



# PATHFINDER



*Shining the Light in the Darkness 9/16*

*Dear friends,*

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." - Everyone knows these famous words, and they really do describe our situation right now. In our ministry, we have been experiencing an unusual amount of opposition and frustration, but also see great blessing.

This week, a pastor from Papua New Guinea is here at the RecCenter preaching and sharing about his ministry. Due to a major move of God in his home church, he has become part of the team that produces the "Transformation" videos, documentaries of present-day revivals all over the world. I'd love to star in one of these movies one day! ☺ But it looks like we still have a long way to go until we see true and lasting transformation in Oglala. For me personally, one thing the Lord has put on my heart through these sermons and other experiences is to surrender to him in every area of my life. Talk about hard! Keep us in prayer as we continue to seek God's face. This Sunday, Pastor Walo will also share the Word at our third reservation wide service, and we are expecting great things, all for God's glory!



As the new school year began, so did our Wednesday night outreaches. The little kids have children's church, Eric and I take boys to Royal Rangers, and our wives teach a teen bible study. One of the challenges we face in Rangers is getting 15 boys to sit and be attentive. We understand boys will be boys, but there is also a lack of discipline in these guys that will harm them later in life. Since we want them to succeed in all their ways, we prayed and the Lord laid it on our hearts to choose leaders from among the boys each month and give them responsibility in the meetings. The first week it was ok, but the second week both boys clammed up. The older one was really struggling and decided to leave the meeting instead of act as a leader. The younger one stepped up and persevered. When we went outside later to do our lesson, we found the second leader hanging around the building. So we invited him to come back and resume his role, which he did. At the end of the

night we both felt that he had learned a valuable lesson. We continue to pray that God will instill in these young men courage and boldness and true hearts of servant-leaders!

Another thing we felt led to do was to lay hands on all the boys and bless them in our group prayer time. After we did this the first week both Eric and I felt a huge change in the atmosphere in the room. You have to wonder if anyone ever prayed over these boys to tell them they are loved, that they are good and able to achieve their goals. The second week Eric asked me to pray, and one of the boys ducked and hid under the table, scared to hear anything good spoken over him. Please pray with us for these boys that God's love will be shed abroad in their hearts.

The teens as well are beginning to stir. The same night our leader walked out and the boy ducked under the table during prayer, the teens were having a serious discussion about the authority of the Bible. My wife said she had never seen the teens so open to argue and ready to defend their traditional Lakota religion. One of the main takeaways from the night was that logic is never going to sway an individual in this culture. We do not want to win any arguments, we are striving to win over hearts for Christ! People need to hear God and experience Jesus for themselves to taste and see the Lord is good. We believe the best is yet to come!

*PLEASE PRAY ...*

... and thank God for our daily open gym and weekly outreaches, that we can still preach and shine Christ freely ... that we would not get tired but seize every opportunity to share Jesus with the Oglala community ... that - one disciple at a time - lasting transformation will come to the Lakota people, that bondages of the past and present would be truly broken, and new life spring up ... for continued unity among the rez Church Family and that even more brothers and sisters in Christ would join in ... for our family for health, support, encouragement and joy ... for the upcoming winter that our wild toddlers will not drive us crazy with cabin fever! ☺ Thank God for the gym!

*FINAL THOUGHT*

A pastor friend gave a series of sermons to Eric, who in turn passed them on to me, and I would like to encourage you to listen to them also! Find "The Pineapple Story Series" by Otto Koning on youtube; I encourage everyone to listen to as many of his sermons as possible!