

Ashley Down Mission
NEWSLETTER

August, 2020

New Mercies for New Days



A Celebration of Baptism

We were very honored and blessed this month to be invited to attend the baptism of Ruth Dreamer (Pictured in the middle front with the grey and red shirt). Ruth recently came to faith in Jesus and was formerly practicing traditional Lakota religion. She is also the granddaughter of Norma Blacksmith, one of our dear Lakota elders at Pine Ridge. The Dreamer family is an amazing bunch, who are all trying to follow Jesus and reject the Lakota traditional ways; Ruth was the last one in her family to convert, and as Norma told me, she is a bit stubborn like her grandmother! What a beautiful day it was and it was encouraging to hear the gospel preached clearly to the extended family and guests by our old friend Wade McHargue, who officiated the baptism ceremony in a river just outside of Hot Springs.



Billy Graham Evangelistic Meeting-Pine Ridge 2021

Recently, we were invited to attend a meeting at Hands of Faith near Pine Ridge regarding a potential 2021 evangelistic crusade in Pine Ridge by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Will Graham, who is Billy's grandson, is the one who is continuing Billy's legacy of evangelism and crusades and will be the speaker. Several Lakota leaders such as James Rattling Leaf, David Lays Bad, Joe Cross and Norma Blacksmith were in attendance. Other Pastors from Pine Ridge such as Eric Harris and Elliot Morales from the Recreation Center in Oglala were there as well. It was packed house and many had lots to say, so it was a long evening, but please pray over this potential event as there are many challenges to something like this being successful, most notably is the presence of those who are trained and equipped to disciple any new converts after the event takes place.

There is a desire to reach each of the nine districts of the reservation with this event so it will take a coordinated effort by all the Lakota Christians, churches and individuals from the BGEA (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association) to pull this off. Working in unity has not traditionally been a common occurrence down at Pine Ridge, so that is why we are asking for prayer. The BGEA is selective about who and where they hold future crusades and their planning is usually a year out, so this was the second meeting they have held down here to gauge interest in the local population of believers.

Weekly Bible Study has Begun!

Another exciting development is the start of a weekly bible study/worship/fellowship time that we are holding in Rapid City. Angie and I have felt the Lord's leading to start a gathering and invite Lakota people we know who are living up here as well as others we know who are in need of Christian community. As we prayed we knew that we would need a good space that is in a central location for people to gather. God provided the perfect space to us free of charge through a realtor we know who is also a believer. She recently moved into a brand new suite with an open concept space which will allow us to switch the set up for the number or people attending or how we want to use the space that week. We are so thankful! Our first meeting we were also blessed to have Shelby attend. Shelby is one of the Lakota teens that we ministered to a few years ago on Pine Ridge, but is now living in Rapid City while she goes to school for nursing and is in the National Guard. Shelby is a believer and a sweet girl, but also very shy so this small and intimate gathering with people she trusts is just what she needs. As God usually works, he also allowed my friend Gordon Decker to also attend, who is former military and a sheriff's deputy, so he was able to give her some great advice on how to deal with some issues she has been having in her work. Another couple who attended was Jordan and Josie Hirschfeld, who are a young couple we met who have a strong desire to do missions and feel led to possibly invest in the Lakota community in Rapid City. They intentionally bought a house in a Lakota neighborhood in North Rapid City and are meeting with us regularly to pray over direction and ways in which we can work together. They are like a younger version of Chris and Angie, HaHa!



Carey Family News

Another blessing this month was the start of School for the Carey kids! After months of quarantine, we finally are at the point of a new school year, which is a blessing for them and hopefully will ensure a somewhat normal looking senior year for Taylor as it is her Senior year. Aside from school, Jordyn turned 20 this month and Caeden turned 16! Where does the time go?

We are so blessed to be able to share all this news with you and thank you over and over for your involvement in our lives and ministry. We feel this was a breakthrough month for many of our prayers regarding ministry and family. There have been so many answers to prayer and instances where we have seen God at work in his leading us into new areas and opportunities. We look forward to sharing more news with you all soon!

Much love and grace to you all,

The Carey Family