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“Serving one another in love” — Galatians 5:13

MAY/JUNE 2010, (VOL. IX, No.II)

GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, INDEPENDENCE—CHANGING LIVES.

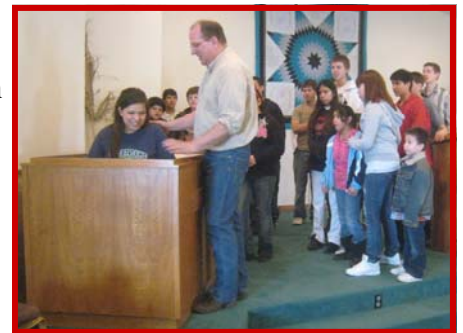


Independence—A New Beginning. The Crow Creek Sioux Reservation is often associated with despair, poverty, and a pervasive hopelessness. However God is raising up His people to impact and change lives on the reservation. Through the work of Diamond Willow Ministries (DWM), many here are now realizing that they can lead a meaningful life, bringing hope where there was just despair. Christina His Law, age 19, baptized in 2006, is a bright light in our community. This year she has purposed to move out on her own. DWM is mentoring Christina through the process to establish independence. She is a member of the summer employment program (see article below), working at McDonalds each week. She is energized by the constant flow of activity and personal interaction this job provides. Christina on June 29th, with the help of DWM, obtained her first pair of glasses since 3rd grade (her right eye seeing only 20/400 without glasses). This will allow her to pass the vision testing required for a driver’s license. Through DWM, she is also receiving transportation to extensive dental care appointments, which will supply a healthier physical independence. Youth on the reservation experience many obstacles that deter them from pursuing productive independent futures. DWM through financial assistance, encouragement, mentoring and transportation, is assisting Christina in obtaining a new found growth, change and independence.



Ten (10) Baptisms in 2010.

Growth and changed lives is no better summed up than by the ten youth baptisms that have occurred in 2010. Two pre-teen youth, and eight teenagers were baptized. Whether baptized in the Missouri River or in the baptistry at DWM, all youth are holding steady to their changed lives in Christ.



Summer Youth Employment Program. A new DWM summer youth employment program began in the spring. Youth 14-19 are being mentored through the entire work experience. The employers are Al’s Oasis and McDonalds in Chamberlain, SD, just 25 miles from DWM. Youth began with the application process and interviews. After the selection process, 10 youth received part-time positions. Obtaining proper valid identification, in order to be accepted into employment, was the second hurdle. Each youth was able to set up a savings account at a local bank to encourage good money management. Youth are transported to and from their positions by DWM volunteer staff daily. Shifts are worked during the day Monday-Saturday, with Sundays off for worship at DWM. New responsibilities are enabling these youth to look into a brighter future.



Building Relationships:

- ◆ Men from the community gathered together with youth to put together a traditional buffalo hide drum. March 6.
- ◆ Rod Vaughn, Joe Murphy and intern Brian Barr, led a group of 13 young men from the community, on the second annual “survivor” **Band of Brothers** over night trip, hiking from the “west bend” of the Missouri River to the “east bend”. May 28-29.
- ◆ Girls Night held. A special way to honor and spend time with girls included a devotional, fingernail painting, and earring & necklace craft time. May 28.
- ◆ Annual Memorial Day Celebration and feed at All Saints Cemetery. May 30.
- ◆ A group of local youth and adults headed to the prairie to dig Indian Turnips, commonly known in the Dakota language as Tipsina. The turnips were gathered,



unsheathed, and braided for drying. Later in the year they will be used in soups and stews. June 4.



- ◆ Several youth and a few adults from the community gathered for a buffalo hunt. It was an educational experience for all those in attendance. The meat will be used to feed many by way of meals served at Diamond Willow Ministries. It will also be distributed through the food pantry. June 7.



- ◆ 2nd Annual Community Safety Day held. June 23.



- ◆ DWM along with volunteers from the summer work group, Ringgold Church of

Christ, assisted the group One Sight, in providing volunteers to work during a free optical eye clinic held in Fort Thompson at the Crow Creek Tribal Hall gym. June 21-25.

2 Ways You Can Lend a Helping Hand.

New growth requires additional assistance. It is exciting to see increased attendance levels in such a short time and the growth of those with new found faith in Christ. With more community members involved all the time, there are also increased needs. Your participation in meeting those needs through financial support is critical: 1) With the new building addition there will be an increase of 40-70% for utility and insurances expenses, 2) With additional attendance, day to day eating expenses, youth program expenses, etc. will also increase. In order to have the flexibility to meet these needs, donations given to DWM indicated as “undesigned” or “apply to the greatest need”, provide us with the greatest flexibility in serving the people of the reservation community. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are privileged to meet needs and build relationships.



“In the Dry!” By the end of June, the building addition was “In the Dry”. The basement foundation, walls, roof and siding were paid for and completed. All that remains is to finish the addition’s interior, which primarily involves the electrical, drywalling, tiling, carpeting, etc. Estimated costs to complete the project are **\$52,037**. Much of this cost is for big ticket items such as carpet, tile, and interior doors. This amount also includes costs for skilled labor, that volunteer work group team members are unable to complete.

DWM is committed to never taking on any debt. With that in mind, construction will move forward, as God provides through the generosity of many and the hard work of local Native American individuals working alongside workgroups and individuals.

We are so very thankful for the many folks that have donated time, talents, finances, and expertise to this project, which will allow it to be completed and useful to the community. Folks working on this project have been from various states which include: FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, MD, MO, NC, NM, NY, OK, PA, TX, SD. For more information, please see “Construction Update” under “News” on the main menu of our website, www.d-w-m.org.



Original Ikce Oyate Christian Center



After Building Addition is “In the Dry”

Prayer Points.

- ◆ Pray that the 10 Youth baptized in 2010 will continue to learn and grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, that many youth will be able to attend summer camp this year, and that funds and sponsors will be secured.
- ◆ Pray for the newly elected Tribal Council and Chairman, inaugurated May 4th.
- ◆ Suicides on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation were eliminated in 2009, and continue to be eliminated in 2010, thanks to the prayers of many! Please pray that this trend continues through the remainder of this year.
- ◆ A Praise for the generosity of many that allowed the Building Addition construction to proceed this spring. We praise God for his provision of materials, volunteer labor, and finances, in order to provide the much needed space for youth and adult classes and activities, which will support growing attendance levels. Please pray that God will continue to provide what is needed to complete the addition.
- ◆ Congratulations to Youth Director Joe Murphy and Kristen Fry on their upcoming wedding August 7th. Best wishes to the couple as they head thereafter to Joplin, MO, where Joe will be finishing his bachelor’s degree at Ozark Christian College.
- ◆ A praise for the volunteer assistance of our three summer interns: Kati Walter, Germany and Brian & Annie Barr, North Carolina.





Pidamaya (Thank you). We can't tell you what it truly means to receive your support. Whether financial, physically being present to lend a hand, donations of items, and/or most importantly your prayers. Your generosity enables those that are here to **meet needs, and build relationships.**


**We're on the web at
www.d-w-m.org**

What your support means to those who receive it!

Recently youth and adults at DWM were asked "What does DWM mean to you?". Here is a compilation of their answers: "Family.", "Openness.", "Keeps me out of trouble.", "One big house where I can come.", "Friendship.", "Love & unity.", "A safe place to be.", "Awesome!", "A place to go & grow & get help.", "Welcoming.", "It feels more like a home—everyone can come in & hang out.", "Uplifting time.", "Laughter.", "Peaceful.", "An opportunity to share & serve.", "Community.", and "An answer to prayer."



On-line Giving Option Available. *Visa, Mastercard, Discover,* and *American Express* can be utilized online with options for one-time gifts as well as monthly and annual options. Please see the "Give a Gift Today" button on our home page: www.d-w-m.org.


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