



## CHURCH FAMILY

**"He has a plan and it is working"**

*That phrase* has been on the whiteboard in my office for months now, written by my lovely wife reminding and encouraging me to trust in my Father God because He knows what He is doing and His ways are Good and Perfect. For the better part of two years, our Church family has been studying through the books of Romans and Luke. As we have walked through each scripture, there's been a running theme that has both excited and settled us in Hope and Rest; that theme is the Infinite Plan of God.

*"The counsel of the LORD stands forever,  
The plans of His heart to all generations."*

~ Psalms 33:11 ~

*Recently as we studied* the birth story of Christ and looked at His genealogy, we stand amazed as we see the intricate detail of every moment, the orchestration of the Master's Hand, the perfect execution of this cosmic plan to rescue His beloved and make all things right. There could not be a single deviation, one moment of carelessness, one missed opportunity, one miscalculated step. Everything, everyone had to be in perfect order; otherwise the entire plan unravels and all fails. Not one jot or one tittle could be missed. When you really take a lingering look at Scripture, particularly all that leads up to the Incarnation, the Life of Christ and what it means for us, you cannot help but be overcome with awe and wonder.

**"He has a plan and it is working"**

*Now as His children*, because of His Word and by His Spirit, we know the main points of this Great Plan and our involvement. We know we're here to glorify and love God, to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. We know that we are to gain Christ and be found in Him. We also know that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments, which includes loving our neighbor as well. Those parts of His plan are clear and revealed. We even have specific parts of it revealed to us by His Spirit. For instance, we know here in Oglala, we have been commissioned to build the Family of God. For us, that means becoming His family through the sharing of the word, prayer, fellowship, worship and the proclaiming of the Gospel to our community.

But for all that we do know, it can be compared to a single word written in the infinite novel simply titled Eternity. His plan goes beyond all that we can see or perceive and I say praise God for that! His plan is a mystery. The details are too sophisticated, too complex for mankind to comprehend. His plan is an infinite plan set within finite time spilling over into Eternity on both sides of the timeline. And although I may not comprehend His plan, even the part I am to play in it, that's okay; all I need to know is that **"He has a plan and it is working."** All I need to do is trust Him, abide in Him, walk by faith and do the good works that He sets in front of me on a daily basis, or as Jesus told us in Matthew 6:33

*"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you."*

*With that*, now we can rest, we can have peace, we can all take a resolute sigh of relief with the understanding that **"He has a plan and it is working."** And as with all things, He will finish what He started not only with you and I but with all of existence as well. I quote the great A-Team Leader when he said, "I love it when a plan comes together!"

*Speaking of plans*, we wanted to let you know that our partnership with Oyate Hope Academy (formerly Oyate Concern school) is moving forward. The school will be moving onto our property this summer and begin to hold classes here this fall. Please pray for this joining together which we see as a furtherance of our commission of becoming the Family of God. Please check out the school's new website [www.oyatehopeacademy.org](http://www.oyatehopeacademy.org) to see how you can get involved and pray. Also, we look forward to hosting a few old friends this summer and meeting some new ones as we are once again able to invite mission teams to the RecCenter in a limited capacity.



*Honestly*, a lot of the time, we don't know where we are headed as a ministry and family, but we are okay with that because we know the One who does and we are grateful that along with that, we know you walk with us as we glorify the Father here in Oglala. We love and appreciate you all! Sincerely in Jesus,

Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton with Matilda & Jonathan



## YOUTH MINISTRY

*Slowly we are moving forward...* Navigating toward the future of the Rec ministry seems to get rockier, and making decisions takes a lot of wisdom, but we have some good news! Mary and I have started meeting with the youth again once a month. Right now there are a handful of teenagers in our church family who come pretty consistently, and our group of kids church children got too big (and noisy). That is why every last Sunday of the month, we now offer what we call TeenChurch parallel to the Sunday morning service. We started our study with the topic "Who is Jesus?" and pray that our teens will seek to answer Jesus' question from Matthew 16:15 "Who do you say I am?" with His Truth and conviction in their own hearts. I believe that we are sowing into the future of the church, and it seems like the teens are enjoying this group so far. Maybe it will grow into something more, but it's one day at time.

Leon & Mary Schwartz



## OUTREACH

*Things have been going well* with the jail ministry. We've had several meetings where the men have been really engaged, asking good questions and saying that they notice something different about our group. One gentleman even said that he had been reading the Bible and asking God to help him understand James 3 and that same day I talked about that very chapter. He said I explained everything clearly and now he feels like he really understands it. God answered his prayer! Please continue to pray for the men in the jail.

*Women's Bible study* continues to be a blessing. We just wrapped up our current study of the Sermon on the Mount. We have had such wonderful times digging through the word together and the presence of God is evident during our Wednesday night meetings.

Elliot & Crystal Morales, Outreach





## HEIDI'S NOTES

*The cold dark night of winter is over, the ground is starting to warm; birds are singing, the first flowers are opening to the sun, and I am reminded of Isaiah 43:18-19,*

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*

*I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

*In the natural world, I look to spring for something new and alive; I look for that in the spiritual realm even more. God, what new thing do you want to do in me, in my family? What new thing will you do in this community?*

*There's a 10 year old boy who comes to the Rec and historically when he comes up to get a snack he says, "Give me one, hurry!" I let him know that this has the opposite effect on me than he is looking for and he needs to ask politely, thank you is a bonus. Then one day he hands me his basketball and says, "Please put this in the kitchen." Shocking! Later that afternoon he was shooting 3 pointers saying, "This one's for you!" as he tried to make it. These are small things, but little chinks in the armor he has built around him even being so young. It is my prayer that he and many more like him will let Jesus come in and do a new thing, just like streams in a wasteland!*

*Thank you for joining me in Romans 12:12, being joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

*\*\*\*The first seeds went in the garden last week!*

*Heidi Martin*



## BULLETIN BOARD

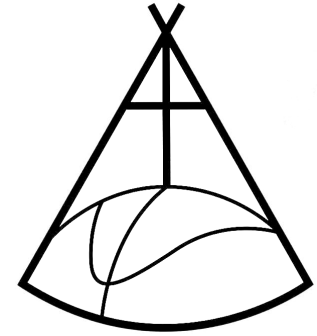


### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

*This March, we were blessed by two small groups of college students who painted the walls our Kids' Church rooms and installed a few more sound panels in the sanctuary. It was a joy to finally be able to host again and to fellowship and minister together. We also received a much-needed "new" mini van for the RecCenter ministry and rejoice in God's provision through the hands of His children!*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ *Thank you, Father God, for your wise and infallible plan—we trust that You are in control; we find peace and rest in your Sovereignty*
- ♥ *Thank God for His faithful provision and strong hand of protection over our ministry*
- ♥ *Thank God for the opportunity to host friends again at the RecCenter and minister together*
- ♥ *Please pray for the summer months for continued direction and wisdom and for favor for our visiting friends / possible mission teams*
- ♥ *Pray for new staff members in God's ministry in Oglala, for the RecCenter as well as for Oyate Hope Academy and Naomi House*
- ♥ *Pray for all our daily ministry activities: Bible studies, jail outreach, discipleship, etc.*
- ♥ *Pray for the youth for hope and focus and a deep spiritual hunger for Truth in His Word*
- ♥ *Pray for our open gym times that God's Spirit would fill the atmosphere and drive out all distractions, rebellion, fear, and evil spirits*
- ♥ *Pray for the upcoming move of Oyate Hope Academy unto the Rec property, for provision and protection and a new school building*



## UGLALA RE\*CREATION AND WORSHIP CENTER

- TIPI WAKAN -

A Light In The Darkness



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