

Beulah

Land News

Reservation School Needs

Ray and Kathleen Kesner, facilitators for Together for Hope High Plains have recently brought to our attention the desperate need for school supplies on the Indian reservations of South Dakota. Here's some background information about this story.



Ray & Kathleen Kesner

Together for Hope High Plains (www.ruralpoverty.net) serves in four of the 20 poorest

counties in the United States. These counties are Buffalo, Shannon, Todd and Ziebach. Buffalo county is the poorest county in the United States. These four counties are home to three Lakota and one Dakota Indian reservations. Crow Creek—the only Dakota tribe—is located in Buffalo County. The Lakota tribes are Pine Ridge, Shannon County; Rosebud, Todd County and Cheyenne River, located in Ziebach County. Per capita income ranges from \$5,500 to \$7,500. The reservations have approximately 90% unemployment.

It is against this bleak background that school teachers on the reservation are trying to motivate their children to have hope for their future. Toni Buffalo, wife of Native American pastor, Byron Buffalo, teaches on the reservation. "The struggle I have seen as a teacher in the school system and trying to educate our children is how to motivate them that an education is important and that by attaining one you can change your surroundings. So many of our children live within this extreme poverty and desolation that they cannot seem to see how anything will ever change," said Toni.

"I witnessed a dramatic change in kids by the third grade. Believe it or not, a lot of our kids by that age are already disillusioned with life and have already begun to live in the 'here and now.' It's a day by day existence with little or no plans (or hopes) for the future. So pray! Pray for the hearts, minds and bodies of the people to be healed," states Belva Matthew, a former school teacher who is also the wife of Native American pastor, Leon Matthews.

The Kesners are currently collecting school supplies which they will take to the reservations and distribute. Items needed are:

- Backpacks (new or gently used)
- Pens & Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue
- Rulers
- Notebooks
- Washable Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Folders
- Scissors
- Erasers

These items can be sent to:

Kathleen Kesner
436 E. Kansas St.
Liberty, MO 64068-1856

Collection continues through May 31, 2007. The school supplies will be distributed in August.

It is our hope that churches and individuals will answer the call and will help meet the need for school supplies on the reservations while at the same time praying about the conditions that exists on these reservations and for those who are ministering there.

"...any assistance that could be sent up our way would be put to good use and much appreciated," —Toni Buffalo

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Warm & Fuzzy

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This little girl put these clothes on immediately when she was told that she could keep them.



For some time now, I have been making children's clothing to send to impoverished children in different areas. The clothing is made from fleece to help keep the children warm during the cold winters. One of the areas that I have sent clothing to is McCreary County, Kentucky. McCreary County is one of the 20 poorest counties in the United States and is a part of the Together for Hope rural poverty initiative.

Wilda Ross, who works with the McCreary County Schools Community Center and helps distribute the clothing, sent me several photos of the children who received the clothing that I made. Wilda reports that one little girl put her new clothes on as soon as she was told she could keep them. Thanks, Wilda, for the photos!

I praise God for giving me the means and ability to do this for the children. Lord willing, this is a project that I intend to keep doing in the future. —Ann Skipper

Back to Work

Both Nick and I have recently gone back into the workforce. He has a full time job at the Citigroup Call Center here in Gray. He works in the paper department handling written correspondence from customers who have certain Citi credit cards. He likes his job, and the fact that it is only 1.5 miles from home is an added blessing. Nick continues to do website design and maintenance from home. At present, he maintains www.cbmission.org, www.ibts.us, www.blmm.com and www.norvimayfieldministries.org.

I have a part time job working for High Country Resources (HCR), a music lending library. HCR is the largest music lending library of Christian music available. It houses both in-print and out-of-print music. Churches and choirs can borrow music from HCR and return it when they are through. There are over 15,000 titles now listed in their database which can be accessed via www.highcountryresources.com.

Churches that are cleaning out their music rooms should send the music to High Country Resources to pre-

serve the music and make it available to other churches. In this way they can bless others with their blessings.

My job is to enter the music into the computer database. As more and more churches learn about HCR, more music arrives and has to be sorted, cataloged and entered into the database.

High Country Resources is a great resource for music directors. For more information about becoming a member or about their share plans, go to their website or call 423-753-7980.

In addition to my part-time job, I have designed and produced two brochures for the Newells and Together for Hope Arkansas Delta. I also produce and mail the state-side newsletter for the International Baptist Theological Seminary called "Vision." In addition, I maintain their U.S. mailing list which has over 1900 names and addresses. I enjoy using my God-given skills to help others in their ministry. —Ann Skipper

Diagnosis

Friday, October 13, 2006 is a date that I will always remember. That was the day that my doctor informed me that I have Type 2 diabetes. I wasn't totally shocked because I had hypoglycemia for years. My doctor said hypoglycemia is a precursor to diabetes. Fortunately, I can control my diabetes with a pill instead of insulin shots. We caught it in the very early stages so there is no permanent damage yet.

This diagnosis in one way has been a blessing. For the first time in years I am able to lose weight. With my medication, diet and exercise, I have lost 13 pounds so far. I still have a lot more weight to lose, however.

My diabetes, along with my other health issues, means that I have good days and bad days. I never know which it is going to be until I get up each morning. I just have to take what I am given and work with it. Some days I can't

function at all; I just have to rest. I am a multitasking person. I feel that I must be doing 2-3 things at once, or I am wasting valuable time. I get frustrated because I have so many things I want to do, but I can't always do them because of my health. This causes me stress which is not good for my diabetes.

I have several prayer requests:

1. That I will maintain my diet and exercise program.
2. That I will have more good days than bad.
3. That I won't get stressed out when my health won't allow me to do what I would like to do.

In spite of everything, I feel so blessed. God has been so good to me. He has blessed me beyond anything I could have ever imagined. He is greatly to be praised.

—Ann Skipper

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402 Douglas Shed Road

Gray, TN 37615-3347

phone: 423.207.1107

nick@blmm.com

ann@blmm.com

www.blmm.com

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Mission Opportunities

It's never too early to start planning mission trips for the year ahead. There are several opportunities coming up that we want to tell you about.

Ben and Leonora Newell, missionaries with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Together for Hope Arkansas Delta, have planned a busy year ahead. Beginning March 3-4, the Newells along with CBF of Arkansas will hold the first annual "Young Families Mission Immersion Weekend." "The young family mission immersion weekend is a chance for families to experience God's hand at work in one of the poorest areas of the U.S. You will see, feel and hear the essence of God's plan for his people in Phillips County, AR. Everyone in your family will be connected to a specific mission activity that will excite and challenge the entire family."

June 16-22, 2007, the Newells will host the Together for Hope Basketball Camp in Helena/West Helena, AR. July 14-20, 2007 another Swim Camp will take place in Helena/West Helena followed by the All Church Challenge July 21-27, 2007. For more information on any of the upcoming events in Helena/West Helena, AR contact Ben at bn@worldmail.org or 870-995-3518.

There will be another Extreme Build in McCreary County, Kentucky this year the week of July 15-21. Last year's Extreme Build was an incredible experience. Over 100 volunteers came to build a home for Brenda Perry and her family. For more information about Extreme Build 2006 and 2007, go to www.cbfmmissions.org. To participate in this year's event, contact Rhonda Abbott-Blevins at rabbott@kybf.org or call 502-426-1931.

Want to go to Europe? The International Baptist Theological Seminary, Prague, Czech Republic is always looking for volunteers to help maintain their campus. They are in need of painters, gardeners, carpenters, librarians and people who can help with the cleaning and decorating of the facilities. For more information, go to www.ibts.cz/volunteers or write to the Volunteer Coordinator, International Baptist Theological Seminary, Nad Habrovkou 3, Praha-6, 16400, Czech Republic.

For missions information past and present, you can always go to www.cbfmmissions.org.