

June, July & August 2017

Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Jesus,

The ministry of FoNAC has had diverse opportunities for networking with unique ministries interested in Native Americans. In the past year, I have been contacted by IMB missionaries who have returned to the states, seeking opportunities for ministry, even Cowboy Churches desiring to partner with Indian reservations!

Early this summer, a Korean congregation, New Song of Carrollton, TX, contacted us to explore possibilities of partnering with FoNAC. We are seeking God's direction to develop tools designed to evangelize, disciple and equip Native leaders. Five of their mission committee members joined us at Indian Falls Creek Cabin, Davis, OK.

A ministry called Pathfinders, from MS, Hubert Ladner, Dir., has the ministry of serving Native Americans through Scripture and construction. Pathfinders is a part of FoNAC's ministry network. Last Fall, Native Stone assisted Pathfinders at the Windswept Academy, Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Eagle Butte, SD and this summer Native Stone helped them do some remodeling of the First Indian Baptist Church, Holdenville, OK, Pastor Maurice Morgan.

The month of June, FoNAC hosted a conference, "Dimensions to Native Ministry", in Phoenix, AZ, which addressed topics relevant to ministry. 1) The Role of the Pastor, Ledtkey McIntosh; 2) Contextualized Missions, Mark Custalow; 3) Suicide Prevention, Carla Parnacher; 4) 12-step program as a outreach tool, Alan Washington; 5) Native women in leadership, Jenny (Big Crow) Andrews. We had two preaching services, Dr Emerson Falls, OK and Bro Charles Locklear, NC. Native Praise, and LINK ministries, Augusta Smith, Director did an excellent job of leading worship in Native hymns and hosting a Mission's Day Camp for the children of those attending the meetings. These presenters were Native Americans from various tribes who have been in ministry for many years.

The Baptist Press covered FoNAC's pre-and post-conference meetings in Phoenix as well as FoNAC's annual meeting. The Baptist Press, Karen Willoughby also did a great article for SBC Life specifically focusing on Native ministry in the Phoenix area which featured Pastor Shaun Whitey, executive board member of FoNAC.

In July, I attended the union meeting of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, held in Baltimore, MD, it was a pleasure to be with the churches of Burnt Swamp, Dr Mike Cummings, DOM.

In August, Bro Ray Breeden, former pastor of Victory Baptist Church, OKC, OK asked me to speak at a 3-day men's outing at Lake Eufaula, OK, it was a great time of fellowship, encouragement and sharing of God's Word. I was privileged to teach/preach four times during those three days.

I participated in the Advisory Council for the Executive Committee of the SBC, Atlanta, GA. Ethnic leaders from across the nation were brought together to address issues relevant to Ethnic and Racial groups.

I contributed a segment, pertaining to Native Americans in the book entitled the, "Many Faces of the SBC" addressing the changing faces of the Southern Baptists which will be introduced at the SBC annual meeting in Dallas, TX.

Christian Watchman, Navajo, from Springfield, MO has completed application to serve as a church planter near Phoenix, AZ sponsored by NAMB. This was a coordinated effort by NAMB and our Fellowship. Please pray for Christian and his family as they begin this great step of faith also pray for more godly men to step up to plant new healthy Native churches across America.

Some of you know that I pastor Native Stone Baptist, a mission from Bixby FBC, Pastor Monte Moran. Native Stone has been in process of purchasing a building, things have not developed as expected, please pray that we secure a building very soon. Native Stone, although a small congregation has served in missions in OK, FL, SD, AZ & Canada,

Thanks & blessings to those of you who partner with us financially, spiritually, and physically in the ongoing ministry of the Fellowship of Native American Christians. FoNAC is a faith-based 501c3 organization.

May God Bless Each of You, According to HIS Riches in Glory!

Gary Hawkins

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