



Volume 24 Spring 2021

DAYSTAR NATIVE OUTREACH

“Serving Ontario’s Native People with God’s Love”

Dateline

RENEWAL

“Crazy - doing the same thing over and over expecting different results”. That’s not just a definition. It is often the normal of our lives. This past year has been anything but “doing the same things over and over”. Our lives have been dramatically changed externally! The question we must ask ourselves is not “what has changed on the outside?” but more importantly - What new work has God begun in my heart and life because of this external pressure? What has changed in my faith as a result of the “trials” that God has allowed in my life this past year? How much clearer and more majestic is my understanding of God, His grace, and great salvation in my life because of this past year’s journey? How is the transforming power of the Gospel apparent in my life as I move in the world God has called me to influence for Jesus? How do I affect the lives of others for Jesus’ sake? Am I daily looking for God’s perspective as I work and live in my sphere of influence? In my “weaknesses”, does God really show up and prove Himself powerful? **1 Peter 2:6 and 7 - “So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is GENUINE ... tested as fire test and purifies gold, though your faith is more precious than gold.”** I rejoice in the words of Isaiah 40:29 - 31 - the picture of the “soaring eagle”, the “tireless runner”, the “strong walker” - “power to the weak and strength to the powerless”. God brings renewal to us as we rest in His work in us. Read as we share our journey over these past days, and pray for us! Miigwetch.

Bernie Prinzen – DayStar Director

Steven Vandelden - In late December, amidst the deaths by suicide and overdose among the young adult population of Wiky, the community came together believing we needed to do something. A community prayer walk was established, almost immediately about 100 people participated walking either the entire 12km or part of it. I joined with another believer from Wiky on this prayer walk. The two of us prayed for God’s revival in hearts and lives and in the community. God has used this to spark a new passion for prayer in our lives and ministry.

At the same time, the changes in our lives in 2020 brought about many challenges. Going into 2021, led by God, I think many Christians have felt called to a renewal of spiritual vitality. A large part of this is God’s Spirit bringing about a new passion for prayer. From Catholics to charismatics, conservatives to liberals, God is bringing about all people with a passion to call on Him, to intervene in His world.

Knowing that “without God we can do NOTHING”, I thought it wise to establish order to this prayer focus. Hopefully a routine could help us continue praying in our spiritual/emotional lows and to encourage one another as we see that others are praying alongside us. In addition to individuals praying, we see the deep in-person fellowship through a small prayer gathering sanctioned by the band as a precious gift. God is calling more and more people to pray and we are excited about the fruit He will bring about through this. People are coming out to various prayer meetings; people are choosing a day of the week to pray intentionally and faithfully each week for Daystar communities and beyond. People’s lives are changing and the spiritual openness on the reserve is changing. I am tracking this prayer journey in a schedule so we can see the other faithful prayer warriors and pray for them as well as sending an occasional update. If you would like to sign up for a day and/or a community, please send an email request to stevenjingleheimersmidt@hotmail.com . For example “I commit to praying for Shawanaga First Nation every Tuesday at 10 am”. Or maybe, with your church, designate someone to be praying each day for an ‘adopted’ community. Either way I hope this has been an encouraging reminder that God uses prayer, and that prayer changes things.

News from the office - Linda Teague - Office Administrator

DayStar is going through some changes in our office staff. Linda Teague will be stepping down from the DayStar bookkeeping position and Cheryl Fox Peltier will be assuming those duties. Many of you may remember Cheryl from the time that she worked at the DayStar Centre a few years ago. Cheryl was employed with DayStar for over 10 years before she left to assume a full-time position with the Wiikwemkoong Band Office and now with the Wiikwemkoong School Board. Needless to say, we are thrilled to have Cheryl back as part of the DayStar team and her willingness to do so, is a definite answer to prayer

Cheryl's position is part time so she will not be in the office during the day. To contact her or DayStar, please call either 705-859-2623 and leave a message, or email DayStar at admin@daystarnativeoutreach.com. Cheryl will be in the office Monday and Thursday evenings and will make return calls to you then. You can also call our Daystar Centre at 705-859-2640 and leave a message with Bernie or Cheryl, or email us at office@daystarnativeoutreach.com. Thanks for your patience while we all transition to our new roles in DayStar.



Cheryl Peltier - DayStar Center Manager - I would like to share with you what the Holy Spirit and I are doing for His glory. I can't do anything without Him, He walks and talks with me always. So, this is what we are doing in our community.

First, the principles shared in the teaching video "Learn To Fly", are guiding what is taking place here at the Center. We really believe that this is what God is telling us to do. We have been trained and trained for so long that it's our turn to fly and soar. We have been saying this for a while, that we need to "get out of the box". Some people do not want to come into the Daystar building so we have to go out to them and draw them in. There are so many opportunities to visit and talk with people in my community - we just have to get out there.

So, things are beginning to take off with the three employees that we will be mentoring; two are volunteers and the other has joined our "staff in training" as our office assistant, which was my old position. We are excited to get more volunteers coming to help, as the brother and sisters grow, and say, "What can I do for the Lord? How can I help Daystar?" Things at the Center are so exciting. We can hear laughter and singing.

We have started each morning sharing scriptures with my family and friends on my Facebook. We get up early and pray for each of them and some we message with God's Word. One lady wrote that she was stumbling in her faith and asked God, "Why?" Then, the next morning she received my message which she took as God speaking through me to her. It was what she needed to hear that morning. We just praise the Lord for being open to Him. We just see the changes in the lives, and we lift them up in prayer.

Also, we have been going out visiting with people in our community and we see the brokenness. We are here to help them restore their relationships with the Lord and each other. Since this world has been shut down, it has brought more brokenness to many. We continue to reach out to others by delivering treat bags to our community members or activities to the children, with just a short visit to show we care.

As more things open up, we would like to have a movie night and more afternoon teas with community members. Also, we would like to be more involved in what our community is doing and be a part of the journey of helping our members be that light. These are just a few of my dreams - to see more come to know Jesus in a deeper level. "It's not **what I have to do** but **what I get to do** for Jesus". Please join in and help us to pray for our community of Wiikwemkoong.



Lue Mahaffey - I remember describing life once as a rollercoaster of crazy ups, downs, spins, and moments where you feel like you're falling and might crash - a terrifying, and exciting ride? My times in Thessalon, working within Thessalon First Nation, and Weagamow First Nation have proven to be accurately described as a roller coaster this past year. Lockdowns and other restrictions have caused me to think in new ways on how I can share God's love within my community, and those feeling an even greater sense of isolation.

I've sought to take more steps in being a bridge between the town I live in, and the community I work in. Prior to lockdown, this seemed to be going well, and then, lines were drawn and restrictions removed in-person interactions. My role soon became providing opportunities for Band Members to get outside, be engaged, and delivering groceries and basic necessities, all the while maintaining upmost safety. I was asked to assist with "Wellness Checks" for community members, which got me everyone's contact information and enabled me to check in and see how people were doing.

There have been beautiful moments amidst the uncertain times we are living in. You know those moments when someone you've seen grow up before your eyes, do something and you just feel so much pride? A youth that considers me to be like a big sister, took a courageous step with her Gokum, a respected Elder in Thessalon First Nation. They taught over ZOOM with a number of families from Southern Ontario. This Church wanted to learn from Indigenous People. So Paige Simon, a girl I first met through the DayStar Day-Camps roughly 13 years ago, took on the opportunity along with her Gokum, Mary Simon, the elder who "adopted" me as her "white granddaughter". They were nervous at first. However, with each word they shared, their comfort grew and eventually they were laughing and sharing and answering the questions of those on the screen. Their pride grew. I felt so proud of them. It was a moment I won't forget. They were taking steps to being a bridge for another community to learn about their own. It was beautiful. It was genuine. It was growth for both groups, myself included.



Elizabeth Prinzen - The DayStar staff here in Wiikwemkoong used to be very busy with women's ministry. Every Tuesday was Ladies Morning break. Every Wednesday was Caregivers. Childcare was also included with both programs. Ladies Night Out was a more involved night held once a month. Then in March, programs at DayStar came to a screeching halt! Our staff was reduced, partly because of the 'new normal', and partly because some contracts had ended. Now, how would we fill our days?

The answer came as Cheryl and Elizabeth planned together. They put together packages for ladies to be delivered every two weeks. Then some of our summer teams that come to Wiky, put packages

together and we were able to deliver those as well. This was great, but we still weren't meeting with ladies. In August, Karen, one of our summer team members to Rabbit Island, discussed an idea that she had been given by the Lord...to start a ladies' Bible study based on the movie, "The War Room" which discusses the importance of prayer. Although we could not facilitate babysitting, we were able to have ladies come to the Centre every Tuesday morning. The ladies enjoy it, and 'stone soup' for lunch. Cheryl and I continued to do this into the fall, with Cheryl leading the study.

In January, Cheryl and Elizabeth agreed that the ladies were anticipating another Bible study. It was decided that Elizabeth would be the Bible study leader, (with Cheryl occasionally doing one), using the 'Precepts' style of Bible study format from Kay Arthur. As we were yet unable to meet in person, we tried it one week using the video call on Messenger, which did not work well. We were relieved the next week to be able to once again to meet in person. We have been studying Genesis verse by verse. We are slowly and methodically learning not only about Creation, but how to study the Bible for ourselves, with the end goal in mind of teaching the ladies how to one day teach a Bible study themselves. It has been so encouraging to see the ladies grasping the truth of God's Word. Our study is for one hour every Tuesday morning with the focus on sharing the Word and prayer. We would appreciate your prayers, specifically asking for the ability to once again incorporate child care so that young mom's can also be involved on Tuesday mornings. We also ask that you would pray for the Lord to raise up Bible study leaders, who can then reach their community and beyond.



Anthony and Barbara Pennings -

We have the privilege of serving an amazing God here on the Island, Who, in spite of all the pandemic concerns, has prevailed in spreading the Hope of the Gospel within our First Nations communities. As "old doors" are closed and "new doors" open, it is exciting to be here serving God and watching to see where He is going to move next. Barbara has recently had the opportunity to get back into Lakeview School, after not being

able to volunteer there due to new Covid Protocols. This has been very encouraging as she is able to spent time in the K-2 classrooms every morning rebuilding relationships with the kids and looking forward to that extending to the parents and teachers again. We are excited to see people are now reaching out to us, online and at our home - seeing the fruit of our relationship building over the years.

Regardless of the fact that our in-person-moments within the communities that we serve has been restricted, we still get to see God moving — and let me say that it's a privilege to be a part of what is happening!

The two best examples are found, firstly in the "gaps" left by our not being able to be there in person. I am seeing believers in M'Chigeeng reaching out on their own, sharing their faith with others more boldly. We are also watching the building of a movement of prayer spread across the Island. This is specifically coming out of Wiikwemkoong and Aundeck Omni Kaning as well as being initiated by two believers in M'Chigeeng, all simultaneously without direct "missionary" influence — praying together, united for their communities and God's movement within their friends, families, and leaderships' lives.

The second would be in Barbara's opportunity to be in Lakeview School as we saw "God make a way" when we could not do it on our own. This gives Barbara credibility in her presence in a community that does not overly appreciate the movements of the "church" in their midst.

I know I said two but another neat example was found in an unlikely opportunity on a -22 degree day in February. I was asked by a fairly desperate family, through a believer in the community, to help inter an Uncle. The only people present were his 80 year old sister, her 50-year-old daughter, and a grandnephew. In the community, the casket is lowered by hand by the pallbearers and backfilled by hand afterwards. The neat part was the grandnephew's reaction to my being there (I knew him from playing basketball but I had lost contact with him). He was grateful to the point of tears that I showed up to carry his great uncle - "Its you!" was the reaction. Having not known the deceased myself, but just the fact that one of the other believers and I, "showed up" to dig along with two other community members, re-opened a relationship once again... an amazing reaction from a simple act of service.

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Once the form is completed, return it to the office with a void cheque

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MEMORIAL CARDS are available upon request for use in memory of loved ones or friends. Donations are also received in honour of an esteemed person. A memorial or honour plaque will be placed in the DayStar Center of the DayStar House. Please call or email for information.