

Dear Friends and NGM Supporters,

Years ago, I read a book written by Warren Wiersbe called *"The Bumps Are What You Climb On."* We all encounter trials and tests in our Christian walk. James 1:2,3 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." Sheila and I have

learned that whenever we encounter trials we have to wait and trust in the Lord. One of my favourite verses is, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." Isaiah 26:3

The months of August, September and October were very slow for us financially in our work. We have been through difficult times in our work before but for some reason this time it seemed longer than usual. I didn't do any counseling work up north like I normally do so our funds were at a standstill and we got behind with some of our bills. During this time, the Lord provided for us and we always had plenty of food in the fridge and nothing was cut off like the telephone, Internet or the cable. One Sunday after the morning worship service a man approached me and gave me an envelope. He said, "This is a gift from Jesus and I don't want a receipt."

Inside the envelope was a thousand-dollar cheque, which we used to pay our mortgage. This extra money came at a time when we really needed it. PTL!

Whenever our finances are slow in our ministry Sheila and I know to just keep working, as does our son who borrows from his savings to help us out. During the months of August to October I worked on my new book,

Far left: Lazarus and Jennica Shecapio

Left: Sheila at Lazarus and Jennica Shecapio's wedding reception.



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Friends and Supporters *continued from cover*

"Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in Our Ministry." I started writing this book a few years ago and I put it on hold for awhile so you can say I just resumed it. My plan was to finish the rough draft before Christmas and go over the final draft during the holidays. I have the rough draft pretty well finished and the plan is to print the book early in the New Year. Writing Christian books is one of the most effective means of evangelism in our ministry.

I called the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada office in Winnipeg and asked them if they could send me some personal pictures that I took when I was working as the Executive Secretary/Director from 1980–94. I was hoping to use some of the pictures for my new book. They looked for them but couldn't find them. I told their office secretary that whenever I can't find something, I pray about it. I put that on my prayer list a couple of months ago and they recently called to let me know they found the pictures and would mail them to us. That is an answer to prayer. This will be my fifth book and so far all of my books have been very good sellers in the Native communities. I am hoping my new book will get a good response once it is printed. It is an autobiography of my early childhood and leading to our Christian ministry.

I have a new book out that was published in August. It is entitled *"Christ Is Building His Native Church."* You can order a copy through Amazon.com or you can order a copy from our office. The cost is \$20 plus \$5 for postage. I would recommend this

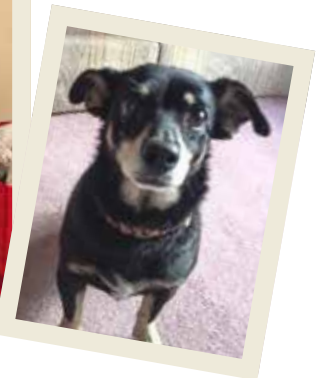
book for anyone who is interested in Native cultural studies. The book is about my personal philosophy in Native ministries, which is my doctoral dissertation. We have 50 copies and we will be glad to mail your order as soon as we receive it.

In August, our dog Princess was sick and we had to put her down. We had her for about 16 years and we were all grieved by her passing. It was hard on all of us especially Joseph Seth because Princess was his dog. We went



Left: Joseph Seth celebrating his 24th birthday.

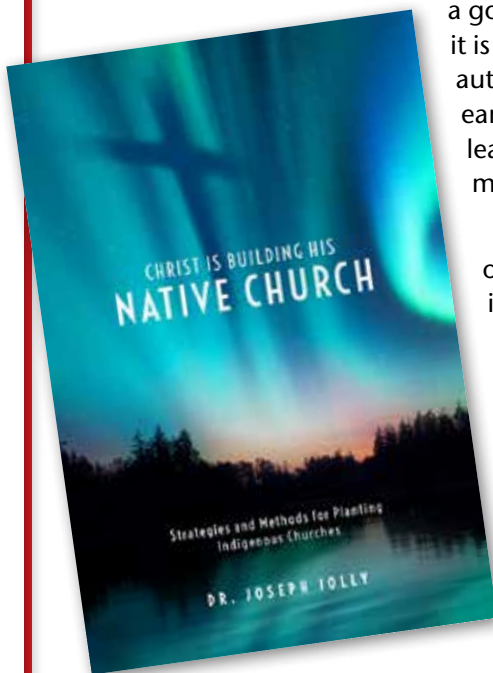
Below: Beloved pet Princess



through grief and we still feel it today. I believe that was one of the reasons why I stayed home from August to October. Sheila and Joe needed me to be there for them. Joseph Seth has accepted his loss and is doing quite well. His interests are in politics right now and he helped Member of Parliament David McGuinty during his campaign. He has been making quite a few political friends and has several job opportunities coming up in the new year, and he hopes to help pay off all our bills once he starts his job, whatever it may be.

Sine the last week in October I have been to Moose Factory, Eastmain, Waswanipi and Mistissini. We thank and praise our heavenly Father that we are caught up with

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25th Annual Native Christian Conference

July 10 to 12, 2020, Ottawa, Ontario

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

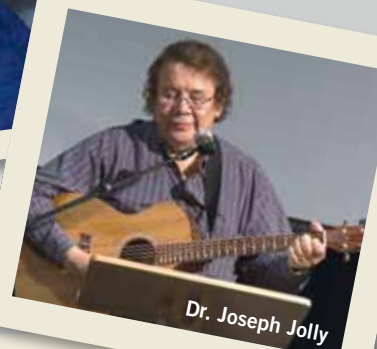


**Keynote
Speaker
Ed Sealy**

Ed Sealy was born in Bathurst, New Brunswick. After high school, he moved to Amherst, NS, where he opened a chain of restaurants. It was here he began a spiritual search to quench the thirst deep within his soul, which ended in 1978 when he was converted to Christ. Sealy then left the business world to study at bible school. Upon graduation, he pastored a church in Belleville, NB, before returning to the bible school to teach Old and New Testament Synthesis and Personal Evangelism. In 1998, he resigned his teaching position to found Furtherance Ministries. The ministry furthers the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Sealy is a gifted evangelist who brings the gospel message to needy people through message and music.

Sealy is married with three children. He and his wife Theresa now make their home in Wakefield, NB.

CONFERENCE MUSIC BY SPECIAL GUESTS:



**AND
MANY
MORE!**

Conference Schedule at Metropolitan Bible Church

Friday, July 10 @ 6 p.m. Refreshments served after evening service.

Saturday, July 11 @ 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 11 @ 5 p.m. Banquet meal for Conference guests.

Sunday, July 12 – TBA

Native Gospel Ministries of Canada

Contact Dr. Joseph Jolly at:
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nativegospelministries.org

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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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!





Left: Dabwetamun Academy is a Christian private school in Mississauga. I did a grief workshop and individual counselling for the students and staff.

Below: Sheila with Jody Wilson-Raybould at the AFN meeting in Ottawa.

Bottom: Philip Awashish is a well-known Cree Leader from Mississauga, Quebec.



our personal bills but NGM still has one outstanding bill of \$1,600, which is the auditor's report. It would be wonderful if we could take care of this outstanding bill before the Christmas holidays. We have paid all the costs of the Conference. We

thank those who have already supported our ministry and who continue to do so. We ask that you only give if the Lord puts it on your heart to give toward our ministry. We pray for those to be blessed who have blessed us.

Sheila had a display table at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) meeting in Ottawa on December 2–3.



She sold some copies of her book and gave out our NGM Newstracker. She had an opportunity to meet with a number of key Native leaders. We are planning to have a display table at the next AFN meeting in Ottawa.

The next major thing for me to do is the NGM Newstracker. I plan to have it done early in the New Year.

At this time our family would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In closing: Please pray for the history book of Waskaganish to be printed. The new Chief Clarke Shecapio has assured me the plan is to print the book.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Joseph Folly with Sheila and Joseph Seth



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

The book costs \$20 plus \$5 postage and handling. Send your cheque or money order to our NGM office:

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

You can also order it at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



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



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

Cree School Board Education Services
Mail Bag 40
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel: 819-855-2230 ext. 3231,
ask for Mabel Pepabano
Fax: 819-855-2724

Or you can order a copy from the
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