



Church Family

"If your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here." Exodus 33:15

I love the heart of Moses in that moment, his audacity and persistence, but mainly his overwhelming desire for what really matters.

The Lord God had had enough. The children of Israel had been murmuring and complaining from the beginning; they refused to enter into His Presence when invited to the Mountain of God, and—with a final insult—they molded that golden calf to replace His Magnificent Presence with a despicable image. As a result, God told Moses, "Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey (the promised land) **but** I will not go with you."

If we were in that position, what would we choose? What if God said to you and I, "Go, have all I have ever promised you, everything you have ever prayed for or dreamed of, **but** I will not go, My Presence will not be with you." What would we choose? Would we go? Sadly I believe most of the church today has gone and doesn't even realize that He is not with us. And even more tragically, most people in the church are okay with the absence of the Presence of God, as long as they get what they want; the blessings, the provision, the security and some sort of religious significance. I believe that if it wasn't for the heart and leadership of Moses, the children of Israel would have taken God up on His offer; they would have gone alone to the promised land and ultimately to their destruction.

But Moses knew what really mattered. He knew that it wasn't the promised land with all its abundance and security. It wasn't the satisfaction of seeing the arduous journey come to an end and victory over their enemies. What really mattered to Moses was to know his God as He knew him. That's why Moses said, *"If You will not go, then we will not go."* And, after hearing God answer favorably, he pressed his luck and asked his God further, *"Please, show me Your Glory."* And Brothers and Sisters, God answered him in a mighty, unique, and awesome way.

Everything we do here at the Re*Creation Center, we hope is in accordance to that very pursuit, to know our God as He knows us. Whether it be Sunday morning services, Wednesday night Bible studies and Rangers, Friday night Oasis youth group, the prayer meetings, the after school program, and every other little thing we do on a daily basis, we hope and strive that the intention of our actions, the motivation of our hearts, the cry of our lips,

all who serve here at the Re*Creation Center is **Give Me Jesus!** No, we do not meet these expectations every day, and I personally fall short more than I would like to admit, but in the end, *"it is He who is working in us both to will and do for His Good Pleasure."* He is all we want, all we need; day after day as *"we with unveiled face behold as in a mirror the Glory of the Lord, are being transformed from Glory to Glory by the Spirit of the Lord,"* that by that mighty miracle, the Lakota people will see and experience Jesus for themselves and then they too will cry out, **Give Me Jesus.**

We hope you know that we love and appreciate all of you. To know that you are praying and believing with us gives us the courage and fortitude we need to press on. We also hope you take courage in your own place of influence and seek after Him with all your heart because He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Let this be your pursuit, your heart's cry, **Give Me Jesus!**

On a personal note, Ela and I would like to thank you all for your prayers and encouragement in the midst of our immigration saga. We are happy to say that we are now only two steps away in the visa process to finally putting all this distance behind us and sharing our lives together in the same zip code. Through this whole ordeal, we have been boldly proclaiming that we are not waiting on the government or bureaucracy but we wait on the Lord and with that He has kept His promise to renew our strength and He is bringing us the Victory. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely in Jesus, Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton



Youth Ministry

Ever since the end of the last school year, it has been on our hearts to focus more on discipling teens. We are partnering with friends and youth leaders in Oglala to

tackle this command of Jesus. It is encouraging to see that some of the youth are slowly starting to move on from just "drinking the milk" of the Gospel to some real life encounters with Jesus and even a deeper understanding of His Word.

However it still takes our constant "feeding" to get them going & growing; we pray that these spiritual babies will mature soon! Another issue has been our own new baby, a princess girl who has her own ideas of what she wants, and mostly right now she wants to drink milk. Our daughter Zelda was born September 2, yet Mary has already started her Teen Bible Study again—with baby strapped to her. She uses the Teen Alpha series which is geared towards exploring basics of the Christian faith, a great video series that challenges the teens to commit to their walk with Christ.

Leon & Mary Schwartz, Youth Leaders

Kids' Church

"To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:19

The Need for Love



As I sat on my stool teaching, a wiggly little boy with special needs occupied the chair beside me. He had only been in Kids' Church a few times, and it was very difficult for him to sit still. I finally just reached around, pulled him in front of me and wrapped my arms around him not knowing what he would do. He quietly settled in and listened, all the while making sure that my arms stayed tightly wrapped around his body...



In this coming season marked by Love, let us all reach out and help a child satisfy their need for safety and belonging, and of being held in the arms of Jesus.

Terry & Kathy Michels, Childrens' Pastors



Royal Rangers

We had some wonderful times this summer with our Ranger boys, especially during

the two camping trips. In July we went for a 31 mile bike ride. It was great, but after a particularly long and steep ascent through the Black Hills, we definitely all

reached a point when we were ready to give in. Looking back, I'm so glad we didn't, because we would have missed the most beautiful part of the trip! How many great things do we miss in life because we fail to see things through to the end?



This school year, we have started to give guitar lessons to the Ranger boys, built a nice stone fire pit on our property, and teach through the book of John. We have had an increase in younger aged boys (8+), so please keep us in prayer because it is a new challenge for us to handle these wild ones!



Heidi's Notes

I grew up in a church community that was always doing something. Making meals for sick people, volunteering on work projects, sewing quilts for people in foreign lands, you get the picture. There was much more to my spiritual upbringing but this was definitely an emphasis of the denomination in which I was raised. I have spent much of my life doing these same things (except sewing, much to my grandmother's chagrin) and when someone is happy or hurting, I tend to lean towards doing something to celebrate with them or make them feel better. But what I have been learning more and more is that sometimes people just need to talk and have someone listen. I have always shied away from conversation because I feel like I don't have just the right thing to say, but lately God has been teaching me through others and by His Spirit that often I should stop what I am doing and just listen. I'm not going to lie, that makes me a little antsy. I feel much more comfortable making a casserole or giving a gift to make someone feel better about whatever is bothering them or to make them feel important, but I have had some of the best opportunities this past year to share Jesus to children, youth, and adults when I have stepped out of my comfortable place of doing things and took the time to care by just listening.

I guess it's time for Martha to take her turn sitting in the back seat and let Mary ride shotgun for a while!

Heidi Martin

Summer 2015 Review



BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Since Eric's wife is still in Germany, we are still waiting to take that new team picture promised in the last newsletter, sorry! ☹ In the meantime, we had another addition to the Rec ministry team; Adam Espinosa, an Oglala Native and gifted guitar player, started working with us in December. Finally Zelda Marie Schwartz joined our Church Family.



Just so you won't miss out on any other important news (and the upcoming team picture—hopefully very soon! 😊), please stay updated @ www.oglarwc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ Please join us in prayer for the church body on the reservation that we would seek the Presence of our God above everything, and only go where He goes with and before us
- ♥ For Pastor Eric & Ela that their visa odyssey will be over soon and the couple can start their life and ministry together in Oglala
- ♥ For Leon & Mary as they disciple the youth and juggle ministry & family responsibilities
- ♥ For Terry & Kathy for wisdom and strength for the upcoming months as they organize main parts of our Christmas celebration
- ♥ For Heidi for good conversations with people and the courage to speak from her heart
- ♥ For Adam that Jesus would draw him further Into His perfect plan for his life
- ♥ For the Kids` Church children, Royal Ranger Boys, and the Bible Study teens that they would mature from just listening to actually doing the Word of God
- ♥ For the upcoming season and all its ministry opportunities for open hearts in our community to receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus!

Oglala Re*Creation & Worship Center

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



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