

CHURCH FAMILY

One day, Jesus got into a boat and told His disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side." Jesus, weary from ministry and travel, fell fast asleep as the disciples sailed those familiar waters. Then a strong storm arose, such a storm that it had seasoned fisherman afraid for their lives. All the while, Jesus kept sleeping. Finally, fear got the best of them. They wake Jesus up in a panic; Jesus rolls over, rebukes the storm, and all is calm. Then He turns to His wet, anxious disciples and asks them the question, "Where is your faith?" Had they forgotten his words, "Let us cross over?" And if He said it, wasn't it a done deal?

I believe that Jesus only dealt with the storm for the sake of His disciples. I believe He would've kept on sleeping because for Him, whether it stormed or not, they were getting to the other side. He had an appointment with a legion to set one of His beloved free, and nothing was going to hinder that encounter. More importantly, had they forgotten Who He was, Who was in the boat with them? Did they really think a mere storm, even if demonically contrived, could unravel the plans of God and sink His Beloved Son? By asking "Where is your faith?", Jesus was saying to them: You're in the boat with Me, and I said we will get to the other side—that should be enough.

We as a Church recently studied this passage as we have been working our way through Luke, and I could not help but see some parallels in our present day circumstances. No doubt, in almost all areas of our society, a storm is raging. Like that day on the lake with Jesus and the boys, it seems that this storm is demonically driven, bringing us to a demonic encounter to set people free, all of it ordained and orchestrated by the mercies and providence of God. But whatever your eschatological views are, I believe we can all agree that there is a disturbance in the air, and it's getting scary. The question is:

Are we in the boat with Jesus?

We are blessed as His Church, His Family in Oglala to be in the boat with Him. I could give testimony after testimony of peace, joy and rest in the midst of utter chaos and turmoil, and it's all because of Who we belong to and His promise that we will get to the other side. We are also blessed to have Oyate Hope Academy join us in this boat with Jesus. In the Fall, Oyate Hope moved into our building and the transition has been so smooth and positive that we must give God all the Glory!



As usual, a newsletter is not enough. If you want to know more about what's going on here with the Church or with the school, you can check out our websites. Of course, you can call/email us as well. We would love to share testimonies of His Faithfulness and pray with you. Be blessed and encouraged; Jesus is in the boat and He is at rest. We urge you if you're not already, get in the boat with Jesus! Sincerely in Jesus,

Pastor *Eric & Ela Sutton, Matilda & Jonathan*



OYATE HOPE ACADEMY

Our school currently has 15 students in three different classes. The elementary grades meet in the upstairs bunk house, part of which was remodeled into two separate class rooms (see pictures). Our 7/8th grade utilizes kids church downstairs. For mealtimes and bad-weather recess we meet in the Rec gym, and on sunny days our students enjoy the playground outside!

Oyate Hope Academy is asking you to pray with us for favor & wisdom as we seek to obtain our own school building for future years. Thank you!

Mary Schwartz, Teacher



"YOUTH" MINISTRY

There is a young man I have had talks with about Christianity on and off now for several years. Recently he was sleeping outside the Rec on a bench because he had nowhere to go. He came to the church after being arrested for not making good choices and I had a decent talk with him. I was able to offer to take him to a Christian treatment center nearby where he has been doing very good. On the morning we left, his uncle saw him off and told him he was proud of him for going and not to even worry about coming back.

His uncle is also a friend of mine and someone who I keep praying for to get saved. The other day he came by the church and I brought him in the prayer room, laid hands on him and started praying. Tears were falling down his face. He went home but returned later after telling his wife, "They prayed for me at the church and I feel better, I'm going back over!"

The ground has been plowed and the seed planted. I really believe the time is now near for these seeds to start growing. Not just to have a church of Lakota Christians, but to have a church of Lakota Evangelists. Our prayers do not fall on deaf ears—when we pray with faith, God hears us, and he will answer. Thank you to everyone who is praying along with us.

Leon & Mary Schwartz

OUTREACH

The jail outreach continues to go well. It has gotten a little smaller, averaging 12 to 15 men, but we know God is speaking and touching the heart of these men, and we continue to pray for true transformation when they get out.

This past week, we had a couple of brothers in Christ come from nearby Rapid City to minister along with us. Both gave powerful testimonies coming out of lifestyles of drug dealing, addiction, and various other sin issues and how Jesus set them free. One brother's name is Rafael Davila, a Mexican, originally from Texas, who spent 4 years in prison and had been part of a gang in and out of there. The amazing part is one of the guys in the jail new him from that prison, and even named other members from his gang, and now he sees him transformed and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Needless to say he came up and asked Rafael to pray for him after. I believe there were at least 5 men who came up wanting prayer to follow Jesus. Please pray for fruit that remains to come from the jail outreach.

Elliot & Crystal Morales, Outreach



HEIDI'S NOTES

In Genesis 50:20 Joseph says to his brothers in reference to being torn from his family and sold into slavery in Egypt, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Covid changed many things here at the RecCenter, among them our ability to host teams in the former way. Like everyone else, we suddenly found ourselves forced into a new reality. But where Satan intended to isolate and bring fear, the Lord used these new circumstances to spur our staff and church family to open up to new ways; he taught us how to be a unified family that works together to share His Love here in the Oglala community. One of the results of that was our Summer Bible Club which we had every Monday evening during July and August. Our church family came together faithfully each Monday and volunteered in teaching about who Jesus is and helping the kids to memorize Scripture, sing songs, do a craft, and play lots of water games. God did this to accomplish what His desire is—the saving of many lives. Here in Oglala, we are His hands and feet, while the saving is His work alone. We continue to pray that each child, adult, and elder that hears His Word will find the love and freedom from sin that Jesus our Savior gave His life for. And while it might look different than before, we are very happy to have some of our old friends (mission teams) come and minister with us again next summer.



Heidi Martin



BULLETIN BOARD



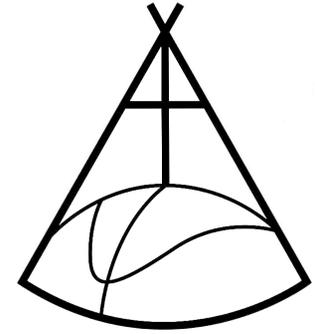
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In June, two young ladies from our Church Family were baptized. We are happy for them and blessed to witness their growth in Christ. Their grandma (middle) has been praying for them and other relatives for years. God answers the prayers of His Servants!

*As every year, we are getting ready for our big **Christmas Outreach!** The date is Dec 9, 2023. If you feel led to help out, please don't hesitate to contact us (see front of newsletter). We are anticipating a crowd of about 600 and plan to bless each person with a new blanket, candy bag, warm meal, and—last but not least—prayer and evangelistic materials. To do so, we need at least 600 blankets (new or handmade; all sizes). Please consider supporting the outreach financially and prepare it with us through your prayers!*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ *Thank you, Jesus, for peace and confidence as we trust you even in the storms of life*
- ♥ *Thank God for His sovereignty and that we know: Jesus is coming back victoriously!*
- ♥ *Thank God for the good reports from our jail outreach, Summer Bible Club, and other daily ministry opportunities at the Rec*
- ♥ *Please pray for continued provision for all our financial needs and for new staff*
- ♥ *Pray for God to prepare and soften the hearts of the Lakota people that will come for our Christmas Outreach*
- ♥ *Pray for a school building for Oyate Hope Academy and for a successful school year*
- ♥ *Pray for our ministry team to be strong in Him*



**OGLALA RE*CREATION
AND WORSHIP CENTER**
- TIPI WAKAN -
A Light In The Darkness



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