



## Church Overview

As I sit down to write my part for this newsletter, I honestly don't know what to say. I mean, I have so much bouncing around in my mind and so much stirring in my heart that I can't seem to be able to put words together. But one thought has been completely dominating my mind, **God is so Good!** I've been on the Rez for 10 years now and I know that every minute of that time was lived only by the Grace of God. He has brought me from a place of bondage and death to a place where I am not only set free and alive in Christ, but am privileged to work for His Kingdom here on the greatest of mission fields, The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. What an incomprehensible, overwhelming and awe-inspiring honor! And it all comes back to the Goodness of God.

The Holy Spirit is stirring here on the Reservation. He is drawing us as a ministry team and church into a deeper place of prayer. He's urging us to find our secret places and to seek His Face. You see, in 10 years of ministry on the Rez I have come to the same conclusion that David Brainerd came to almost 400 years ago as he ministered to Native Americans in Pennsylvania. He wrote, "For I have learned by experience that only He can open the ear, engage the attention, and incline the heart of the Lost to receive the Gospel". Only the Holy Spirit can remove the blinders from the people's hearts and minds. Only He can unstop their ears and open their eyes. Only He can bring the Revelation of who Jesus really is to the Lakota people. And I am completely convinced that our prayers allow Him to do this Mighty Work.

That is why I am excited with our upcoming schedule! God is drawing people from all over the United States to come and pray with us. In April, Native Nations Ablaze, led by worship artist Ken Verheecke, have organized a 24 hr Worship Burn, that means 24 consecutive hours of lifting up the name of Jesus right here in Oglala. The burn is followed by a community wide worship and prayer event. Not only that, but our friend Joe Donnell is bringing a group of Chinese pastors from the Chicago area in May to pray and intercede for the Lakota people. Plus we have our summer missions teams coming who always soak our community in prayer and love when they are here.

Now I ask you to join with us in prayer. Put this newsletter into your Bible, on your refrigerator or in your purse. Every time you see it, pray for us. Lift up JESUS over the Rez. Call on His name on behalf of the Lakota. You will find specific prayer requests on the back. Thank you.

Sincerely in Him, Pastor Eric Sutton

## OASIS Youth Group

First of all, I'd like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has already sent money in order to have my beard removed (that was 90% sincere and 10% sarcastic ☺). Honestly, just in case you don't know yet, this summer we want to take some of our youth backpacking in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. We believe that this will be a special time for God to speak into the hearts of all of us. Growing up in the Royal Rangers, I can personally attest to the times spent in the beauty and quiet of creation always opened my ears to hear God better.



If you are interested in reading more about this event, please feel free to check out our website [www.oglarwc.org](http://www.oglarwc.org) and click on the link "Beard Fundraiser". We are still short of our \$ 5,000 goal so please keep this in prayer.



On a personal note, Mary and I are getting married on April 25th. We are excited and—at least at the moment—maybe a little stressed out too. In this day and age it seems that satan is really trying hard to attack marriage and other godly relationships. Please pray for us as we take this step of faith, and please keep our whole ministry team in your prayers also.

We are looking back on a challenging but blessed year 2010. Our New Years All Niter with the youth was a big success. However, we are expecting even greater things from God this year. Pray that Jesus would reveal Himself in a mighty way to our youth, and that Mary and I as youth leaders would be useful vessels in God's hands.

Leon Schwartz, Youth and Associate Pastor

## All-Stars for Jesus



Spring is in the air on the Rez, and we have been making some exciting changes in Kid's Church!



Terry has started a discipleship class on Wednesday nights for the children ages 10 & up. They are learning to be "Grasshoppers" - learners, apprentices, followers of Jesus. We very much appreciate your prayers as we strive to teach them how to develop a relationship with Jesus and to put His Word into practice in their everyday lives. Jesus came "to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:79).

God has put it upon both of our hearts to teach even these little ones to be doers of the WORD, not just hearers. To become "Little Lights" so they can also give light to them that sit in darkness, and so that God can heal the hurts that only He can heal.



A week ago during Kids' Church, one of our smaller children, Susanna, was having a bit of a temper tantrum; she didn't want to sing "that" song. We sang a few more songs, none of which slowed the tantrum. Then the children raised their voices singing "I have a Maker, He formed my heart, Before even time began, My life was in his hands." Suddenly her two little hands went up into the air. The screaming and crying stopped. I wonder if Jesus Himself did not stand up to hear his little children praising Him.

Terry and Kathy Michels, Children's Pastors

## Girls Youth

Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there, but water the earth ... So is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."



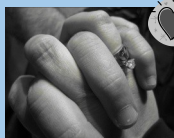
While we were still wondering about the unusual winter weather in South Dakota this year (freezing fog?!?), our first "summer" missions team arrived. Spending much of that week in a local school here in Oglala, they had an awesome chance to reach out and build relationships with the students. The same students later in the day showed up at the Rec, some of them for the first time. As I overheard one of the conversations that went on between them and the team, I realized once more what our ministry is all about: Watering. Just saying the same things over and over again: Jesus loves you. Your life has meaning. God has good plans for you. And just as we know that snow and rain will not return into the sky but stay here to bring forth spring's green, we also believe that the Word of God that we preach and live every day will eventually bring forth spiritual growth and rich fruit in God's harvest fields - even here on the hard ground of the Bad Lands.



Please keep praying with us that God's desires will be accomplished in our ministry and our personal lives.

Mary Maedler, Missionary

## BULLETIN BOARD



### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Leon & Mary are finally doing it! On April 25th, they are going to get married at the courthouse in Hot Springs, followed by their reception on April 30th as a celebration of their union together with the church, family and friends.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Apart from the worship burn and prayer teams that are coming up soon, we are looking ahead (and forward to) a very busy summer. The first two missions teams have already been here - only about ten more to go! ☺

Also, Easter Sunday is near, and as every year we are going to have a special service and outreach to the community.

Please stay updated about the schedule on our website [www.oglarwc.org](http://www.oglarwc.org) or just give us a call.

### PRAYER NEEDS

Pray for the church here on the Reservation - that they would be filled with the Fullness of God and would live as salt and light here in Oglala. Pray for our team and other ministry teams on the Reservation - that they would be strengthened, encouraged and filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit to speak His Word with boldness, clarity and the Love of God. Pray for the lost - that they would see clearly whom they are serving now and where he is taking them, and see who Jesus really is and where He will lead them. The Reservation needs a revelation of the True and Living God: Jesus Christ! Will you help us pray for this revelation to come?

- ♥ Eric, Leon, & Mary, Terry & Kathy
- ♥ For our church family for strength and encouragement to stand firm in the Lord and to stay in the Word and in Prayer
- ♥ For the Oglala community for a revelation of who Jesus really is

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

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