

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

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NEW BEGINNINGS



Sobriety—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. Dale Stands serves as a great example of what God does when Jesus Christ comes into one’s life. Dale, who was baptized in the Missouri River in front of the Ikce Oyate Christian Center, celebrated one year of sobriety at the end of January. Now Dale, a well known Lakota artist who has his artwork displayed around the world, is using this spiritual foundation to begin building stability within the rest of his life and family. Although limited by health concerns, he is diabetic and has dialysis three times a week; he has now been approved for a kidney transplant. Through the stability that comes with a relationship in Christ, he has now been able to be a better father to his children, with several of them now living with him. Dale’s life, and his traditional arts and crafts work, are testimonies to the transforming power found in God to bring light and hope.

Building Addition Construction Begins Spring 2010.

Through the generous donations of many, \$68,500 has been raised to date, toward the estimated total building addition construction cost of \$205,000. The walls for the new building addition were successfully built at the Teen portion of the National Missionary Convention in Peoria, IL in November 2009 and delivered to DWM just a few short days later. (See photos below.) Since that time DWM was able to purchase and have the following on site for spring construction: trusses, floor joists, and foam forms used to pour the concrete basement foundation.

We estimate that just over **\$10,000 more is needed** to reach the goal for the amount required to get the building fully enclosed by mid-June. Everything seems to be close to right on track for this project to move forward as planned. Work groups are continuing to raise funds to purchase construction materials they will be using while onsite (such as ductwork, insulation, sheetrock, etc.) and these funds should keep the project on schedule through the end of the summer.

For a detailed listing of each phase of the project, including cost estimates, please see “Construction Update” under “News” on the main menu of our website, www.d-w-m.org.

We are so very thankful for the many folks that have donated time, talents, finances and expertise to this project. Many work groups are scheduled for the building addition construction, beginning April 23 through August 7th .



Building Relationships:

- ◆ Youth were able to attend a South Dakota State University football game in Brookings, SD on Nov 7th.
- ◆ Several Youth Reward Nights were held for youth ages 7-10. Youth are rewarded with pizza and/or bowling for attending a required number of youth classes, having exceptional behavior, and memorizing a number of scripture verses.
- ◆ The annual Christmas program, feed, and bonfire was held December 13th. Many from the community joined together to roast hot dogs outside & eat soup, fry bread and desserts inside. After eating, the kids presented the play “From the Manger to the Cross”.
- ◆ A Suicide Intervention Conference was held at DWM for the community, December 14-15.
- ◆ A family sledding day was held January 10th.
- ◆ The third annual youth ice fishing tournament was held January 18th, in cooperation with local community organizations. There were games and prizes for the youth followed by fishing. After a day on the ice, everyone gathered for a chili supper followed by the weigh-in of the fish. Top prizes were awarded for the biggest fish. An additional prize was awarded for the smallest fish caught. Forty three (43) youth and twenty seven (27) adults participated in the event.
- ◆ DWM was involved with seven (7) wakes/funerals during the Christmas/New Year’s season. Each provided opportunities to serve the community as well as a chance to share Christ with those that are hurting.
- ◆ The fourth annual Super Bowl Party was held at DWM on February 7th.
- ◆ A snow skiing youth event was held in Sioux Falls, SD, February 12-13.
- ◆ Attendance on Wednesday Evening Bible Study has increased to between 45 and 50. With this increase we have divided the classes into a Women’s Group, Men’s Group, Teen Group and Younger Youth Group. It is exciting to see so many that are interested in learning more about God’s word.
- ◆ Many adults that were baptized in 2009 are celebrating sobriety milestones: a year of sobriety, 10 months, 8 months and 6 months of sobriety. It is encouraging to see changes not only in individual lives when alcohol is left behind, but also within families. We praise God for his faithfulness. Please pray that more lives will be touched!



Summer Interns. Brian & Annie Barr, from Jamesville, NC, will be interning at DWM for the summer of 2010. Brian is pursuing a degree in Preaching from Mid-Atlantic Christian University and Annie is pursuing a degree in Theology with a cross-cultural ministry concentration. Brian has construction experience, which will enable him to assist with the new Building Addition Project as well as with Preaching. An onsite camper is still needed to assist with Summer Intern Housing. Anyone willing to donate or loan a camper for summer use is encouraged to contact DWM.

The Ikce Oyate Christian Center, although certainly not extravagant, is one of, if not the, nicest facility on the reservation. It reflects the character of all the wonderful Christian people that have had a hand in it's construction. Because of this, use of the building by those in the community is in great demand for special events, holding training classes, and just as a safe place for youth and adults alike to visit, recreate, and relax on a daily basis. Many families also ask to utilize the building for wakes and funerals, which in the culture here typically last three days. This presents a myriad of opportunities to share God's love with people; it also created many additional needs with things such as utility costs. For instance this winter, due to the high usage and the unusually cold winter, our budgeted funds for propane were exhausted in January. This immediate emergency (no propane=no heat=big problems) however, was met by generous donations from a family in Indiana and a church in Texas. Thank you again to all the many people that meet the needs of the ministry, so that Diamond Willow Ministries may continue meeting needs within the community, bringing hope where there is despair.

Prayer Points.

- ◆ A Huge Praise: Suicides on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation were eliminated in 2009, thanks to the prayers of many! Please pray that this trend continues through 2010.
- ◆ Praise that the number of youth and adults attending weekly activities continues to increase.
- ◆ A Praise for the generosity of many that will allow 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.
- ◆ A praise that God is providing unity in our community; many organizations are working together to better our community!
- ◆ More youth & adults will be willing to turn their lives over to Christ.
- ◆ The individuals baptized in 2009 will continue to learn and grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Pray for the upcoming spring elections of the Tribal Council and Chairperson. (These elections are held every two years.)
- ◆ Support Fund (Staff Salaries), Youth Director, Joe Murphy will need \$10,000 in additional support to meet his salary needs this year.
- ◆ Food Pantry, Baby Formula, Diapers and Personal Hygiene donations are needed. (Finances and/or Wal-mart gift cards to purchase these items.)
- ◆ Donation or loan of Camper or RV for 2010 Summer Staff housing.





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**


NEW Website Improvements have been made: lots of new photos, a new option that includes text describing those photos, a menu called "Current Happenings" telling about the weekly activities at DWM, our current 2010 work group schedule, and a new menu "Construction Update", keeping you up-to-date on the new building addition construction project.



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.



GoodSearch. When you need a search engine while surfing the web, use GoodSearch designating Diamond Willow Ministries as your favorite charity. For every search you do, Goodsearch will donate a penny to DWM. To try it out, just go to GoodSearch at www.goodsearch.com. Every penny adds up!


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