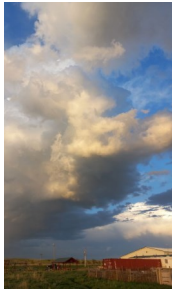


CHURCH FAMILY

I recently spoke at a local men's retreat. The message for that weekend was that we are to be 'men distinguished by His Presence.' In Exodus 33, after the incident of the golden calf, God told the Hebrew people to go on to the promised land and that He would send an Angel before them, but He would not go with them because of their stubborn pride. The people rightly took this as bad news and grieved. Moses heard this same bad news and stopped. No way would he take another step without his God, because Moses knew something the others did not. He knew that the Promised Land was empty without Yahweh God. He knew the Promise was only as good as the Promiser and He refused to have the one without the Other. That's why Moses told God bluntly and passionately, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here for without Your Presence. How else will we be distinguished among the nations?" Moses knew that the true Treasure, the real Prize at the end of their journey, was not a piece of land but the One who created that land. He knew that it wasn't their culture, history, religion, laws or ceremonies that would distinguish them and set them apart from the world. Instead, it was His Presence, God with them that marked them as His Beloved, His own special people.

How did Moses know this? Well, a curious event took place in the midst of this terrible ordeal. It says that after hearing this bad news, Moses took his tent outside of the camp and invited God to meet with him (Exodus 33:7). Understand that this is before the official Tent of Meeting had been built; that comes later. This is Moses's personal tent, his home, his place of rest. This is the tent he took his meals in, slept in, rested from his everyday toils, etc. Moses decided he needed to get away from the hustle of everyday life (outside the camp), take his own personal space and then invite the King of Glory into his own home. Before this, God had done the inviting. At the burning bush, on top of the mountain, it was God who had invited Moses in. But now, in this moment, Moses does the inviting. And what's amazing is that God answered this invite with a YES! How crazy is that? In this tent, Moses's personal space, outside the camp, God met with Moses and spoke to Him Face to face as a man speaks with his friend. And it was in this encounter with his God where Moses told Him, "I'm not going anywhere without you," and even pushed boldly, almost recklessly forward and asked God, "Show me your Glory!" Even this request was granted, and after God showed up, Moses eventually came back to the people with his face shining with the Glory of God, physically distinguished by His Presence.



We must be a Church that is distinguished by His Presence, a church known as "those who have been with Jesus." As the western church, we are known for so many other things; our leadership, our preaching, our music, our kids programs, our politics and—sadly—our scandals. But what if we were known as the people of God, the place where God is, distinguished by His Presence? What if we were willing to forsake the "promised lands" in our lives and instead make the Promiser our prize, our ambition, our treasure? What if we made ministering to Him priority over ministering to others? What would happen if we got outside the camp (the busyness of life) and invited Him into our private space and did not leave until He showed up? He did promise that if we drew near to Him that He would draw near to us, right?

Oglala, the Lakota people with whom we interact in our everyday lives, in our school, the Rec gym, the jail and various other ministries don't need any more of us. But they do need Jesus, the Presence of the Ever Living One! We are supposed to be the Temple of the Living God, filled with His Presence, His Spirit, and when they see us, they should see Jesus. So that means we need to privately and collectively get outside the camp and invite Him in. Set time aside daily on our own and together with the Family of God to seek His Face in prayer and worship. And as we minister unto Him, He in turn ministers to us and makes it possible for us to minister to others as we walk and live as people of His Presence, as those who have been with Jesus.

Thank you for everything! We truly love and appreciate you all.

Pastor Eric & Ela Sutton

OYATE HOPE ACADEMY

The new school year has begun at OHA, and we did get a new teacher! Miss Alice is a God-sent from within our church family here in Oglala. She agreed to teach our K/1 class which currently has seven students. Altogether there are 18 students from Kindergarten through 4th grade studying at Oyate Hope Academy this semester.



While we are still enjoying the hospitality of the RecCenter, plans for the new school building are taking shape. This past week, the propane tank behind the old Rec gym was moved; hopefully soon, classrooms will get built there.

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support!



YOUTH MINISTRY *Leon & Mary Schwartz*

I am looking forward to a new school year and teaching. One of our 4th graders came to Summer Bible Club and gave her life to Jesus. She has even been faithful to come on Sunday mornings for church. You can truly see a desire for God in her life. At the same time, we have another student who I am sure has never seen a Bible until I gave her one in class. But I try to keep class light-hearted and enjoyable for every student.

I've also been working with the Fatherhood Program run by the tribe. The focus is to teach fathers their worth and get them involved in their kids' lives and in the community. A praise report is that one of the teachers for the program grew up in the Rec and I know is grateful to Eric for helping him in a hard time. Now he is mentoring other men in how to be a dad. The best part about it is, I always joke with him, now he sees what Eric and I have seen and have been dealing with for years. But I am happy that some of the kids we have seen in the Rec are growing up and becoming leaders in the community.

Please keep both of these men and our students in prayer because I know good things will come from it!

OUTREACH *Elliot & Crystal Morales*

Grace & peace on all of you who read this in Jesus' name. My wife and I continue to lead the prayer room three days a week to make sure that our church body is making ministry unto the Lord our main priority. There are times where His presence is sweet and other times we are clearly in a battle to enter into His rest and intercession. Overall God is good and worthy of our time and efforts.

I, along with Eric, continue to go into the jail in Pine Ridge on Mondays to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the inmates. We have gone through topics such as *Who is Jesus?*, *Why is the Church here?*, and *Who is the Holy Spirit?* It seems like the message is getting through to some. We've had men come up for prayer and others say yes to Jesus. Please pray the seed of the gospel takes root in their hearts and they become oaks of righteousness.

We also had a couple of guests speak to the ladies in jail. One week we had Tina Barry, and the next was a friend of ours from Bronx, NY, Teresa Mercedes. Both of them have powerful testimonies of Jesus setting them free and delivering them from many horrible experiences, and the women were clearly touched by God. There were quite a few tears and women wanting prayer and even to surrender their lives to Jesus. They clearly experienced hope that their lives could be transformed. One woman's eyes went wide with shock because she couldn't believe she could have God's Spirit in her. So please pray for the ladies in Pine Ridge jail as well. Thank you.

HEIDI'S NOTES



Lately I've been thinking back on all the people that have come and served with us this past year. They came from SC, MO, OK, PA, SD, NC, CA, NY, FL, CO and even Germany. They came with servant hearts and in prayer, partnering with us in the gym and the school, jail outreach, prayer room, work projects, supplying food, and other daily ministry. We can't do this work on our own, and we are very grateful to each of you who came and let the Lord use you here in Oglala. Thank you!



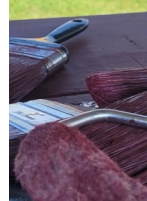
One of the highlights of the past months was Summer Bible Club where each Monday evening for six weeks community kids came to the Rec and heard God's word, sang, ate together, did a fun connecting craft, and

stayed cool with awesome water games. This year, the theme was 'What does it mean to be a Christian,' and there was a core group of kids that came and engaged every week. Their favorite song was 'Waymaker;' yes, He is Light in the darkness! We have seen the fruit of SBC with some of those kids regularly attending church on Sundays and becoming part of God's family. God used dedicated volunteers



from our church and others that came and worked with us for one night to be His messengers of Good News, but the enemy is waiting to snatch the word planted in the kids' hearts. I invite you to please join with us in prayer for these children and their families. The Lord is moving, and he will have the victory!

Heidi Martin



BULLETIN BOARD

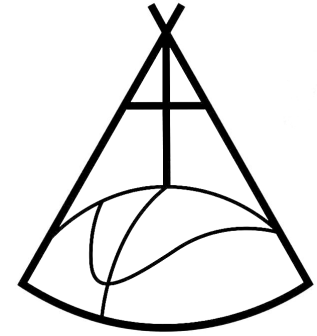
CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our church family has been growing in numbers lately, and mostly in kids! It is amazing to see how God is moving among our local youth. Since we still do not have a full-time children's pastor, we made it a 'rule' that kids can only come with an adult. Well, since Summer Bible Club, at least seven new kids have started coming to church—and now they are bringing their family members! Praise Jesus for the fruit He is growing in the lives of these precious little ones. They have become the evangelists and ministers in Oglala.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ Thank you, Jesus, for the fruit from Summer Bible Club, jail ministry, and other outreaches
- ♥ Thank God for His Presence—may He grant it to us daily as we invite Him into our 'camps'
- ♥ Praise God for every person who supports us through serving in Oglala alongside us, through praying, and giving financially
- ♥ Please pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into God's ministry in Oglala, especially kids church pastors
- ♥ Pray for the many children, teens and adults in the jail, Rec gym, Bible studies etc. who heard the Gospel for a life-changing response
- ♥ Pray for the Oyate Hope Academy students and staff for continued favor and growth, and for the new school building plans
- ♥ Ask for God to help us prepare our various Christmas outreaches this December
- ♥ Pray for God's provision, wisdom, and strength



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



PO Box 108 / Oglala, SD 57764
(605) 867-2510
www.oglarwc.org