesus is the Only Way* on the Internet. To begin your search first type *Metropolitan Bible Church* and then click *sermons – Metropolitan Bible Church*. On the *sermon search* type *Dr. Emerson Falls*. I guarantee you will enjoy and be blessed when you listen to his message.

There was a good attendance for the Conference this year. We had our NGM Board of Directors meeting during the Conference and it was good to take care of all business matters related



Clockwise from top: Keynote speaker Dr. Emerson Falls. NGM Board Member Barney Shackelly from Lower Nicola Valley, B.C. was at the Conference. Shirley Falls also provided special music at the Conference.



Clockwise from top: NGM Board Member Richard Peltier came to the Conference with his wife Cheryl and their daughter.

Kim Barriault from the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church served as host for the fellowship meal.

Irene Barbeau (left) came to the Conference with her friend from Chisasibi.

The ladies from Mistissini enjoyed the refreshments at the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church in Orleans, Ontario.



to NGM's ministry. We had a wonderful fellowship meal together that was prepared by the ladies from the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church in Orleans, Ontario.

On Sunday evening Dr. Falls preached at the Bilberry Creek Baptist Church and the ladies served refreshments after the service. The people enjoyed the service and there was a good fellowship time over refreshments afterwards.

It is a lot of work to have the banquet but it has become a fixture at our annual Conference. One time we had a banquet meal prepared for all our Conference guests at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Ottawa. This was back in 1997 and Dr. Emerson Falls was our Conference speaker that year. The Conference guests enjoyed dining before the service started. We had about 60 people in attendance. It would be nice to do that again.

For the special music we invited Thomas Neeposh and his daughter Rachel Hester. Thomas is the lead singer for the Chief Shepherd Band from Mistissini, Quebec. We



had the whole group at our Conference a couple of times in the past. Thomas and Rachel did a good job in ministering to us in music. I also scheduled my son Joseph Seth and myself for special music at the Conference. We always have an open mic at the Conference to give opportunity for other musicians who want to share a song or a testimony.

The Conference is free of charge but we rely upon the goodwill offerings and donations to cover the cost 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 the expenses for the Conference through the freewill offerings and special donations that came in through our office. NGM is a faith ministry and we commit the whole Conference to the Lord in prayer. When we share answers to prayer it glorifies God.

A couple of weeks before the Conference started my son Joseph Seth asked me a loaded question. He said, "Dad, how are you going to pay for the Conference?" My immediate response was, "God will provide because he did so in the past and I am sure He will do it again." The Conference was getting close and we really had no money for the Conference. I knew that I had done my part through letters I wrote to promote and raise money for the Conference. I always try to teach our son that God is real by showing him that God answers prayer. He believes in prayer and sometimes I will ask him to pray for us.

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On the Go with Dr. Joe 2017–2018

2017

On January 10, 2017, I received a call from one of the pastors at the Metropolitan Bible Church with a request for me to visit a Native woman at the Ottawa Civic Hospital with a serious heart condition. A lady from Chisasibi collapsed at a mall in Ottawa while she was Christmas shopping. She suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for about a month. I went to see her at the hospital the same day I received the call. When I got to her room it was evident she was expecting a minister to come and pray for her. I shared the gospel with her and to her family members that were present in the room. After that, I read Scripture, anointed her head with oil and prayed for her to be healed. On January 15 we found out from the hospital that they were making arrangements to send her home. By January 17 she was at home in her own house. God healed her very quickly from a serious heart condition and she is doing fine today. PTL!

My brother-in-law Luke Diamond passed away on January 23, 2017. I really wanted to attend his funeral but I was not able to go. However, I did go to Waskaganish a week later, so, I was able to be with my sister Gertie and her family during their loss. There have been a number of deaths in Waskaganish during the past year and the Chief and Council, through the Community Services, have invited me to come and help counsel those who are grieving. Before Luke's death, plans had been arranged in advance for me to go to Waskaganish on January 30 to February 3.



Luke and Gertie Diamond

On February 20–24, 2017, I went to Ouje-Bougoumou at the invitation of the Community Health/Wellness Centre to do crisis counseling. A young female in the community committed suicide on February 7, which shocked the whole community. Suicide falls under the category of complicated grief and it can take up to seven years for those affected to recover from their grief. I was able to talk to the deceased girl's parents and her immediate family members. I found out that she was brought up in a Christian home and at a young age had accepted Jesus as her Saviour. Knowing her spiritual background helped me to share words of comfort and hope to the bereaved family. Romans 5:13 says, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Early in the spring we had contact with a Native Cree woman from Moose Factory who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was not expected to live very long. Peggy was at the hospital in Timmins, Ontario. My wife Sheila would text and give her a call her once in a while and encourage her with comforting spiritual truths from God's Word. She leaned toward traditional beliefs but she was brought up in the Anglican Church. She believed in Jesus and was open to talk about things in the Bible. One day I prayed for her body to be healed and she told Sheila afterwards that she experienced something after I prayed for her. Not long after that she prayed with me over the phone to receive Jesus Christ as her Personal Saviour. Right up to her last day she never ceased to talk about her faith in Jesus. She went home to glory in early July.

In May I noticed in the national news that the MP First Nations leaders and the AFN National Chief had strong hostile words directed against Senator Lynn Beyak over some comments she made about the residential school system. I took time to read the letter that Senator Beyak wrote and all she said was that the Native leaders were focusing too much on the negative side and did not consider some of the positive things within the residential school system. I agreed with what she said in her letter because not everything was bad in the residential school. It seems like it is a stigma to say anything positive about the residential school system. I remember doing hospital visitation in Moose Factory a couple of years ago and I



Clockwise from top left: Joseph Seth, Sheila and myself outside the House of Commons before our meeting with Senator Lynn Beyak.

Dr. Joseph and Sheila Jolly with Senator Lynn Beyak.

Dr. Joseph Jolly stands with the Executive Chef at the Parliamentary Restaurant.

Joseph Seth enjoyed our luncheon meal with Senator Lynn Beyak at the Parliamentary Restaurant. He knew he was around some important people.

heard a male elderly patient say, “Not everything was bad at the residential you know. There were some things that were good.” This elderly man knew my dad while they were in residential school in Moose Factory.

The AFN Chief Perry Bellegarde wrote a strong letter against Senator Beyak’s comments and was asking for removal of her position on the residential school committee. I am not the type of person to jump quickly in the band wagon but I like to form my own opinions based on facts. I wrote a letter to Senator Beyak to let her know that as a former residential school student I did not find her statements offensive. Senator Beyak personally told me later that my letter came at the right time.

In my letter to Senator Lynn Beyak I mentioned that I used to work at the Royal Parliamentary Restaurant back in 1976. I told her that our family often talked about eating there at least once before they close the restaurant for renovations. The restaurant is only for the MPs and is not open to the public. Senator Beyak was very gracious

to extend an invitation for us to join her for lunch on June 15 at the Parliamentary Restaurant. That was a wonderful blessing for our family. You will forgive me if I sound biased but that was the best filet mignon I have ever eaten in Ottawa. A special treat for me was to go in the kitchen and show my son Joseph where I used to work. Another blessing was to find out that Senator Beyak is a born-again Christian.

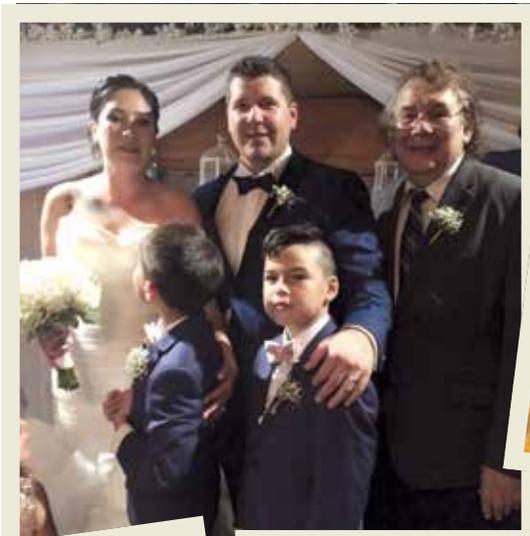
I also worked at the Chateau Laurier in the early 70s and once when we were at the hotel Joseph and I went downstairs to see the kitchen where I used to work. We got our picture taken together and I hope to use it in the next book I write. It brought back memories. The Fairmont Chateau Laurier is one of Joseph’s favourite hangouts in Ottawa and he has made a lot of friends with the workers there.

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2017–2018 *continued*

On July 1 I did a wedding at Hotel Sacacomie located on the outskirts of Saint Alexis des Monts, Quebec. This small French town is located a few miles from Trois Rivières. This is the second time I did a wedding at Sacacomie Hotel for the Mistissini people. The newly elected Grand Chief Abel Bosum was there to walk his niece down the aisle. At the wedding I met a relative of Sheila from the Chilton side. There are Chiltons at Atikamekw First Nation in Quebec. Their dialect is slightly different from the Cree but we managed to communicate. They are more fluent in French and their mother tongue.

The owner of the hotel was having a late meal with Danny Chilton and his wife and he invited me to join them. They were eating octopus and tuna and he offered me a piece of octopus. I tasted a little bit of octopus and I found it very tasty. He asked what I did and I told him I was a preacher and an author. I shared part of my testimony with him on how I quit drinking and smoking. French people like their beer drinking and smoking and he congratulated me for quitting. The Sacacomie Hotel is a beautiful resort and I wouldn't mind doing another wedding there.

For most of July we were busy with the NGM books, getting them ready for the auditors. It is always a great relief once the fiscal year ends and the books are audited. The books were done a week before the Conference and we made sure we sent in the annual returns to Revenue Canada. Besides doing the books I was busy making sure everything was organized for the Conference. I sent out a couple of fundraising letters to let people know the dates and the costs of the Conference. We got a good response because the Lord laid it upon the hearts of certain people to give generously. Sheila is really the person responsible for all the book work in the office. She has been doing the books for 37 years now.



Clockwise from above left: Alexandria Matthews and husband Shanouk Petiquay with Dr. Joseph Jolly.

Danny Chilton from Atikamekw First Nation in Quebec is related to Sheila on the Chilton side.

Dr. Emerson Falls and his wife Shirley.

Harry Jolly sang a few songs at the Conference.

We truly thank God for blessing the 22nd NGM Conference in every way. This was an answer to prayer. The people who came were blessed through hearing the testimonies, special music and the preaching of the Word. The messages by Dr. Falls blessed the people. The weekend Conference reached many people with the Word of God.

Right after the 22nd NGM Conference I went to Waskaganish, Quebec. I took the VIA Rail from Ottawa to Montreal to sleep overnight there and catch the early flight to Waskaganish. On the train I was seated beside a young white woman and in our conversation I had a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel message with her. She is a student and she seemed very interested and was listening to everything I said. I encouraged her to read the gospel of John to find out more about the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and I gave her a book on what Christians believe. I was encouraged that I had a golden opportunity to witness to someone on the train. I gave her my email address because she is interested in getting a copy of the book I am writing on "A History of Waskaganish."

Right: Angus and Nellie Whiskeychan celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary at the MSDC.

Far right: Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship

Below right: Duke's father David Blackned is one of the champion checker players in Waskaganish and the eastern James Bay area. I played a game with David just to find out how good he really was. He beat me easily.

Below, far right: The checkers game in Waskaganish is still popular. Duke (right) with his good sense of humour is fun to watch play checkers.

Then on the flight to Waskaganish I was seated across the aisle beside a young Cree woman from Waskaganish. I know her and her family when they lived in Moose Factory so we had a good visit on the plane. She said was going home after having a medical checkup in Montreal regarding her eyes. She said they were itchy, running and irritated. Before we got off the plane in Waskaganish I prayed for her eyes to be healed. A few days later my sister received a call from the young woman's father just to let her know that there was nothing wrong with her eyes after I prayed for her. God healed her. PTL!

In Waskaganish I preached three times in two different churches and also ministered in music. I was in Waskaganish for 11 days altogether and I talked to a lot of people. Sheila would say I was having a great time. While I was there I found time to work on my history book. I made a point to see and talk to some people that will be featured in the book. I interviewed Stanley Diamond at his house and I had a great time talking to him. He has a good sense



Above left: Stanley Diamond is the owner of Epicerie Diamond.
 Above centre: Wilfred Diamond is a longtime employee at the Epicerie Diamond.
 Above right: Virginia Georgekish has worked about 25 years at Epicerie Diamond.
 Left: Worship singers Karen Gilpin and Arthur Diamond at the Waskaganish Cree Pentecostal Church. Arthur does a very good job singing "The New Jerusalem Coming Down."



On the Go with Dr. Joe 2017–2018 *continued*

Top left: Dr. Joseph Jolly poses with the bride and groom Mr. and Mrs. Dale Stephen

Top right: The parents pose with the bride and groom. On the left is Patrick and Beulah Blueboy and on the right Walter and Louisa Stephen.

Below right: The bride and groom and their wedding party pose for pictures.

Bottom: Erica Jane Moar Happyjack and John Darel Trapper

of humour just like his late brother Billy. During my visit with Stanley we talked about the store and trucking businesses he started in Waskaganish and we also had a chance to talk about God and spiritual matters. He is aware of what Christians believe and I listened as he shared his own personal religious views.

I preached at the Waskaganish Cree Pentecostal Church on Sunday evening. After the message a number of people came up to the altar for prayer of healing. One young girl came forward with her mother because she wanted to receive Jesus. I had the joy of praying with her to invite and receive Christ into her heart. In my sermon I talked about the New Jerusalem coming down. After the message my friend Arthur Diamond sang a good song about the “New Jerusalem Coming Down.” I am not a Pentecostal but the Pentecostal



Christians seem to accept me as their own. I accept the whole body of Christ.

One of the main reasons of my visit to Waskaganish in August was to do a wedding for my niece Edna Blueboy. I am always happy when my family members ask me to do their wedding. Over the years I have done many weddings for my family members. The wedding went well and there were a lot of people at the reception meal. The younger Native people like to have big weddings.

On September 1, 2017 I did a wedding in Mont Tremblant for Erica Jane Moar Happyjack and John Darel Trapper. I drove to Mont Tremblant because it's only a three hour drive there from Ottawa. It was nice to see the people from Nemaska. My nephew Aaron Jolly and his family were at the wedding.

In late October the whole Cree community of Waskaganish was shocked when they received the news that four hunters from Waskaganish were reported missing and were believed to have drowned. Patrick Salt, 48; Matthew Diamond, 43; Kenneth Salt, 67; and Gabriel Shecapio, 30, went out wavey hunting on October 17 and were headed for a camp on Octave River which requires a 17-kilometre crossing of Rupert Bay. What I heard from various people was that the weather was not very good that day and the hunters were cautioned not to go but to wait until the wind died down. The driver of the boat, an experienced hunter, said that he knew what to do. He was used to driving his boat in different weather conditions out in the bay. The boat was heavy laden with four men and all their food supplies and hunting equipment.

It is presumed that the four men were in a boating accident by running into a sudden storm out in the bay. When the family in town received no messages from them to say that they were safe at their camp a vast search was made. Their Gee Mann freighter canoe was found anchored in the water and some of their personal belongings were recovered. The body of Patrick Salt was found on October 20 and the body of Matthew Diamond was found on October 28. Gabriel Shecapio and Kenneth Salt have not yet been found.

Jason Coonishish CBHSSJB Coordinator of Prehospital Services and Emergency Measures with the Cree Health Board called me in Ottawa and asked if I would be available to go to Waskaganish to help out with crisis counseling for the bereaved families and the community members affected by this great tragedy. I was thankful to get this call from Jason because I wanted to help in whatever way I could. Jason knew I am from Waskaganish and that I do crisis counseling in the Cree communities. I knew Kenneth, Patrick and Gabriel but I was not really acquainted with Matthew although I know both his parents.

Friday, October 19, 2017 was a travel day for me. I left Ottawa by VIA Rail at 6:30 p.m. for Montreal and stayed at the Residence Inn at the Marriott Hotel. On Saturday, October 20 I left Montreal at 7:45 a.m. and arrived in Waskaganish at 10:45 a.m. In Montreal I had met up with Psychologist Louise Dessertine who was also brought in by the Cree Health Board Maanuuhiikuu Department (regional mental health services) to provide grief counseling to the bereaved families and to the search and recovery team, who were under extreme stress. Bert Blackned the coordinator representing the Cree Health Board met us at the airport with his vehicle. He took us directly to the Fire Hall which was the Command Post.

At the Fire Hall Louise and I sat in the sessions and listened to the reports and updates of the search and rescue team. After lunch I went to the Kanio Kashee Lodge to check in my room. After freshening up I went back to the Fire Hall and spent most of the day there. Louise and I didn't have a schedule to go by so we sat in the sessions at the Fire Hall and made ourselves available if anyone wanted to talk to a counselor.

At 7 p.m. there was a debriefing at the Fire Hall. There were a good number of people who came to listen to the debriefing and update. Derek Jonah was asked to open the meeting in prayer. After the debriefing was over they asked me to close in prayer. I had a chance to meet some



Top row: Kenneth Salt (left) and Patrick Salt. Bottom row: Gabriel Shecapio (left) and Matthew Diamond.



Fire Hall Command Post Chief Darlene Cheechoo was present at the Fire Hall debriefing. Public debriefing at the Fire Hall was well attended.

of the bereaved family after the debriefing like William Diamond who lost his son Matthew.

After the debriefing Louise and I went with elder George Katapatuk to the radio station. We went live on the radio to let the people know why we are here in Waskaganish and what we will be doing the next few days. Most of the listeners only understand Cree so I translated for Louise. Both of us shared briefly about the grief process.



On Sunday, October 21 I went to the Fire Hall at 7 a.m. to have breakfast. Instead of just hanging around and waiting for counselees to come Louise and I decided make home visits with the bereaved families. Louise has been a visiting psychologist in Waskaganish for a number of years and many people know her in the community. We made a good counseling team as I knew most of the people and translated in Cree for her.

We went to see Brenda Salt and her family. Brenda is the wife of the late Patrick Salt one of the men who perished. Brenda was not home when we got to her house because she went to the airport with other family members. The body of Clifford Diamond the husband of her niece Marcy was brought in by plane and she wanted to be there with other family members. Brenda's grown children were home so Louise and I briefly shared the grief process with them. There were about five daughters and one son there. Later, Brenda came home but the

family seemed rushed to leave because they were all eating together at the restaurant. It was nice to see them doing something positive to divert their minds while grieving the loss of two loved ones.

After leaving Brenda's home family we went to see Marcy Diamond whose husband Clifford was found dead a few days prior. Some of her grown children were home as well as her younger sister Joyce. We sat around the kitchen table and talked about the grief process with her. It was encouraging to know that Marcy is quite knowledgeable about the grief process and therefore will be able to counsel her family members. She is also a believer and her hope in God is a great comfort to her.

We went with Marcy's family to view her husband's body that had come in that day. There was a good group of people waiting outside the building where the body was for viewing. They asked me to pray before the family went inside to view the body. There were probably more than 60 people inside the small building. When they finished viewing the body I read Psalm 23, said some words of encouragement and prayed to close the meeting.

After the viewing of the body we went to eat lunch at the Fire Hall. Shortly after that Louise came with me to visit Freddy and Hannah Shecapio who are the parents of Gabriel Shecapio. Freddy's sister Francis from Moose Factory was there as well as Hannah's sisters Lee Ann and Josephine. It was easy for me to talk to Freddy and Hannah because they are believers. Their faith gives them strength, hope and comfort in knowing that their son Gabriel was also a believer. They know he is in heaven. Gabriel's son is about three months old and their grandson gives them comfort at this time. I went to residential school with Freddy and his wife Hannah is closely related to

me on the Jolly side so I always feel at ease to talk to them. I counseled their son Gabriel in the past and he told me that he was a Christian.

It was about 7 p.m. when they had the public debriefing at the Fire Hall. There was a good group of people at the public debriefing. Once more they asked me to close the meeting in prayer. Before praying I shared words of encouragement to the people.

On Monday, October 22 I went to the Fire Hall at 7 a.m. to make myself available as a counselor to the search and rescue volunteers. They asked me to pray before the boat crew volunteers left. At 1 p.m. I went to the clinic to have a meeting with Louise Dessertine, Dave and Greta Cheechoo, Nicolette de Smit the CHB psychotherapist, Bertha Dixon, Darryl Salt, Jennifer Moar and a young woman whose name I can't remember but who works at the clinic. Dave and Greta gave a presentation of what they are doing through the Counseling Centre they established in Waskaganish. Through their team they have managed to contact some of the bereaved families.

On Tuesday, October 23 at 11 a.m. I went to the funeral at the Gathering Place for Clifford Diamond. Before the bereaved family went in to be seated for the funeral service they asked me to pray. I shared words of comfort to the family and then prayed that God would be with them during the service. I stayed for the whole service which lasted about four hours.

Before the funeral service I had an opportunity to talk to Francis Moses who is the aunt of Gabriel Shecapio. Then, later in the day, I had a chance to talk to Minnie Kitchen who is the mother of Patrick Salt. She was with her son Gordon who was quite open to talk. I also talked on and off to Paul Salt, the brother of

Patrick, at the Fire Hall. I gave him a copy of Sheila's book *My Grief Journey from Mourning to Dancing*. My wife Sheila is related to Minnie Kitchen. Her father Samuel Chilton and Minnie are first cousins.

On Wednesday, October 25 we were supposed to have a meeting at the school but it was cancelled because a community prayer meeting had been organized down the bank of the river. There were approximately 300 people or more who came to gather at the bank of the Rupert River. The Chief, Deputy Chief and Youth Chief said a few words. Pastor Paul Moses from the Waskaganish Cree Gospel Fellowship and Pastor George Hester from the Pentecostal Church both said some words of encouragement and prayed. I was also asked to say something and to pray.

While I was in Waskaganish I talked to a number of people on a casual basis. I mingled with people at the Fire Hall, restaurant, in different homes and while eating traditional food at the Band's cooking tipi. They also had plenty of food prepared at the Fire Hall and I had many opportunities to talk with people over a meal. I have to say that the women did an excellent job in preparing meals for the volunteer workers.

On Thursday, October 26 at 7 a.m. I went to the Fire Hall again to be available for counseling if needed by anyone of the volunteers on the rescue search party. In the early afternoon I made a home visit to see Josephine Hester, the common-law spouse of Kenneth Salt. Josephine is a Christian and I am sure she talked to Kenneth many times about spiritual matters. Josephine's brother, Pastor George Hester, was at her house and he was eating a piece of cooked goose that someone had brought over. Later, George and Mary Small dropped by



The community of Waskaganish had a prayer meeting at the Rupert River. Some of the Cree communities joined the Waskaganish First Nation in this solemn assembly of prayer.

On the Go with Dr. Joe 2017–2018 *continued*



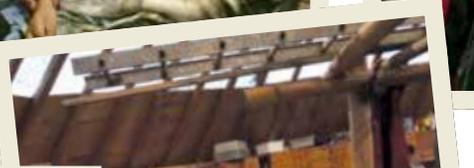
Clockwise from far left: We had a hymn sing at George and Jane Shecapio's home.

The volunteer rescue workers were thankful for a hearty meal at the end of the day. Sidney Whiskeychan and Mervyn Erless enjoy traditional food after a day of searching the bodies.

Eating traditional food at the Band's cooking tipi.

My sister Gertie Diamond at the Band's cooking tipi.

I am with my older sister Gertie Diamond and my brother Patrick Blueboy at the funeral service. My mother had ten children and all of us are followers of Christ.



with Mike and Greta Katapatuk to visit. Before leaving I had a word of prayer for Josephine and her family. Josephine's father, the late Joseph Hester, was my mother's first cousin.

After the meal I participated in hymn singing with Mike and Greta Katapatuk. From there we went to hymn singing at George and Jane Shecapio's home. They are the grandparents of Gabriel. Freddy Shecapio and his wife were there. George has since passed away.

Friday, October 27 was a travel day for me but I still made time to talk to people. Before leaving I had breakfast at the lodge with my sister Gertie. She is still grieving the loss of her husband Luke Diamond, who passed away on January 23, 2017. I went to the MSDC about 11 a.m. to visit and socialize with the elders. At 3 p.m. I went to the airport to go back to Ottawa.

I am so glad I went to Waskaganish to provide crisis counseling and spiritual support to the bereaved families, relatives



The Met's Seniors Meeting/Luncheon.



Left: Sheila presents her book to MP Cathy McLeod.

Below: Sheila is enjoying her soup at the Cree Nation of Nemaska's Christmas party that was held at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec.



Council. The Chief and Council meeting was held at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec. At the meeting I gave the Chief and Council an update on the book project. I assured them that Aerographics was very close to finishing the layout of the book.

December 22 was a very special day for me because that's when Aerographics

submitted the finished draft of the book to the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. The book was done but it would still need to be proofread, edited and corrections made. The book was officially finished in February and is now ready to be printed.

The Cree Nation of Nemaska was also holding their meetings at the Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec. On December the 14 we received an invitation from Councilor Ted Wapachee for our family to attend the Christmas party for the Band's staff workers and their

and friends affected by this great tragedy. I knew the men who perished and also their families. It was hard to do one-on-one counseling at this time because three of the bodies were not yet found when I was there. The greatest support the community received is prayer. Many people in the community and outside the community were praying for the bodies to be recovered and also for the bereaved family members. The people are also very supportive of each other in a tangible way. Lots of people donated food for the rescue workers. They also took food to the bereaved families.

On November 12–19 the Metropolitan Bible Church celebrated their 2017 Missions Conference. I was invited to participate in some of the events throughout the week so I stayed for the whole Missions Conference. I did a report presentation of NGM's ministry at the 7 p.m. prayer meeting. On Thursday at 9:30 a.m. I gave a report of NGM's ministry at the Seniors Meeting/Luncheon. Some of the older people at the Met know I play the guitar so I sang a gospel song as part of my report. Someone asked if I sang in Cree so I sang a Cree song to them. A number of people told me afterwards how much they enjoyed the song. On Sunday at 9 a.m. I did a workshop on "Culture and the Impact of the Residential School System" in one of the adult classes. It was nice to meet and fellowship with other missionaries at the Conference.

On December 11 Sheila and I met with MP Cathy McLeod in her downtown office in Ottawa. Cathy is the Official Opposition Critic for Indigenous Affairs and is a Member of Parliament for Kamloops-Thompson-Caribou, B.C.

On December 13 my son Joseph came with me to a meeting with the Cree Nation of Waskaganish Chief and



Victoria and John Napash from Waswanipi were married at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa.



Clockwise from far left:
Johnny and Margaret
Fireman from Chisasibi,
Quebec.

Don and Marie Mianscum
from Uje-Bougoumou,
Quebec.

I had my traditional
Christmas breakfast.

Joseph Seth and Sheila
on Christmas Day.



families. I know a lot of people in Nemaska so Sheila and I gladly accepted the invitation. I had a chance to see my niece Angela (Jolly) and her husband Jean Paul Wapachee at the reception. They recently lost their young daughter and they are still grieving.

On December 16 I did a wedding at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa for Victoria and John Napash from Waswanipi. Sheila was looking forward to this wedding because she was hoping to go to a banquet meal at least once before Christmas. She got her wish when we went to the marriage reception supper at the Delta Hotel. We sat at the same table with Johnny and Margaret Fireman from Chisasibi. Johnny and his wife went to residential school at the same time I did in Moose Factory.

We spent our Christmas in Ottawa and had a wonderful time. Our son Joseph said it was the best Christmas ever so we were very happy about that. It was good for me to relax and enjoy the Christmas holidays with my family. We attended all the special services at the Met and watched Christmas movies at home.

2018

On January 21 we met with the Cree Nation of Waswanipi Chief and Council at the Hilton Lac-Leamy

Hotel in Gatineau, Quebec. There have been a number of deaths in their community the past couple of years and they asked me to present a proposal on grief counseling. They would like me to come to their community a few times during the year.

On January 29–February 2, 2018 I went to Moose Factory to do counseling services for the MoCreebec Health Program. The plane had a mechanical problem in Timmins so I didn't get there until January 30. After I got settled in my room at the Ecolodge in Moose Factory I went to visit my cousin Margaret (Jolly) Katapatuk at 7 p.m. Margaret is on dialysis and was scheduled to leave in the morning for her checkup in Kingston. She appreciated my visit and before leaving I prayed for her.



It was still early in the evening after my visit with Margaret so I decided to drop in on my brother-in-law Charlie Gagnon. I went to his home to have a social visit with him. I must have stayed with him for about two hours. Charlie is retired and he hunts and traps for a hobby.

In the afternoon on Wednesday, January 31 I went to see Roy Turner at his house. I had it in my heart to see Roy before I went down to Moose Factory. Over the years I often saw Roy in the Quebec Cree communities. His son worked in the fire department and he travelled with him when he competed in the annual Cree Firemen Competitions. I saw them in Ouje-Bougoumou, Chisasibi and Waskaganish.

Roy is in his seventies now and is very interesting to listen to when he talks about things that happened in the past. His father, the late Bill Turner, was born in Waskaganish and spoke both the West and East Swampy Cree fluently. Roy talked about his late uncles Gilbert Faries, Eddy Faries and Billy Faries who were well known in Moose Factory. Roy's mother Daisy was a Faries before she married. They all had the same father and his grandmother could have gone to England with her children but she chose not to go. She was a country wife which was a common practice for HBC workers from England. She was told that her common-law husband would leave her when he got back to England so she chose to stay.

I spent a couple of hours with Roy and he shared with me what he does with his free time. Even though he is in a wheel chair he still works in his garage building wooden sleds and making barrel stoves. He has strong upper body strength. I shared some spiritual truths with Roy during my visit with him. He said that he had a wonderful time and I prayed for him before I left. He sometimes has pain with his legs and has an ulcer on his leg that won't heal over.

I went to my hotel room around 4 p.m. and took a brief nap before I got ready for the prayer meeting. I was scheduled to speak at the mid-week Cree Gospel Chapel prayer meeting.

On Thursday, February 1 I went to the hospital to visit the patients. At the hospital I saw Eddy Reuben and his wife Bernice. They were with their son Todd. Eddy had a slight heart attack a week ago and Bernice suffered a stroke awhile ago. I knew Eddy when I played hockey in Moose Factory. He was a goalie for the Moosonee team. Sheila and I used to see them now and then when they made trips down south. Before I left I said a word of prayer for both of them.

After my visit at the hospital I went to visit Frank and Helen Turner. I thought about visiting them before I went down. They both have roots in Waskaganish and speak Waskaganish Cree fluently. During my visit I had an opportunity to share a few things from the Bible with them. Frank was telling me that he prays a lot when he is by himself. His last words to me were, "I will pray for you too."

My brother Allan and his wife Lorraine invited me for supper. After supper I went over to Moosonee with George Small so that I could visit Michael and Marie Blueboy. I had a visit with them from 7–8:30 p.m. They are grieving the loss of their son Darren who committed suicide very recently. Their emotions are still very raw at this time. We talked about their loss pretty well throughout my visit. They asked a few questions that they were wondering about.

Michael and Marie are both Christians. They shared with me that their son Darren made a profession to become a Christian years ago. I assured them with the hope that if he had Christ in his heart than he is in heaven.

On February 24–28, 2018 I attended the funeral for my brother-in-law Jimmy Moar in Waskaganish. At the memorial service my sister Daisy asked me to share words of encouragement to her family, relatives and friends. My text was on Revelation 21:1-8, which is about the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. This is one of my favourite passages of Scripture and I felt at liberty to share the gospel message using that text. My late bother-in-law was a strong believer for many years and had a great burden for lost souls so to share an evangelistic message was a good way to pay tribute to him. There were about 400 people in attendance so many heard the gospel message.

March 5–9, 2018: There have been a number of deaths in Waswanipi during the past couple of years and I was invited by the Chief and Council through the Waswanipi Health and Fitness Center to



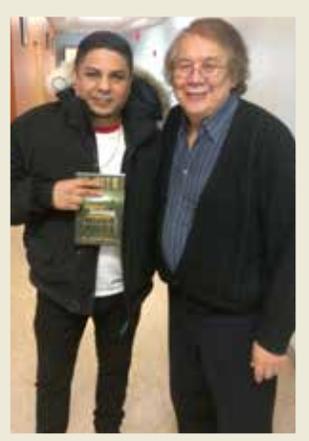
Far left, front row left to right: Joseph Jolly, Patrick Blueboy, Howard Jolly, Daisy (Blueboy) Moar, Allan Jolly. Back row: Gertie (Blueboy) Diamond and Abraham Jolly.

Left: My younger brothers Howard and Abraham sang a few songs at both the memorial and funeral services. Our late brother-in-law Jimmy Moar played the guitar and loved listening to gospel music. As a tribute to him there was a live band and lot of music at his funeral and the feast that followed.

Below left: I was asked to talk about the grief process on the radio during the *Waswanipi Local Suicide Prevention Week*.

Left: Motivational speaker James Lathlin and Dr. Joseph Jolly.

Below: Grief workshop for the Waswanipi elders.



provide counseling services in the community. While I was there the Waswanipi Health and Fitness Center had their *Local Suicide Prevention Week* on March 6–8. They had me doing workshops on grieving for Tuesday, March 6 and Wednesday, March 7. On Thursday, March 8 I did a grief workshop in Cree for the elders at the community's cultural site. The elders who work at the cultural site keep busy cooking wild meat and sharing their traditional knowledge to the younger generation.

James Lathlin from Winnipeg was one of the motivational speakers at the *Suicide Prevention Week*. He did *Scared Straight Workshops* and had plenary sessions for the high school and elementary students. In his workshop on *Scared Straight* he shared his life story of how he got involved in drugs, gangs, breaking the law and spending time in prison. His message not to do drugs did not go well with drug dealers and some gangs in his city. He got beat up very badly and was stabbed several times. He showed a video of when he was in the hospital recovering from his physical assault and stab wounds. I thought the *Suicide Prevention Week* was a success and the overall attendance was good.

On March 19–23, 2018 the Community Health/Wellness Centre of Ouje-Bougoumou invited me to do individual grief counseling sessions and a workshop in Cree for the

elders. On Monday, March 19 I flew from Montreal to Chibougamau and was seated beside Grand Chief Abel Bosum who is from Ouje-Bougoumou. During the one-hour flight Abel talked about his work and shared some personal health issues about his wife. He said that this was heavy on his mind besides his work. He would appreciate it if you remembered his wife Sophia in your prayers.

When I got to Ouje-Bougoumou I was surprised to hear that Walter George Bosum who was still active at 50 years old had passed away on February 11, 2018. While I was there I talked to Walter's parents Charlie and Evadney Bosum in their home. I also counseled his wife Louise. Walter was a believer and there is hope for the Christians to see their loved ones again.

In O.J. I talked to a number of people individually and did follow up with those I counseled on my last visit. Emily Wesley-Bosum, the Public Health Officer and Wellness Coordinator, let me use her vehicle so I could



visit some of the elders whose camps are located on the outskirts of Ouje-Bougoumou. In the afternoon on Monday, March 19 I visited Hattie Wapachee at her camp. I counseled Hattie a few times in the past and she was happy to talk to me in Cree. During my visit with her she asked me a few questions about some spiritual matters she was wondering about. Like most of the elders in the community Hattie has been a believer for many years.

On Tuesday, March 20 I went to see Matthew and Maggie Wapachee at their camp in Chibouchie, near Lac Cache. Their daughter Alice was staying there because she is looking after her aged parents. I have known Matthew and Maggie for a number of years and I had a very good visit with them. We talked about spiritual matters which is what they like to talk about the most. They also talked about Matthew's recent miraculous healing and recovery from his sickness. Through much prayer Matthew gradually began to get well and gain back his strength again. I had lunch with the Wapachees and they served tomato soup and fresh moose burgers. They had killed three moose two days before and so the meat was fresh. They also gave me tea that was made with fresh water from a fountain spring. I drank a couple of glasses of their fresh water and it tasted the same as Eska water.

On Wednesday, March 21 they had me scheduled to do a workshop in Cree for the elders on *Loss of Autonomy and Independence.* There was a good response to the workshop with about twenty participants. I used Billy Graham's book *Nearing Home* as part of my outline. Dr. Graham mentioned a lot of points in his book that related to aging. He was 92 when he wrote the book. The workshop was well received and they want me to come back and be a facilitator for another workshop on how to care for and meet the needs of the elders.

On March 26–30 I went to Moose Factory to do grief counseling for the MoCreebec Health Program. It was nice to be invited by them again. While I was there I talked to a few counselees who are grieving the recent loss of a loved one.

Grief takes different forms and one of them is personal violation. This always comes up when I counsel people.

Whenever I go to Moose Factory for counseling services I always make time to visit patients at the General Hospital. There have been a number of times in my ministry when I prayed with people to receive Christ at the hospital. As I was leaving the hospital ward one of the workers told me that Roy Turner was a patient here so I made a point to visit him. Roy was one of the people I wanted to see on my visit to Moose Factory. I spent a good hour visiting with him. Roy is a diabetic and he has an ulcer on his leg that just won't heal over. Before leaving I prayed for him and for healing in his body.

In April I didn't go the Cree communities but I stayed in Ottawa all month. When I am in town Sheila and I try to connect with Native people in the city. I went to the hospital a couple of times to visit Earl Williams from Moosonee, Ontario. He has been hospitalized in a state of coma for about a month. He is starting to show more signs of body movements. He waves hello to people and squeezes his wife's hand. I had the joy of praying with his wife Kristi to receive Christ at the hospital several weeks ago. She is thankful for the many people who are praying for her husbands' recovery.

The major job I had in April was to write the *NGM NewsTracker*. It took me about three weeks to do it. We need to send out the *NGM News Tracker* in May as the 23rd Annual Native Christian Conference is getting closer.

Far left: Maggie Wapachee is 86 years old.

Left: Matthew Wapachee is 85 years old.

Below: Matthew and Maggie Wapachee shared their thoughts about aging at the Elders' Workshop in O.J.

Below right: Sheila with Kristi (Corston) Williams at Wong's Palace where we usually go for Chinese food in Ottawa.



EULOGY

Jimmy Fred Moar

December 5, 1931–February 21, 2018

Jimmy (Fred) Moar was born on December 5, 1931 at Long Point, Ontario (near Cabbage Willows).

He is predeceased by his parents, Franklin (Frank) Moar and Nellie Stephen. He was the last remaining of his siblings—brothers Harry, Bert and Bob; sisters Lizzie-Ann, Ruby and Florrie.

Jimmy met and (madly) fell in love with a young lady Daisy Blueboy, whom he referred to as the girl next door. He often wondered and said: “why a spouse had to be searched for far and wide when you can find one just next door.” Daisy was the girl next door.

Six months after he met Daisy (the girl next door), they were married in Rupert’s House on August 25, 1958. Two days following their wedding, Jimmy and Daisy left for Cabbage Willows-Goose Camp for their honeymoon. For the next 16 years he was a goose-hunting guide during the fall seasons at Cabbage Willows-Goose Camp. Jimmy was a skilled and successful hunter and was able to provide well for his family.

Over the years Jimmy and Daisy were blessed with a family of eight children. Jimmy is survived by his wife Daisy and children Roy (Sarah), Bob (Mary), Murphy (Jean), Willard (Stella), Priscilla (Bob), Gloria (Willard), Victoria (Isaiah) and Melvin (Jocelyn). They also have 43 grandchildren (two deceased) and 75 great-grandchildren (two deceased)

Although Jimmy had very limited schooling, he worked as a general labourer for the community of Rupert House during the summer seasons.

Later in 1975, following the signing of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement, Jimmy was hired to provide training to help men become construction workers in the building of new houses in the community of Waskaganish.

He would later become a foreman and also worked in public building construction in Waskaganish, Eastmain and Nemaska. During the construction of the James Bay Highway, he was employed as a general labourer.

Leading up to his retirement from work at the age of 65, Jimmy earned respect for his hard work and his solid work skills in the general labour and construction field.

Aside from his employment over the years, Jimmy also showed exceptional skills in the art of making tamarack decoys. Selling these became one source of income after his retirement.

On February 3, 1973, Jimmy’s life changed dramatically. That was the day he received and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart and life. Since that day, Jimmy was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ right to the last day of his life.

He and Daisy opened their hearts and home to many who visited Waskaganish from other communities over the many years of their life together. Jimmy and Daisy had a generous and giving heart for family and people who came to their home.



Jimmy and Daisy Moar pose with Jimmy’s parents Nellie (née Stephen) Moar and Frank Moar



Front row left to right: Victoria (Jennifer), Bob and Melvin; back row, left to right: Priscilla, Gloria, Daisy, Jimmy, Murphy, Roy and Willard.

Jimmy displays the tamarack birds he made at home.



Those who knew him can say he had a good sense of humour—he made people laugh and enjoyed doing it. The family shared that when everyone would tell Jimmy “I love you.” He would respond with “I love you (Moar) more” (referring to his name).

Jimmy was a gentleman and loving to his wife Daisy over the 58 years of their marriage. The summer of 2018 would have marked their 60th wedding anniversary!

He was a loving brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, father-in-law, uncle, cousin and a dear friend to all.

In 2015, Jimmy was diagnosed with colon cancer. After surgery the same year, with no chemotherapy, he was able to recover from it. The following year, during his follow-up, the doctors gave the good news that he was cancer-free.

In August 2017, he was sent to Chisasibi for testing because he was having difficulty breathing. A year later, the doctors informed Jimmy had a liquid build-up in his lungs. Weeks later doctors diagnosed him with pulmonary metastases (cancer).

At that point, he was asked by the doctors if he wanted to proceed with surgery. He said no. He also didn’t want to be sent out of Waskaganish if his condition worsened, and he didn’t want to be revived should he take his last breath. He made it known to his doctors that he wanted

to breathe his last breath at home. He wishes were respected by the doctors.

In his last days, Jimmy was visited by family members and friends who offered prayers and support. He remained very conscious of people and his surroundings and he made no complaints while he was in pain.

At 11:53 p.m. on February 21, 2018, surrounded by his wife, some daughters and a few grandchildren, his last words were before his grandson Jeremy by his bedside—pointing at the picture of Jesus on his bedside wall “Shash Jesus Aweh”! With that Jimmy entered into heaven’s gates, “most likely he met up with Billy Graham as they entered into heaven’s glory, on the same day!”

Finally, he is now face-to-face with his Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. For ever more!

EULOGY

Luke Diamond

August 11, 1943–January 23, 2017

Luke Diamond was born in Rupert House on August 11, 1943 to the late Josephine McLeod and Bertrand (Bertie) Diamond. He is survived by his brothers Eddie (Monika), Jack (Doris), Sinclair (Wanda), Richard, Bernard (Stephanie) and his sister Mary (Vance).

He is survived by his wife Gertie, his wife of 53 years, and his children Peggy, Linda (Douglas), Marcella (Gilles), Victor, Patricia (George), Sarah (partner Danny), Steve (partner Monique). He leaves behind 20 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

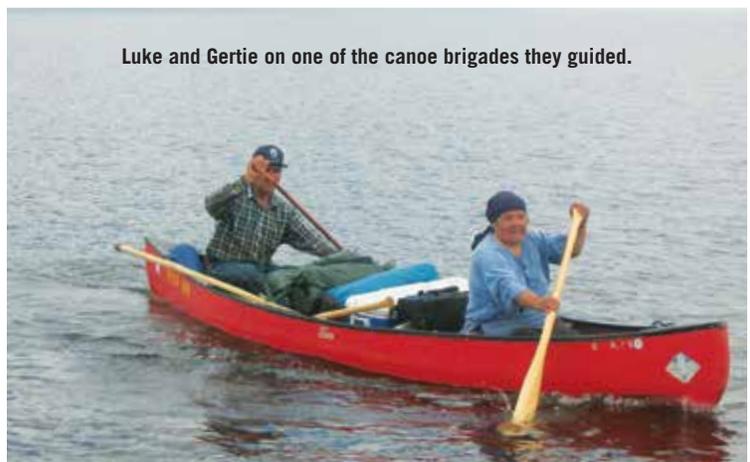
As a young man, like many others of his generation, Luke went to residential school in Moose Factory. He stayed in

school until the age of 16 upon which he joined his parents as a full-time trapper. Along with his parents, he started hunting in Ontario as part of a program by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in various traplines near Michipicoten Island, Gogama, Shining Tree, Hornpayne, Oba, Hearst and Kapuskasing. When his parents eventually

were unable to continue hunting in Ontario, Luke and Gertie still continued to hunt there along with their son Victor. Victor was able to hunt and trap with his father for a total of 28 years. Luke hunted in Ontario for over 50 years in 32 different trapline. During his time in Ontario, he made many friends with people in the MNR, some of whom became life-long friends who came to visit him in Waskaganish and at his camp. In recent years, health issues caused Luke, Gertie and Victor to stay close to home and hunt at their camp in Siisiitsiinuk.



Along with the winter trapping activities, Luke loved to go goose hunting in the spring at Siisiitsiinuk with his children and grandchildren. This was the time when all the family was able to get together and enjoy their time in the bush. He passed on his love of being in the bush to all his children and grandchildren. All of his family enjoyed watching him shoot geese because he was such a great shooter. Once a flock of seven geese came to him and he killed the whole flock by himself. He was usually the one who always killed the most geese each spring. He loved helping his children by getting their cabins ready for their arrival by shovelling their steps and sometimes even providing them with firewood. Many times he would also haul enough fresh drinking water for the entire camp to use for the whole spring. His grandchildren would help in this activity.



Luke was also a great fisherman, many times bringing home fish by the hundreds for many people to enjoy. He taught his children how to fish with nets and how to clean and cook the fish. He continued on something his parents loved doing as well.

Once his children were all older, he began teaching a new generation of young people in the 10 canoe brigades he guided. He passed on his knowledge to youth in various summer and winter Ashuumihi Journeys. Some loved the experience so much that they asked to come live with him at his camp even after the programs were done. He always welcomed these young people who took an interest in being in the bush. He tried to set an example of hard work and perseverance to all that he taught. He always encouraged everyone to do things and face new challenges even if you were afraid.

The Waskaganish canoe brigade gives tribute to Luke.



On January 23, 1995, Luke had heart surgery after having a heart attack while hunting near Kapuskasing, Ontario. He recovered well and was soon back to hunting, trapping and fishing like always but recently, in the last few years, he had been experiencing some issues with his heart. He had to be given emergency medical care on a few occasions.

Late in the evening of January 23, 2017, Luke was at home with his wife Gertie, daughter Marcella and her husband and three of his grandchildren when he was found to have collapsed in his room by his wife Gertie. Despite the best efforts by police, first responders and medical personnel at the clinic, he never regained consciousness and passed away at approximately 11:20 p.m.

He will be greatly missed by all his loved ones and his friends. He was a wise man with great love for everyone around him. By his efforts, traditional knowledge has been passed on to future generations.

Farewell to our dad, grandfather, uncle and friend. You will be cherished in our hearts and memories and although you will be greatly missed in the days, months and years to come, we know that you will still be with us in all we do. Thank you for all you have done for us over the years.

Editor's note: Luke Diamond was my brother-in-law and I knew him quite well. There is no doubt that hunting was in his blood and he loved his occupation as a trapper and hunter. Luke enjoyed the outdoors and he spent most of his time in the bush with my sister during all the seasons. He was a hard worker and very business minded. He saved his money and would pay cash for everything he bought. Once I asked him if he had a credit card. He looked at me and said, "Why would I need one?" He made authentic snowshoes which was another source of income for him.

What I remember as the most outstanding thing Luke ever did was the time he committed his life to Christ. This was a number of years ago. He didn't have a high education but he was well informed and knowledgeable about current events and medicine. He was a reader and one of the books he read was the Bible. The verse on his eulogy is John 3:16 which says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should perish, but have eternal life." Luke loved life in this world and I am glad he will experience eternal life in the new world that God is going to create.

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

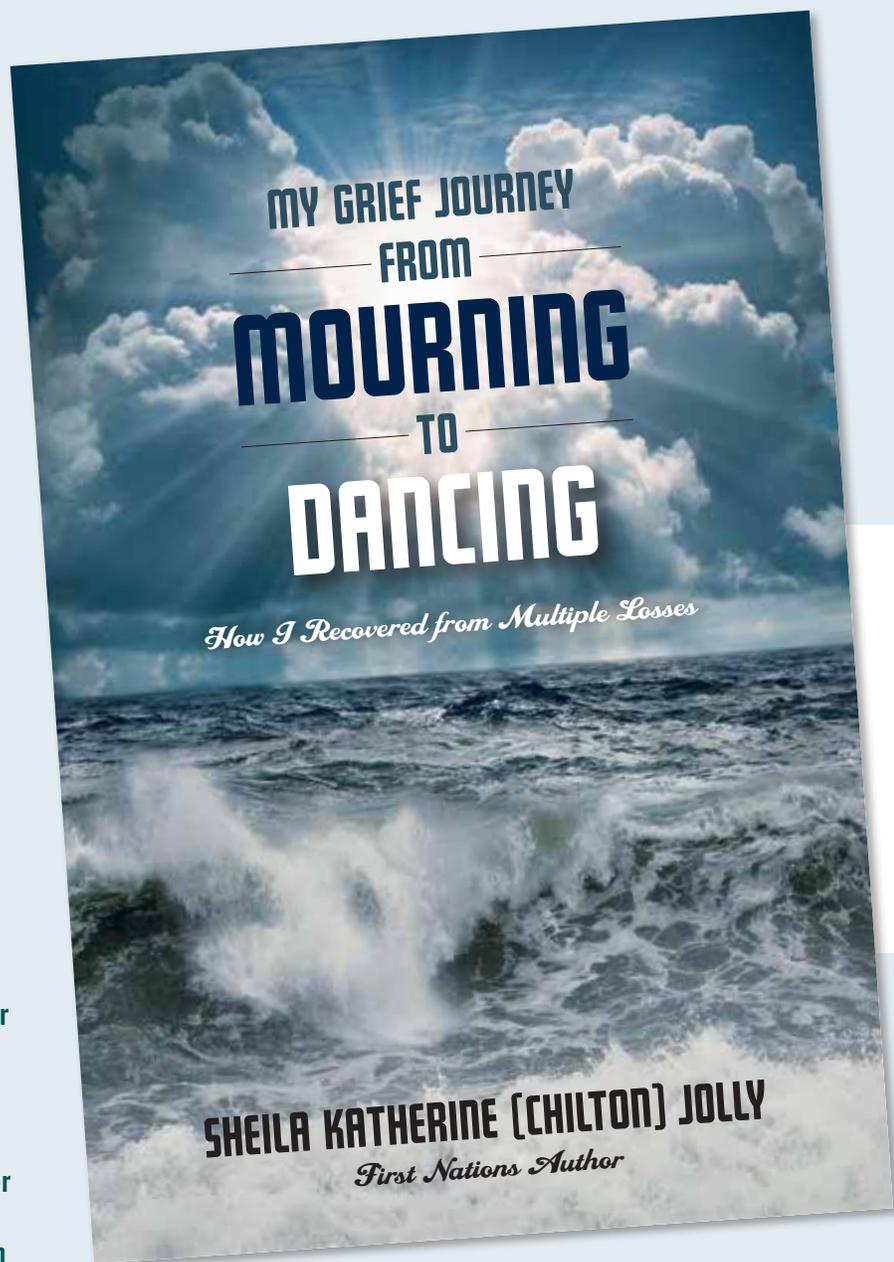
February 7, 2003, Sheila's younger sister, Daisy Mae Turcotte, died after a long battle with cancer. Two days later, her mother, Alice Chilton, passed away from ovarian cancer. She had also suffered with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years prior to her death. Ten months later, on December 19, 2003, 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 4, 1971. They have one son, Joseph Seth, who was born on October 26, 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 13, 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.

You can order your personal copy of Sheila's book through our NGM office. The cost per book is \$25, plus postage and handling. Make your cheque payable to:

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

Sheila and her husband have been married for 45 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 35 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*.



Sheila gives a copy of her book to former NHL player Bobby Smith and his wife Beth. Bobby Smith won the Calder Trophy in 1979 with the Minnesota North Stars and the Stanley Cup in 1986 with the Montreal Canadiens.

Incredible Answers to Prayer:

\$300 in the Mail

When Sheila and I first started working as full-time missionaries with the Native Evangelical Fellowship in 1980 our monthly support was very low. We didn't raise enough monthly support so we couldn't afford to buy too many extra things like new clothes. I was starting to get more speaking engagements and I knew that I would need to buy new dress clothes to look more presentable when I preached.

One day as we were leaving the Native Evangelical Fellowship (NEF) office I said to Sheila, "When we get home there will be a letter in our mailbox and inside the envelope will be a cheque for \$300. We will buy food and I will use some of that money to buy new clothes." I was just kidding and acting silly and we both laughed about it. When we got home there was a letter in our

mailbox and inside the envelope there was a cheque for \$300. The letter was from the late John Boles whom we knew as a friend at the Metropolitan Bible Church. He said the money was a gift and we could use it whatever way we wanted to—even to buy clothes. His letter was a very special blessing to us that day and it came at the right time because our funds were very low at that time. God knows what we need even before we ask. In the early years of our ministry and even still today we have to exercise our faith in God to supply our needs.

Sheila and I used to take NEF's books annually to Ottawa to have them audited by one of our personal supporters, who was a chartered accountant. He did it

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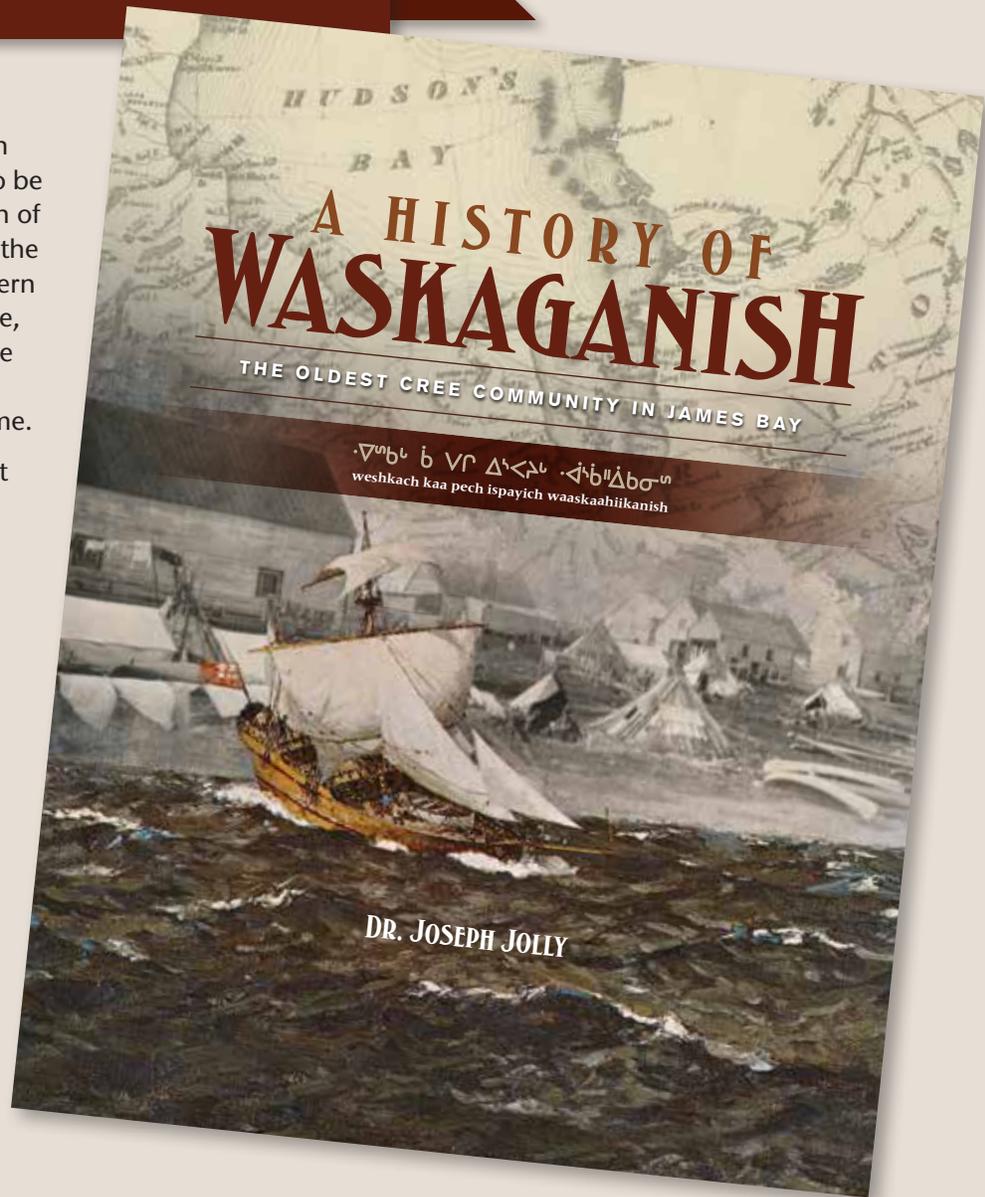
A gift to the people of Waskaganish on its 350th anniversary!

There are thousands of communities in Canada, but only a few can be said to be nexus points in our shared interaction of cultures, history, and nature. Waskaganish, the oldest Cree community in an ancient northern land, is one of these remarkable places. Here, along icy arctic water resides a spirit of place and the story of millennia—an emotional gravity that will forever draw its people home.

Waskaganish spreads along the southeast shore of Rupert Bay, a 30-kilometre thrust into Quebec from James Bay. You cannot get deeper into Canada from the north. It is a place connected to both the land and the sea; a place that has nurtured and shaped Cree culture and spirituality. It was here, in 1611, that Henry Hudson first made contact with the Crees of James Bay, eventually leading to the arrival, in 1668, of the ketch HMS *Nonsuch*, European commerce, and the nascent Hudson's Bay Company (HBC).

Since then, the history of Canada and the north has coursed through Waskaganish like the James Bay tide, depositing the stories, memories and ancestral culture that underpins the Cree way of life. Now, after three and a half centuries, this complex history and layered culture has finally been captured, recorded, and brought together in one volume for future generations. In his meticulous and enthusiastic *A History of Waskaganish, the Oldest Cree Community in James Bay*, Dr. Joseph Jolly offers up a tale as old as the Cree nation—a benchmark in its history that heralds an even stronger future.

Coming this summer, this milestone publication traces the compelling and ancient story of a remarkable nation that has lived in harmony with the land of James Bay for millennia. Every Waskaganish First Nation family should have a copy to help our children understand their birthright, and to embrace their culture. Contact Native Gospel Ministries at 613-739-0112 or drijolly@sympatico.ca for more information.



22nd Annual Conference *continued from page 5*

A few days after he asked me that question a couple we know in B.C. deposited \$5,360 into our account unexpectedly. God was doing a miracle by moving in the hearts of people to send in large gifts. Two days later a letter came in our P.O. box with a cheque for \$10,000. You can imagine Sheila's reaction when I showed her the cheque. The other money that came in was sufficient to cover all the expenses of the Conference. At the beginning of the Conference I told the people that God was going to bless the Conference. I said that because God blessed it before it even started. This year I was really blessed and ministered to by the powerful messages of Dr. Emerson Falls. If I felt that way I am sure the Conference guests felt the same way. Amen!

We always plan the Conference without any money because we believe by faith God will provide. We thank God for His great faithfulness in answering prayer for the 22nd NGM Conference. We received enough funds to cover the costs for the Conference and we want to thank those who gave and had a part in making this possible.

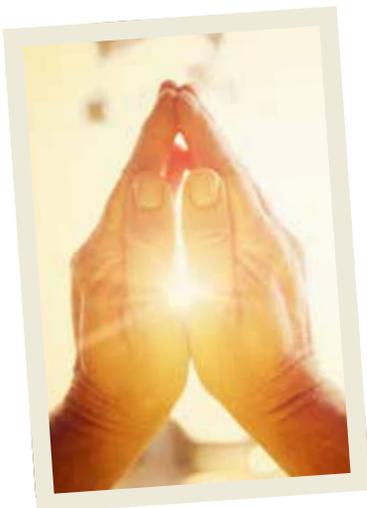


Clockwise from top: Pastor Bert Mettaweskum came with a group of people from his church in Mistissini. We encourage Native pastors to attend the Conference for a spiritual retreat.

Special guest musicians Thomas Neeposh and his daughter Rachel Hester.

My son Joseph played backup for Thomas in one of his songs. We could have had the Chief Shepherd Band from Mistissini play a couple of songs because three of their band members attended the Conference.

Incredible Answers to Prayer *continued from page 25*



for free, which was a great blessing for NEF's ministry. Whenever we were in Ottawa the Metropolitan Bible Church—where we got saved in 1974—would often ask us to share our ministry. I play the guitar and sing as part of my ministry so I used to sing a song in the church service before sharing our ministry and work. I remember

the people used to love that. A lot of people know us at the church and I guess one woman noticed that Sheila's clothes needed to be updated. Shortly after we got back to Brandon there was a cheque for \$1,000 designated for Sheila to buy clothes.

We have many stories like this of how God has answered prayer for our personal financial needs. We have seen many people get saved in our ministry as a result of prayer. God has also answered prayer in healing people. I have started compiling stories of incredible answers to prayer in our ministry. This is the next book I will be writing. It would be something like an autobiography.

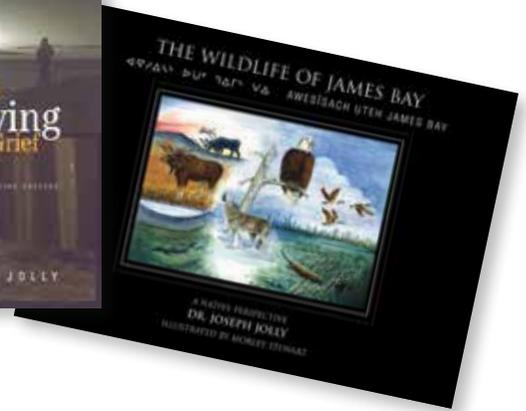
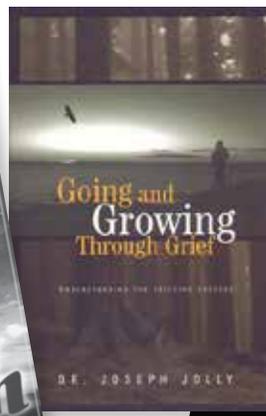
DISSERTATION PROJECT: Give Christ the Freedom to Build His Native Church

Give Christ the Freedom to Build His Native Church by Dr. Joseph Jolly is a review of cross-cultural principles that examines the strategies and methodologies of planting indigenous churches.

This dissertation is written, first of all, to provide a resource book for Native leaders, incumbent missionaries, and missionary candidates who are or will be working among the Native Indian people of Canada. It is also written to provide information to anyone who is interested in knowing more about Aboriginal people and their cultural values. The main emphasis in the dissertation focuses on the strategy and principles of indigenization and contextualization in church planting.

The dissertation project costs \$20 plus postage and handling. Send your cheque or money order to our NGM office:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada
Box 41006
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9



Going and Growing Through Grief

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 book costs \$16.95 plus postage and handling. **If you order 20 copies or more, the price per book is \$12.** Please send your cheque or money order to:

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada
Box 41006
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9

The Wildlife of James Bay

Only \$25 each plus postage and handling. To order the book *The Wildlife of James Bay*, contact:

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ask for Mabel Pepabano
Fax: 819-855-2724

Or you can order a copy from the NGM office. **Get your copy soon!**

NGM NewsTracker

The official newsletter of
Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

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