



## Get A Short History Tour



*Tim & Elaine Harris* arrived at Pine Ridge Reservation in July 1995. Coming straight from Florida, they knew no one around here and had no idea how to begin a ministry on the reservation.

Tim would drive HWY 18 on a daily basis, praying and reaching out to those the Lord put in his path. On his way he would also pass a particularly large, empty parcel of land in Oglala, SD. This piece of land was just across the street from the main housing area...

In November 1997 the Holy Spirit moved Tim's heart to search out the owner of the property. After meeting with Barbara Dull Knife they located the owner in Rushville, NE and were able to purchase 7 of the 73 acres which now sit between two major housing areas in Oglala. The Harris' had a vision of something more than just another "church" in the neighborhood; their dream was of a building and ministry that would benefit and reach out to the whole community every day.

Finally the vision took shape and the building process began. Work teams were gathered from all over the nation to do volunteer labor. By that time, a small church family had already been born and they spent many hours getting the rough land ready for a building. Many donated materials or time in order to see the vision become reality. In August of '97 the construction of an 8,000 square foot facility was well on the way. The dream was to build a multifunctional facility including gymnasium with a kitchen area, fellowship area, bathrooms/showers, classroom space, and a 1,000 square foot apartment. The building was completed in March of 1998 and is known until today as The Oglala Re\*Creation & Worship Center. Since then, the facility and its staff have been serving the community in whatever way needed. The building has undergone many changes; in 2006 we added a 6,000 square foot multipurpose gym, and the old gym was completely renovated to serve as sanctuary, kids' church, fellowship hall and bunk house—we definitely are a work in progress!



But no matter what the changes in the building are, our vision stays the same: We want to offer a safe place for the children, and serve Jesus as

**“A Light In The Darkness”**



## Meet The Rec Ministry Team



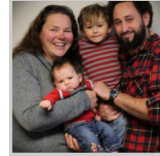
*Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton*

Eric grew up in Florida and moved to Oglala in spring 2001. His wife Ela first came to Oglala in 2011 as an exchange student from Germany. She soon fell in love, not just with Eric but also with the

Lakota people, and finally joined the team in 2015. Their passion is to see a unified Body of Christ fulfilling their purpose in Jesus to His Glory and Praise.

*Leon & Mary Schwartz, Youth Ministry*

Leon has been ministering in Oglala since 2001. His wife Mary joined the team in 2008 as a missionary from Germany. Together they serve in youth ministry. In 2013 their beautiful son Sylvan joined the family, and in 2015 they welcomed baby princess Zelda.

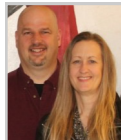


*Terry & Kathy Michels, Childrens' Pastors*

The Ohio couple loves Jesus and enjoys driving through the Black Hills. Since 2003 they have been serving the Oglala children through sleepovers, kids' church, field trips, and much more.

*Heidi Martin, Mission Team Coordinator*

Heidi grew up in Pennsylvania and loves the beach, making music, and gardening. She lived in Oglala from 1996 to 2003, and finally moved back here in 2009. Heidi is our main chef, and also coordinates all our mission teams.



*Wendell Gehman, Board Member*

*Harry Sager, Board Member*

Both men and their families have been vital parts of the Rec church family since the very beginning.



## ~ Ministry Team Picture (Spring 2016) ~



## Find Out What & Where We Are And What We Do All Day

The Re\*Creation & Worship Center is a small mission church with the Assemblies of God Home Missions in Oglala on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD. Located just north of Hwy 18 and clearly visible from anywhere around, the "Rec" (as it is mostly called) is within easy walking distance of the two major housing complexes in Oglala, the Housing and Trailer Court.

*We are a multi-purpose facility,*

open most days of the week. Our focus is on after-school kids' programs; many of the children come straight from the school bus into the Rec or to our playground! The gym is open for kids, teens, and adults to come hang out with their friends, play ball, pool, or video games, roller skate, or buy snacks at our small concessions stand. We do not charge for the use of the building or any of its facilities. Some of our staff is always there to supervise the gym, and we often find it a great opportunity to share Jesus in a very practical way as we build friendship with the people.



*The Rec is also often used for a* number of community events like birthday parties, baby showers, wakes and funerals, give-aways, sports events, weddings, etc.

In addition to that, we offer weekly Wednesday night Teen Bible Study, Kids' Church, Royal Rangers, plus Sunday morning worship services.



And if that's still not enough for you, well, we do a lot of extra stuff too! During the school year, we may take the teens hiking, the Rangers go camping, and the kids on a field trip. We try to be friends with "our" kids by attending their graduations and ball games. In the summer, our schedule is totally different; the Rec gym is open all day, and we serve free community lunches. Some days (always a favorite!) we take the kids/teens on a swim trip. Plus, a different mission team is at the Rec almost every week doing a VBS, work project, family carnival, sports camp, bike clinic, you name it.

Apart from all that, there is always a huge amount of cleaning and upkeep; phone calls need to be made; secretarial work demands attention. There is no shortness of opportunities to serve in God's Kingdom!

## Learn how God pays for all this

We are 100% funded by private donations and do not receive grants or government support. Our ministry is debt free. We depend on God as our Provider & Sustainer, and have never yet failed to see Him faithful!



## Get involved!

"How do I know God's will for my life?" you may be asking yourself... Well, that question is all He needs, and yes, He will answer you! One good way of finding out God's will is by actually just doing it. There are many verses in the Bible that give us a clear picture of what God asks of us, and what a great way they are to get involved in the ministry in Oglala!



**PRAY** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

God's ministry is not based on human strength or skills. We greatly appreciate your faithful prayer support to keep us going, and in fact ask you to do so! You may find updated prayer requests along with many reasons to praise as you look over our "News" website.

**GIVE** (Matthew 6:3-4) Whether it is your money, things, or time - no investment into the Kingdom of God will go unseen but find its reward! We are a faith-based, non-profit ministry that completely runs on donations (all tax deductible) from people like you.



**DO GOOD** (1 Peter 2:15) and why not do so here on Pine Ridge Reservation? We offer opportunities for short and long term internships; come by yourself, with your family, or church group. Just please contact God and us (info see front) about it first! ☺



## Share God's Heart - the Good News for the Badlands



## REC SCHEDULE

### AFTER SCHOOL OPEN GYM

*Monday through Thursday*

2:30 - 6 pm for all ages  
Play ball, pool, video games -  
or just hang out with your friends!



*Friday Nite*

5 - 10 pm for ages 12 and up  
Full court basket ball, devotions, and dinner.

### WEEKLY OUTREACHES AND MORE

*Kids' Church*

**Wednesday 5:30 - 7 pm / Sunday 10:30 am**  
Songs, stories, games and lots of fun make this a special opportunity for kids ages 3-11 to learn and apply Biblical Truth to their lives.

*Royal Rangers*

**Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
Adventure, crafts, games and teaching for boys ages 8 and up. Also includes summer camps.

*Teen Bible Study*

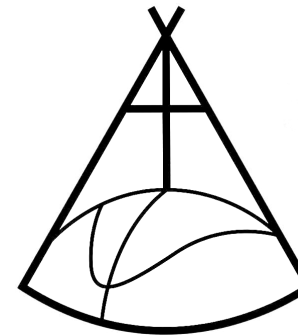
**Wednesday 5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
We are studying through different topics from the Bible and how God's Word relates to our lives. Plus there are extra events like swim trip, youth conference, hikes, and more.

**BIBLE Church Service**

**Study Sunday 11:30 am**  
We would love to welcome you into our Church Family. Together we worship Jesus, study the Bible, pray, and fellowship - coffee & cookies always included! ☺

### SUMMER SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Our opening times change during the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). While most of our Wednesday night outreaches are on break, the Rec gym will be open from 11 am through 5 pm, and with the help of our summer mission teams there will be VBSs, sports camps, swim trips, and sooo much more! Please stay updated through our website.



## Oglala Re\*Creation and Worship Center - TIPI WAKAN - A Light In The Darkness



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