



PATHFINDER



Shining the Light in the Darkness 9/15

Dear friends,

Summer flew by and it has been great. I would like to share some ministry and family news from the last months, but first let me tell you a story that actually spans years.

I can't remember exactly when it happened but I will never forget that night. It was on a Friday years ago when we all were younger ☺ and would still keep the Rec open until midnight. It was sometime around 9 pm when one of the teenage girls came into the gym crying and explaining that one of the teen boys was hit by a car on his bike. Sadly he later died from the accident.

Soon after his wake and funeral there was a softball game which he had been scheduled to play in, and his brother took his spot. Now this young man's brother was a character always happy but not really the most athletic person. Bases were loaded last inning and it was the brother's turn to bat. You couldn't have scripted this any better: bases loaded, last inning, and a brother who stepped into the game to play for his deceased sibling, oh and 2 outs. Maybe I am remembering some of this wrong but I am sure this is what happened. The crowd was nervous, everyone knew this was the make or break at bat. The pitcher pulled back and let go and I kid you not, he hit a homerun. The crowd was jumping up and down, everyone was cheering; it was absolutely amazing!



The old (and new)
Oglala Housing Softball Field

It also happened to be the last game ever played at that ball field as the tribe dismantled it to use the fence etc. for a newer ball field that was eventually taken over by adults. Slowly the old ball field became overgrown by weeds...



Until this year - when we were approached by two families from the Oglala community to help restore the ball field for the kids. So with help from a team from Colorado, a member of our church as well as said Lakota men we were able to re-fence and mark out a new field right in the old spot. This past weekend the Oglala community had its annual Powwow, and along with that event the field was used for the first time in years for a little league tournament.



Now for some family news. My wife and I had another baby! Our daughter Zelda Marie was born September 2, 2015. Mary went to Rapid City that afternoon to run some errands before she wanted to pick up her mom at the airport at 10 pm. She went to the park to let Sylvan play when her water broke around 5 pm. She checked herself into the emergency room and called me; I grabbed some stuff and took the church van which was the only working vehicle we had on the Rec property and got to the hospital at 6:50 pm. Zelda was born at 7:13 pm. The doctors warned us if we have another child to stay close to town the final weeks. We are truly thankful for God's awesome timing and protection!!



PLEASE PRAY...

... and thank God for the great work he is about to do (and already started doing) on Pine Ridge Reservation ... that God would continue to use our ministry to shine His Light into the Oglala community ... for our weekly programs (Royal Rangers, Kids Church, Teen Bible Study, Friday Night Devotions) that the kids and teens would receive the Word and apply it to their lives ... for Mary, Sylvan and me for good sleep, health, and the wisdom we need as godly parents

FINAL THOUGHT

As I write this newsletter, a hundred men are gathering in our building for a weekend of prayer, praise and teaching. Pray that God will move powerfully this weekend.