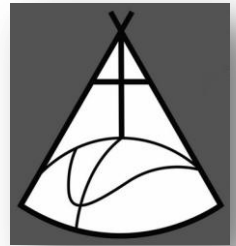




# PATHFINDER

Shining His Light in the Darkness ~ Feb 18



*Dear friends,*

I do apologize for not writing a newsletter sooner. Mary took a teaching position at Oyate, the Christian school in Oglala. This has been an awesome opportunity for her to educate young minds and at the same time freely share Christ. Mary is a teacher at heart and by training, so this has been a blessing for her, too. But obviously her new

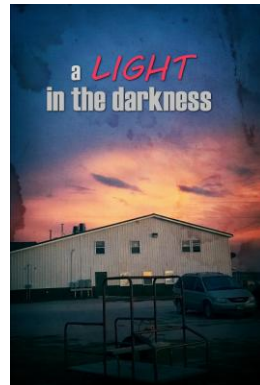
working hours also make my day just a little more busy. Every Monday I keep both our children at home (while I work at the Rec), and then Tuesday through Thursday, Sylvan goes to pre-school at Oyate while I keep Zelda. Our sweet daughter is a handful, but a wonderful handful to have. Needless to say some days I feel like I can't get anything done and in the evenings I try to spend time with my family or relaxing. All this to say: I know it took time for some good news, but here they are - finally! 😊

Back in September after Mary's Wednesday night Bible Study, two teenage boys who had attended her class that night came back after getting drunk and broke into the Rec Center. They proceeded to steal a brand new computer that a wonderful supporter had bought us and an X-Box 1 the kids use in the Rec gym.

They also raided our concession stash and cleared most of the snacks and pop. The next day I called the cops and filed a report, but to the best of my knowledge nothing happened. We heard rumors about the stolen laptop and tried to locate it to get it back but nothing came of it. After this, both teens avoided us for months, even running from me one time I pulled into the local gas station to get fuel. So you can imagine Eric and my surprise when both teens came to us about a month ago, apologized, and asked if they could come back to the Rec. We prayed and thought about it and decided on a plan: each teen would have to do 50 hours of work around the Rec and also meet with me for 30 minutes a day for a bible study. The teens agreed, and I specifically focused on what the Bible teaches about being a man. We also watched the movie "Courageous" together.



All in all, I believe that their work service and the study sessions were an impactful eye opening experience for the two young men. In fact, this Tuesday as I met with them for Bible study I felt let to give them an impassionate and anointed gospel presentation. When I was finished, both of the teens decided to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The moment we began praying together the atmosphere in the room changed and the presence of God could be felt. Afterwards both teens said they felt a tingling sensation go down their spine when we prayed and I didn't even lay hands on them. There is no doubt what happened in that room was real and these young men are now brothers in the Lord and family. Now it's time to be a disciple. Hallelujah!



I wish I could share these kinds of stories all the time – I might actually write more newsletters! 😊 Instead, we are still praying and believing for a visible, life-changing outpour of God's Spirit here on Pine Ridge Reservation. In our ministry and small church family, we see a lot of ups and downs. The only Hope that keeps us going is for Jesus to remain right here with us, strengthening us and leading us on;

we believe that He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it. This year, our church motto is "Co-Laborers with Christ." As we seek to not work for God but with Him, pray that many more would join in with Jesus' calling, and that God's Kingdom will be built in Oglala.

*Please pray ...*

- ... for the two young men to grow in Christ
- ... for me for wisdom how to disciple and encourage them
- ... for me and my family for strength, the right priorities, and good night's sleep
- ... also for us as a family for direction in ministry
- ... for interns and new laborers in the ministry in Oglala – there is much need and great opportunity!

*FINAL THOUGHT*

Thinking about the amazing and awesome story I just shared reminds me of Romans 8: "All things work for good to them that love God." So let's keep loving God even in the hard times and bad things, because all these are just opportunities for His strength to shine.