

Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds ...the Listening

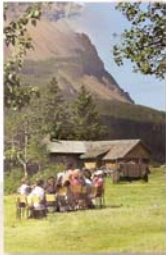
FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS INTO the growing ministry at the Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds, God is giving abundant First Fruits of harvest, with much more to come. Eighteen different Native groups and ministries used the facility last year, from local and regional to an ever broadening stream of national ministries. Soon that will be international.

Listening is at the heart of the *Gathering Grounds*. Amid the challenges of a growing Native church, at the Gathering Grounds believers listen to one another whether they are Native or non-Native, missionary or mission field, elder or youth. Churches listen to churches.

At the *Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds*, Native believers gather with dignity, speak with confidence and receive respect. It is a place where missionaries listen and learn, a place for mentoring leaders of today and training Native collegians for tomorrow.

We rejoice in how God is leading us.

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1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

1997 The vision. To serve in partnership with the growing Native Church, God gave the NAIM leadership team a vision for developing Native leaders of all ages, a holistic vision to integrate all of the ministries of NAIM and some new ones to reach the entire Native community. Such a vision needed a place.



1998 The search for a place led across half a continent. From the first, Native leaders said that the best location would be just east of the Rocky Mountains in Canada, near the US border. Realtors said that no such place existed with the list of features NAIM wanted. But it did exist.



2001 Dedication of the Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds and launch of the ministry with a Native Advisory Council giving voice to vision and ministry.



2002-2005 Expanding ministries and facilities. Native and non-Native work and ministry teams live the Gladstone Mountain Gathering Grounds vision of being one in the Body of Christ. Wilderness Trails camps, leadership development, missionary training, conferences, retreats...



2005 Vision further defined for reaching Native leadership—present and future—and establishing a place for believers to listen to one another. In partnership with Native leaders, a service outreach to elected leaders will complement enlisting and training Native college students.

November 2005 Final payment—\$336,000 to secure title to the remaining portion of land, access to the 51,000 acres of leased Crown Land (National Forest) for the Wilderness Training programs, and full use of the lake and lakeshore needed for the planned leadership training center.

