

## Next Steps

Do you remember that quirky TV show called "The A-Team"? A bunch of guys from various backgrounds, each with different abilities, were able to fight the bad guys (and always win!), with a little teamwork (and a lot of scripted "luck"). I (Ann) remember the theme song well; I played it on the piano for a skit when I was in Jr. High! Well...keep reading.

In the past 8 months, we finished our work with Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds, and started studies for the purpose of transitioning to full-time church-planting. God has been slowly giving us a vision for where we think He is directing us next. The transition of leaving Gladstone was very painful and difficult, and my (Jeff's) seminary studies (in Saskatchewan) have been very challenging for me and my family, but God's promises are real, and because of your prayers and His grace, we are excited about what is ahead.

## Starting with an Oil Leak

While in Chicago last January, our car was leaking oil from one of the oil coolant lines. It is interesting that something as insignificant as an oil leak can be used by God to cast a vision.

I called a friend who has an auto garage to see if I could get time on one of his vehicle lifts; he said yes, gave me a date and time, and in spite of heavy snow I made my way there. We had time to visit, and he told me of a church plant model his church was considering based on the concept of Jesus' 12. In simple terms he said, we disciple 12 men for 3 years, those 12 men in turn disciple 12 more men, and that is the start of the church. Oh, by the way, we could not find the oil leak...can God heal an old Suburban?



## I Dream of a Team

Building off this discipleship plan, in the past two months I have been chewing on an idea to assemble a team of 6 Blackfoot men--2 from each of the 3 Blackfoot reserves in Canada--who are "sold out for God"; to bond them together, and identify and support their spiritual gifts and talents, similar to a "special forces" military team. I would like to see them restored to who they are created to be in the image of God, by working through past failures and physical, sexual and emotional abuse. I would bring in key instruction for Biblical and personal development. Because there is such a negative trust issue surrounding the history and the presentation of God to Blackfoot people, it is difficult, being white, to overcome this. However, a team of Native people with a common vision, who could support each other, and who are distant enough from the politics of the communities by being from different reserves, but who are still insiders to the culture, could have incredible potential to bring people together. My job in this dream is to be the catalyst to network these people together, to bring in the resources to train these men to be an effective "special forces" ministry team.

Right now this is just a dream; I have sent a more detailed sketch to few advisors for comment before presenting this idea to our mission's leadership for their thoughts and approval. *Please* be praying for God's direction, and if indeed this is it, that He would call out these 6 men.

## Significant Dates

August	Write papers for seminary class
September-Dec. 2010	Continue seminary courses
October	My Bible review (similar to ordination) with NAIM
November	Apply for citizenship, making us dual citizens of Canada and US
December/January	Start a new ministry, as the Lord leads

## Poverty (some good stuff I'm learning)

(A special thanks here to Holly Hintz from Indiana for introducing me to the book "Bridges out of Poverty".)

What many have deemed as a "Native problem" is really a *poverty* problem that affects not only Native people but White, Black and Hispanic peoples. People in poverty face challenges virtually unknown to those in middle and wealth class, from both obvious and hidden sources. The reality of being poor brings out a survival mentality, and turns attention away from opportunities taken for granted by everyone else. Hidden rules govern how and why people make the choices they do. This book has shifted my perception of "life on the reserve" and has given me a new set of glasses. I can now see behaviors and life issues through the unwritten rules of poverty. It also opens doors to look for what is working in inner city ministries there are a many successful ministries that look to meet the "lower needs" this is like drawing back a curtain and exposing a whole new set of opportunities.

NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are solely funded and fully accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries. Serving with First Nations to Reach All Nations



## Canada Day, eh

Our church had a BBQ for the community with a sing late into the night on Canada Day (July 1). There I (Ann) am on keyboards and vocals on the right. The other 4 musicians are from the community. The lady playing guitar directly behind the maple leaf is Denise, who co-leads worship with me in church. As a former Chicagoan I think it's funny that this is first time I played and sung *the blues* (church

music, blues-style)—right in the middle of the “rez”! Yes, you see folks wearing jackets because it was quite cool out, and rainy (about 55F); thankfully the rain paused long enough for us to sing.

## Family News

My (Jeff's) mom passed away in December 2007, which prompted an unplanned trip to the USA. She was diagnosed with cancer on November 2, 2007; everything happened so quickly. We were so blessed by many of you during this very difficult time. Thank you to all who supported us in so many ways during that time.

Esther Justice Nemeth was born November 13, 2007 (She was 3 weeks old when we left for Michigan). She is a delight in many ways, and we are so thankful she likes to sleep at night (usually)! She is 8 months old now, and on the move, trying hard to learn to walk, since the only direction she goes when she crawls is backwards.

I (Jeff) am continuing work towards my degree in family counseling at seminary. I go to class (7 hours away) about once a month for a week at a time.

## Prayer

We've had several major stress factors in the last year: change of job (from ministry to student), death of a parent, and new baby. Each of these carries with it its own stress, so please keep us in prayer as we deal with this. The upcoming year holds many unknowns, as we transition from schooling full-time back into the ministry God has for us (while continuing to school part-time). Pray for me to glean much from my studies, and for Ann as she and the kids are home without me for 1-2 weeks at a time.

Our fellowship on Piikani Nation is still seeking a pastor. We have one family (we'll call them the “L&M clan”) who have many, many issues converging upon them at the same time; please pray for God's grace to fall on them in a powerful way.

Remember, we are in a war, a real spiritual battle. If God brings us to mind, please pray and drop us a note. We have been experiencing more intense spiritual oppression as we have been praying and talking about having more involvement in the Blackfoot community. We know the enemy is not very happy, but we are so thankful that we are not in this battle alone, and that you are just as important a part of it. May God be glorified for the mighty things He has and will accomplish!



Elliot (8)



Erica (6)



Isaiah (3)



Esther (8 months)



Summer 2008

Jeff's continued  
seminary work

Support  
(Last year we  
averaged 59%)

The believers  
of Piikani Nation

God's leading and  
direction for our future

Healing from grief and  
help in transitions

Prayer  
Requests