



Special Issue

“Committed to sharing God’s gifts among all peoples of the world”

Native America 2023

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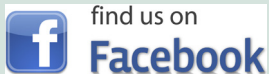
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So in everything,
do to others
what you would have
them do to you,
for this sums up the
Law and the Prophets.

~ Matthew 7:12

WE ARE ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS - Karen Moore, Team Leader

From the time I was a child I have always wanted to help people. When I accepted the Lord at thirteen that desire only became stronger.

I began my relationship with the Cheyenne River Youth Project and the people of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in 2015, and have made ten trips to the Reservation since then.

The relationship between We’re All God’s Children, of which I am one of the representatives, and the Youth Project, Takini School, the Homeless Shelter and the Veterans Food Bank has grown deeper each visit.

Each visit we are amazed at the progress we have seen at each of these places! The Youth Project has grown in many ways. The training they offer the youth in growing indigenous foods, and learning art and computer skills is amazing. They have increased the numbers of interns among the teens quite a lot. We found them to be respectful and helpful as we worked alongside many of them during our trip. The Old Agency Homeless Shelter continues to function for another year thanks to the Tribal Council. Iny Hale is the director of the shelter and does a wonderful job keeping the shelter clean and running efficiently. Feeding American continues to fill the Veterans Food Bank with needed supplies for the veterans, and Takini School has weathered the storm of winter weather and COVID.

For me one of the high points of the trip was working with my granddaughter in the kitchen with Iddy, the head cook for the Youth Project. No matter how many challenges Iddy met each day, she was happy and fun to work with. Together we made one hundred loaves of Pumpkin Bread! Being able to reestablish friendships with many old friends also made my heart happy.

In the afternoons we enjoyed fun activities with the children ages 6-10 which we prepared every evening. Every day after these activities we made them supper. Each day they enjoyed special treats, and we even had a big birthday party for them, serving pizza, chips and of course lots of cupcakes! At the Homeless Shelter we delivered sheets, towels, backpacks, hygiene products and food! They were so grateful, and, as we could see, they were in great need of these items. There are so many homeless on the reservation, it is heartbreaking.

For me, however, the moment I will never forget was when a little boy of eight sat down beside me one afternoon after eating the supper we prepared. He said “Aren’t we all brothers and sisters?” I said of course we are. “Yes, he said, I mean I heard we all came from a man and a woman long ago.” I replied that those people were Adam and Eve, and that they were the father and mother of us all.



BROTHERS AND SISTERS CONTINUED

“Then why are we all different colors I wonder?” he asked. That took me aback for a moment. “Well, I replied, people in Africa are in the sun a lot, so their skin is very brown, people in China have yellower skin because they live where they don’t have as much sun.” This seemed to satisfy him, he was thoughtful for a moment then he pulled my sleeve up and his own.

“Look, we are almost the same color aren’t we.” he said.

“Well, yes. We are,” I replied! There you see, he said, “I guess we really are all brothers and sisters!”

This was a moment I will never forget.

Jesus tells us in Matthew, unless you come as a little child you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. We can learn a lot from a little child!

This trip was amazing, and I would say, please consider coming with us when we return!

TALK IS EASY! - Ken Moore

This is my 8th trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. I was so happy to greet and stay with the people I have come to know and appreciate. My expectations were not only met but exceeded!

I was able to make new acquaintances and renew old ones. Wendell is an old friend now, who helped me understand the tasks that were necessary to accomplish during my stay. I was happy to find out that he is a new father and we were able to talk a bit about what that means and the awesome honor it is to have a son.

While delivering much needed items to the Old Agency Homeless shelter, I was approached by a homeless man who asked me to pray for him. I was humbled and broken-hearted as I saw the great need in his life and thought how blessed I am to live the life I do. It was a true experience I will long remember. It made me truly understand the scripture that says we are to be a servant to all.

Enjoying the camaraderie between the team and the children and the staff was one of the best memories of the trip. The laughter, sometimes a tear, and knowing that we were exactly where we were supposed to be was wonderful.

I would say if you desired to be blessing and able to share the love of God in a way they can receive and understand, this trip is for you. Talk is easy, but living and showing God’s love for this broken, and forgotten in some instances, people is so rewarding! I would recommend this trip to everyone.



SERVING WITH LOVE - *Analise Moore*



This was my first trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. I have heard my Mimi and Pawpaw talk about their trips for a long time. I was very excited to be able to go with them this time. I am seventeen now and being with them I knew was going to be fun, and work.

My expectations were great and as soon as we arrived, I knew I was going to love these people on the reservation.

On my first day there I met a little boy of nine who was outside the place we were staying on the reservation. He told me he was very sad. He lived with his grandmother, but his parents were somewhere else. He said that day

he was walking near a cliff and decided to jump off and commit suicide. He said something told him to come to the “Main”, which is the name of the building where we were staying. I was able to talk to him a long time and helped him understand that God would not want him to do this. I just knew that was why I came on this trip, and it made me so thankful. From that point on he was at the door when we came out in the morning and stayed with me most of the day, ‘till bedtime. I would sneak him out a coke now and then, although Mimi didn’t care at all, and we gave him special treats during the day.

My Mimi and I baked one hundred loaves of pumpkin bread and had fun talking to the interns and other volunteers who had come while we were there. We were even asked to help supervise some of the other volunteers because they knew we weren’t just volunteering but were like family, they said!

I would recommend this trip to anyone who has a heart for missions, or any person my age who is ready to work, and to create a lasting relationship with people who are just wonderful.

GOD WORKS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE - *Teri Hope*

This has been my second trip to South Dakota with WAGC. Everyone we met seemed to sense our hearts for them. I feel at home amongst these people and I believe they sincerely enjoyed us being there. We did not have to be told what to do each day. We always seemed to know our jobs and delighted in doing them. As always, the children melted my heart. They help you really understand the neediness in their lives and how starved for love they are.

What I felt when we first arrived was a heart-felt respect from them. They knew we did not have a mindset of “Oh, we are here to help you poor people!” And this gives me a true love and respect for them. It shows how God can work through His people. He loves all of us the same.

If you feel called by the Lord to join another outreach, please listen and go. You will be blessed and surely humbled.



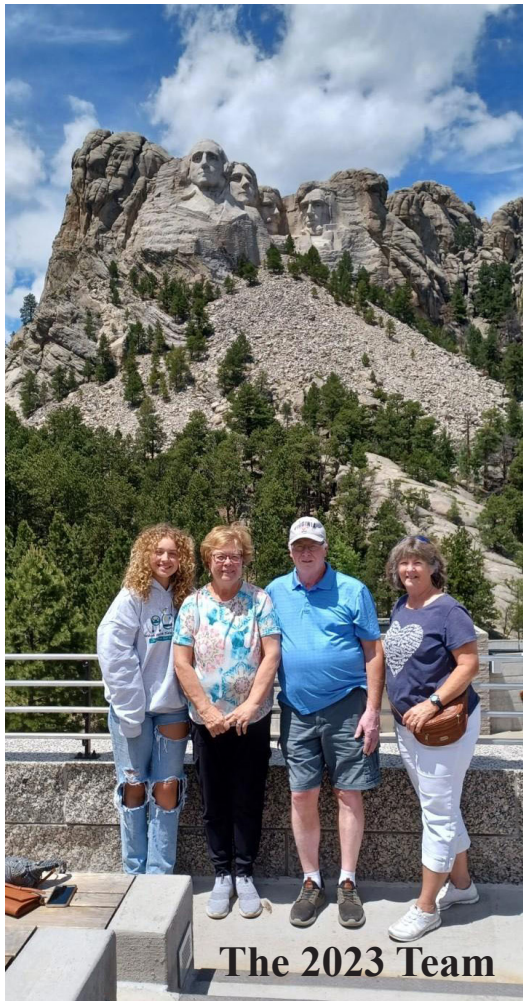
Crazy Horse Monument





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A Note from Team Leaders Karen and Ken Moore

We would like to offer special thanks to the many people who helped make this trip possible and such a great success!

To the wonderful **friends and family** who so generously donated the supplies we needed that brought so much joy to the children on the reservation and those who reside at the homeless shelter, we offer our thanks. We would also like to thank the **Mount Vernon Church of the Brethren members and Pastor Dwight** for all their support.

We are grateful to the **Stuarts Draft Bible Study Group** who each month contribute to We're All Gods Children and make it possible for the ministry to thrive and for Ken and I to make the trip!

We offer our sincere appreciation to **Suds Laundry and Ian Hudlow** who allowed us to wash multitudes of laundry at no cost to prepare the donations for the Old Agency Homeless Shelter.

We would also like to thank **Julie Garreau and Jerica Widow** who welcomed us to the Cheyenne River Youth Project as family and provided the team with wonderful accommodations. To the **staff and interns** at the Youth Project we would like to say a big thank you for their assistance daily, and the joy we felt as we shared laughter and sometimes tears over situations the children find themselves in. What a blessing to know that the Cheyenne River Youth Project is there to support, care for and meet the needs of the children, and are actively training the youth of today to be the leaders of tomorrow!



And finally, of course, we always want to thank **We're All Gods Children**, for without this wonderful organization, without their wisdom, understanding and support, we would not be able to

reach out to the Native Americans in South Dakota.

We are planning another trip in October, so begin now to think about how you might like to join us as we serve our brothers and sisters on the reservation!