



SOARING EAGLE



TEPACHIMOWIN

(Tepachimowin means "news" in Oji-Cree)



December 2016

Expanding the Ministry - Rising Above Band

The ministry of the Rising Above Band has expanded this year. Many requests for Rising Above ministry came from communities in Manitoba and Northern Ontario and it made sense to fulfill these requests with a local team. With the inclusion of spouses Linda Martin and Karen Jolly, we have a team of 6 here in Niverville that is equipped to provide music, teaching on various topics, counseling and preaching.

Such was the case with a regional conference in Cross Lake in March and more recently a two day workshop in Winnipeg sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada.

Similarly, in November the band was invited by the Weagamow Fellowship Church, to facilitate a weekend of meetings in Weagamow Lake (also known as Round Lake), located about 250 km north west of Dryden, Ontario. We felt called to bring comfort and encouragement to the church and community through music, teaching and preaching. The community was rocked 2 years ago by a homicide and suicide that left 2 very young girls orphaned and in the care of the grandmother, a church member. At one of the meetings, there were mixed emotions of joy and grief as the two girls sang a song for Jesus alongside their aunts and grandmother. A highlight of the weekend was witnessing two adults come to Jesus.

God also opened local doors of outreach ministry in downtown Winnipeg. At the invitation of Lighthouse Mission, the band performed at their *Everyone Matters Street Party* for the homeless community where they served lunch to 500 or so people and shared the Gospel. We anticipated the crowd to be wandering about, noisy, inattentive to the music and more attentive to getting a meal. As Howard punctuated the songs with stories of his life, the predominantly Aboriginal crowd was amazingly attentive. They were connecting with the music ministry on a level the organizers said they had not seen in previous years at this event. While we will



Everyone Matters Street Party

never know the outcome, we felt God used us to minister to these broken people.

The following day we did an open air concert at Central

Park organized by our friend Roger Armbruster of Canada Awakening Ministries. Surrounded by high rise apartment buildings, the park is frequented by a very diverse community, both ethnically and economically.

On this gorgeous summer afternoon, the sound of our music reverberated among the concrete buildings and drew quite a crowd. After we were finished, a lady approached Brenda in tears asking for prayer. She said she lived in one of the high rises and was drawn to the park by the music. As she entered the park she felt overwhelmed by the Spirit of God. She had once followed God but as a result of the loss of her daughter to suicide and her mother's passing shortly thereafter, she became angry with God and forsook him. That afternoon, she felt compelled to come back to the loving arms of her Heavenly Father. Praise God!



Flying to Round Lake

As a band we have also seen more opportunities to speak to non-aboriginal groups about Aboriginal history and current issues with the goal of reconciliation through increasing understanding and engaging in meaningful relationship. A significant event in this regard took place in our home community of Niverville, hosted by the United Church. It was quite an eye opener for most in attendance to hear personal stories from Linda Martin, Karen and Howard Jolly on what it is like for them as Aboriginal people to live in predominantly "white" settings. They spoke of encounters of racism and stereotypes. As a backdrop to understanding the origins of these attitudes, a documentary entitled, *Walk a Mile*, revealed the pervasive devastating impact of colonization and the Indian Residential Schools on Aboriginal people. The intent of the evening was to foster an empathetic understanding of the causes of the visible realities in the social milieu of Aboriginal people which perpetuates the stereotypes and racism. We feel we achieved that.

It has been encouraging as a band to see the increase in our ministry locally, bringing hope, healing and understanding with the opportunities God is giving us. -Terry Martin, Director of Operations

Executive Director Search/Daren George Update

The Board of Directors is searching for an Executive Director to fill the vacancy left by Daren George since his stroke on October 1, 2014. Since then it has been a long arduous journey of rehabilitation. Faced with the conclusion of his rehabilitation report that he remain on disability and given his continuing impairments, he made the very difficult decision to relinquish his position.

The Board invites interested inquiries to contact Board Chair, Karen Jolly (kargjolly@gmail.com). A job description can be downloaded from www.risingabove.ca or by request to info@risingabove.ca or 204-388-5408.

Ishaawin Counselling Centre

Thunder Bay, ON



In his book, Addictions and Grace, Gerald G. May provides the foundational concept that we are all addicted to something. With that in mind, we are left to reflect on the following:

It is addictions that keep our love for God and neighbor incomplete. It is addiction that creates other gods for us. Because of our addictions, we will always be storing up treasures somewhere other than heaven and these treasures will kidnap our hearts and souls and strength.

May's statement leaves me pondering what would change in my life, family, ministry or business if I was storing up treasures in heaven, rather than allowing addictions to rob me of giving my complete love to God and others. May we all pause to consider that question as we reflect on Christ this season!

As a counselling agency we journey with others on the road of discovering what challenges led to their specific addiction and address-



Competent Caring 2 Workshop

ing belief systems that continue to cripple their recovery progress. It is often a long and challenging journey, and one that takes an incredible amount of courage and perseverance. We covet your prayers! First, for each person that enters into the battlefield against

his or her addiction, and secondly, for the Ishaawin team as we come alongside each person struggling to win that battle.

Apart from addictions, we continue to support those healing from abuse, those adjusting to significant life transitions, those families and couples weary of the ongoing cycle of conflict and many other challenges. We are in this together and I want to thank you for your ongoing partnership as you support us in the healing work that is taking place in individuals, couples and families. Let me share with you some highlights of the past months.

Men's Group: Two staff members have been running a weekly group at an addictions centre for young men. Over the months the

interactive learning has been focused on healthy relationships. Together we looked at deference versus respect, commitment, earning trust, and much more.

Networking: Approximately two years ago we entered into a partnership with NorthWind Family Ministries, a First Nations organization that focuses on whole-life discipleship. They offer life skills training, biblical teaching, recreation opportunities such as family camps and events, and one-on-one mentoring and discipling. The networking agreement has allowed for shared resources such as staff and space, and provides a more holistic approach in supporting others. There have been a number of joint ventures with increased success due to this relationship. These ventures include: workshops streamed into northern First Nations communities, training for leaders and lay-helpers in our church community, and support groups such as the one mentioned earlier. We rejoice in what has been accomplished as we continue to work together.

As the end of another year appears on the horizon, we both reflect on the past and prepare for the coming year. Our dedicated team of qualified counsellors continues to maintain client contact hours between 700-800 in both 2015 and 2016. As mentioned in an earlier update, we also serve as a training facility for students seeking to complete their MA in psychology/counselling or BA in Social Working. Apart from counselling, we are committed to offering support groups in the coming year and look forward to sharing more about these in the new year.

In a month, we will not only be ending the calendar year but also our fiscal year. There have been a number of times this year when we wondered whether we would have to make the difficult decision of cutting programs or staff hours to address our financial challenges. Miraculously, each month there was enough to cover expenses, but the financial instability has been difficult. We desire to continue to offer counselling at reduced rates, so that people in difficult economic situations can receive professional counselling. But we need your support! Please prayerfully consider giving a one-time gift before the year end and/or commit to monthly support for the coming year. Once again let me express our sincere gratitude for your prayers and financial support for Ishaawin Counselling Centre.

-Bonita Ledua, General Director

RIDE FOR REFUGE



The Annual Ride For Refuge fundraiser- best ever results!

Rising Above is a long time participant in the annual Ride for Refuge, a fun, family friendly biking and walking event designed to help charities working with displaced, vulnerable or exploited people, raise money for their work. This year's event netted a total of \$21,200 for the ministries of Rising Above. A big thank you to the riders/walkers, team captains and donors who contributed: a team of 15 in Winnipeg, the Marco Clay team of 8 in Kitchener/Waterloo, two Ishaawin teams in Thunder Bay with 10 riders, and a team of 10 from Woodside Church in Kitchener/Waterloo.

Rising Above was the host charity of the Winnipeg location directed by Terry Martin. This year the Winnipeg event exploded, nearly doubling in number of participants from the previous year. In all, 600 riders and walkers representing 27 different charities, together raised nearly \$180,000. As the host charity, Rising Above receives 5% of the net proceeds.



Ishaawin Team