

Dear Friends and NGM Supporters

I haven't gone to minister in the Native communities too many times since December. The last time I went to a Cree community was on December 2–6. I was invited by the Dabwetamun Academy, which is a private Christian school in Mistissini, to do a grief seminar and individual counselling for the students and staff. I enjoyed my time in Mistissini and I was very pleased of how everything went.

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



Left and below: Sheila with Jody Wilson-Raybould. Jody is a Canadian politician who has served as Independent Member of Parliament for the British Columbia riding of Vancouver Granville since 2019.

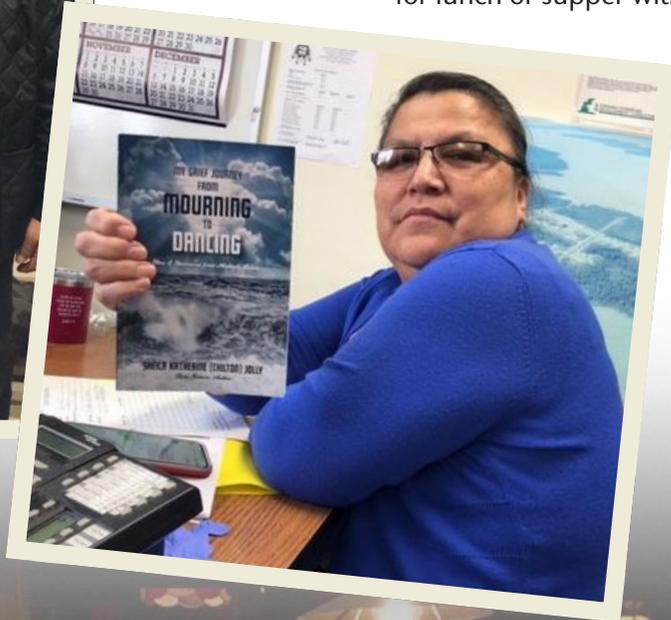


Above and right: Dabwetamun Academy in Mistissini.



Left: Band Councillor from Alberta.

Below: Chief's wife Pauline from Keewayin First Nation, Ontario, has a copy of Sheila's book. Pray for Pauline's health.



Someone told her that there were about 1,600 delegates at the meeting. She sold some copies of her book and gave out our *NGM News Tracker*. She had an opportunity to meet with a number of key Native leaders.

When we are in the city, we have contact with our own Native people now and then. Sometimes we go out for lunch or supper with them. On December 21 John Longchap called us and invited us to have supper with them at the Crazy Horse restaurant in Kanata. His wife Helen was celebrating her birthday and he wanted us to be part of her birthday party. I was hungry and I ordered a ribeye steak, which was very delicious. They said it was Alberta beef.

John Longchap (left) and his wife Helen with some family members and friends.





Joseph, Sheila and Joseph Seth.

We celebrated Christmas at home.

We had a wonderful, relaxing Christmas. Joseph said it was the best Christmas ever so we were happy to hear him say that. I had my traditional bacon and eggs breakfast. We had roast turkey and ham for our dinner meal. For dessert we had pudding with custard. I asked

Left: Chief Annie Mapachee and her husband Johnny Salt.

Below: Joe and Sheila with Kenny Louise Blacksmith from Mistissini, Quebec.

Right: Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.



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Far left: Sheila's book display table at the Chiefs of Ontario meeting in Ottawa.

Left: Helena Trapper from Moose Factory, Ontario. We knew her parents very well.

Below: Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon of the Mushkegowuk Council of Cree First Nations in the James Bay region of northern Ontario.



Native woman in Waswanipi to make the pudding for us and it sure tasted good. I think I will do that again next year.

On January 30 we had lunch with Chief Annie Mapachee and her husband Johnny at the St-Hubert restaurant in Ottawa. Annie is the newly elected Chief of the Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi.



Above: Former Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy. We went out for supper with him to the Delicious Steakhouse.

Right: Wellness Society Regional Annual Meeting in Gatineau, Quebec.



Their headquarters is in Amos, Quebec. Both Annie and Johnny have family roots in Waskaganish. Johnny's father, the late Joseph Salt, gave me the name Joseph when I was born in Rupert House (Waskaganish). I have never forgotten my namesake. It was good to have fellowship with them and to speak in Cree.

On March 13 we went out for supper with our friends Kenny and Louise Blacksmith from Mistissini, Quebec. Since 1994 we have stayed in close contact with them. Kenny is a former Deputy Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, now known as the Cree Nation Government.

On February 5–6 Sheila and I attended the Chiefs of Ontario meeting at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa. Sheila had a display table to sell her book. We also sold copies of my book *Christ is Building His Native Church*. We talked to a number of Native leaders and we gave out many copies of our *NGM News Tracker*.

On February 13 I did a grief presentation in Gatineau for the Wellness Society Regional Annual Meeting. There were Native people there who came from the Cree communities of northern Quebec in James Bay. My PowerPoint presentation included losses of life, work,

Sheila at her display table in Gatineau. Her book is becoming a bestseller. She loves doing this and she gets to talk to a lot of people.





Left: Andrea McLeod with her auntie Sheila.

Below: Bella Petawabano, Chairperson of the Cree Health Board.



relationships, friends, trust, addictions, health, faith and rejection. Sheila had a display table for her grief book and she sold a few copies. I also sold some copies of my book *Christ is Building His Native Church*. We also gave out copies of our recent *NGM News Tracker*. Distributing literature is one of the best ways to reach people with the gospel.

On March 6–8 I was invited by the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee for a leadership event in Kanata. They asked me to be available to do individual counseling services for them during the meetings. Sheila came with me and she had a display table to sell her grief book. I also sold copies of my new book, *Christ Is Building His Native Church*. We had good interaction with a number of Native people while we were there and I was able to counsel a few people during the day.

On April 12 we celebrated Easter in our home. The services were cancelled at the Metropolitan Bible Church so we had to watch the online service from our home. I was looking forward to cooking a roast turkey with all the trimmings for our traditional Easter meal. It was

nice to see Sheila and our son Joseph enjoying the meal. We always look forward to celebrating Easter but it was different this year because of the coronavirus. We did not buy Easter lilies this year but there is always next year.

I was scheduled to speak at a World Mission Conference on April 25–26 at the Fair Havens Community Church in Beaverton, Ontario. I was not able to go to Beaverton because of the coronavirus but the World Mission Conference Sunday worship service was still broadcast on the online service that was setup by the church. They had me record my message on my iPhone and then I sent it to them. Our son Joseph was able to download the message on Google and then he sent the recorded message to the Fair Havens Community Church. I was glad they received the message and had no problem to download it. I was able to get a link and we were able to watch the whole service online.

We never expected this to be an ongoing and broader ministry. We sent the message to our family members, friends and supporters. Now I am seriously thinking

about recording some gospel songs and putting them on YouTube. We get a lot of people following us on Facebook. When I do weddings, they are shown all over the north via Facebook.

The title of my message was “Be Reconciled to God.” One of the reasons I did this message is because reconciliation requires repentance and forgiveness on both parties involved. The term reconciliation is important to the Indigenous people in Canada especially after the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). The Federal Government, on behalf of the Canadian people, confessed the wrong they did in the past to the Indigenous people in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in 2007. Then Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized on behalf of the Canadian people and the Native people accepted the apology and there was forgiveness on their part.

Forgiveness and reconciliation go together. I would like to elaborate more on this topic because I have observed that many Native and non-Native people do not fully grasp what full reconciliation really means and entails. In my upcoming book I mentioned the impact of the Indian Residential School System and I included the Prime Minister’s apology. I went to residential school for eight years and as a Native Christian I can say that I have experienced full reconciliation and I give all the glory to God. It took me awhile to prepare this message and I would like to develop it some more when I have an opportunity to preach it in a Native church.

Above right: Ida Gilpin and her friends from Wemindji, Quebec.

Below: We all enjoyed eating turkey for our special Easter meal.



In December I was determined to start writing my book on *Extraordinary Answers to Prayer in our Ministry*. Because of the shutdown from the coronavirus, I was able to spend a lot more time writing the book. I finished the book way ahead of my schedule. I have submitted all the chapters of the book to my editor. So far, he has completed one chapter. I will be doing a mock-up and a dummy for the chapters gradually. Aerographics Creative Services will do the layout of the book and Gilmore Reproductions will print the book. This is my fifth book so I have a good idea of what needs to be done before the book is ready to be printed. This book is an autobiography of my life and Sheila’s. It is definitely a Christian book. I am sure it will be a powerful tool for evangelism.

We would love to hear from you at this time. I have started working on the next *NGM News Tracker*.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Dr. Joseph Folly with Sheila
and Joseph Seth*

