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CONNECTING -- SUMMER 2022

With Churches and Friends

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel... Paul, Philipians 1:3

Ben and Linda _____

Now that its possible to gather and move about, the last months have been wonderfully busy. Along with ministry activities my home has been a Bed and Breakfast for the last two months for friends and guests from Colorado, Belleville, Pikangikum (fly-in reserve in northwestern Ontario), and the Netherlands. The Dutch guests were not known nor expected. It happened this way (Readers Digest Version):

On a Friday night a couple from the Netherlands came to my door. Introducing themselves as Ben and Linda, I learned they had a plan to bicycle around the world for ten years, two of which are past. Each evening they would knock on a door and ask if there would be a room for them for the night. After disembarking from the Chi-jimaan ferry, of all the homes on Manitoulin Island, they came to my door in Manitowaning! Seeing their biking helmets, I knew God had sent them to my house.

Connecting with them was easy as my background is Dutch. Their curiosity peaked when they learned of what I do with First Nations people. They believed the Native people still live in tipis and shoot with bows and arrows! In the morning I took them into Wikwemikoong for a tour. Visiting a group of people around a sacred fire in a tipi, one of the believers asked if they believed in Jesus. Their answer was "no". I continued sharing Jesus as we had breakfast in the Wiky restaurant. I motioned my friend Stella to come sit with us. Immediately she shared of her heavy trauma of family losses and how Jesus saved her in her grief. Her hands uplifted, she praised the Lord for lifting her burdens. Ben and Linda's facial expressions showed deep emotion as they met each of us in whom Jesus dwells.

Upon leaving my house, I gave them each a pocket-sized Gospel of John with the exhortation, '*Get to know the PERSON in this book, He has the words of eternal life.* Pray with me for them, that the Word of God will convict and convince them to the point of eternal salvation.

Polly _____

Ten thousand people gathered for the Wiky Powwow. This makes for a great place to connect with Native people from reserves and cities far and wide. My friend Polly, from Sault Ste. Marie (On), was on hand to cook powwow food with her family. After the event was over, we spent time together. Again, like so many, she had much to 'unload' of her concerns and stress. She has raised nearly all of her many grandchildren as their parents have been drug addicted for many years. Polly is skin and bones and experiences kidney problems. Our time together was precious as I encouraged her to walk with Jesus through her storms.

Marjorie – Update _____

If you've read my previous letters about the death of Leslie Beaudry (35) in February, you know my involvement in her life and death. Her mother Marjorie is suffering major grief after her death, and that of another daughter some years ago. Inviting the Lord into her life a month ago has made an obvious change in her. She has to go through this crisis period, but now she has an anchor for her soul. I seem to be the only stable and helpful person in her life just now so I'm responsible for guiding her through life. In the next week or so we should be burying the urns of Leslie and her baby who was born nine years ago. Pray for this new believer. She loves the enlightenment of the Word.

Opportunities Abound _____

With a community steeped in sorrow, addictions, and violence, there is constant demand for rescue and relief from the grip of trauma and hopelessness. This opens the door to acceptance of the gospel with its power, healing, and encouragement. I'm assured of your prayers for those mentioned above. Remember too the desperate need of workers: especially youth staff, an administrator, frontline workers, and DayStar Center staff.

Sending my gratitude for your heart for our Indigenous people and your financial and prayer support for me!

Shirley Hamilton