

BKI Update

June 2021

We are already in June, and the Navajo Reservation remains closed to BKI. I was informed last week that we would be stopped if we tried to enter the Reservation. In a letter received this week, Pastor Arnold Betoney writes, "We continue with the shutdown of the Navajo Reservation.... our church building is closed."

Since its beginning, Arnold has been part of the BKI ministry and has traveled to Russia with us to share the gospel among the tribal people of Siberia. His wife, Bessie, lost five family members to COVID-19. The death rate among the Navajo's is over twice that of the national average.

On a positive note, Sanders Bible Church (Jerry Yonnie) opened last month, and Mariano Lake Bible Church (Delroy Yazzie) plans to reopen this month. We were able to send boxes of gloves, masks, and sanitizer to several churches to help them reopen. The supplies were collected and donated by the youth group of Grace Church in Allen, Texas. A special thanks to them and Natalie Shavor, who made the arrangements for BKI to receive the supplies.

We also want to give thanks to the Girls of Grace Youth Ministry of Indian Hills Community Church in Lincoln, NE, who over the years have raised support for BKI. It is great to see young people involved in and having a heart for missions.

In Siberia, the Children's Ministry in Susch continues to be blessed as 20-40 children in a village of less than 500, meet each week for a meal, bible study and prayer. Sergey and Nadia are beginning a Sunday church service for the children as the regular church has been closed due to continual vandalism and opposition. Kostya Yanov is in his 16th year as the pastor of our church plant in Baj-Xaak in 2005. Anatoly Kidiekov has ten people meeting in his home in a new church plant in Kyzyl. BKI financially supports all these ministries, including the Baj-Xaak summer youth camp again this year.

In February, during the "Texas Freeze," I received text messages from Siberia praying we would survive. It seemed ironic coming from those whose winter's reach - 40 and below, heat with coal, and must walk in frigid weather to get water from a community well.

BKI Vice-President Bob Campanella was recently allowed to return to the Tarrant County Jail facility in Fort Worth to resume his 26-year ministry among the inmates, sharing the gospel and teaching the Bible. Please pray for Bob and all the above.

Tom



Children of Susch



Supplies for Navajos

Memorials

Memorial gifts were received in loving memory of the following:

Bernie (Nenie) Jeffers passed away on October 30, 2019. She was a former Catholic who came to know Christ as her Savior and became part of Indian Hills Community Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. She took every opportunity to speak of her Savior and saw several in her family come to the Lord. She learned of BKI when Pastor Tom spoke at Indian Hills.

Carmela Marie Lasagna passed away March 2, 2020. She resided in the Pittsburgh, PA area and was Roman Catholic for most of her life but did not know Christ as her Savior. After her family moved her to Texas and through much prayer, she was born again in Christ. Mrs. Lasagna was the mother of BKI Vice-President Bob Campanella.

Thomas A. Machacek of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away on August 10, 2020. Tom served our country in the U.S. Navy and was serving the Lord faithfully at Indian Hills Community Church in Lincoln. He was editing a commentary on the Gospel of Matthew for his Pastor and had a burden for others to have a Bible.

Carl Gene Patterson of Granbury, Texas, passed away October 6, 2020. Carl was a longtime friend of Pastor Tom and a supporter of BKI. In his own words, he loved to hear the Word preached with "fire and conviction" and was always an encouragement to Pastor Tom.

Leon Richard Kahler of Colleyville, Texas, passed away on January 7, 2021. Leon served his country as an Air Force pilot in Viet Nam and retired as a captain for American Airlines. He was a part of Cornerstone Bible Church in Roanoke, TX, from the beginning and loved the study of prophecy. Leon was an original board member of BKI and was still serving in that position at his passing. He loved missions and went on several mission trips with BKI and financially supported several Navajo pastors. Pastor Tom received a call, text or email from Leon nearly every week. He is greatly missed at BKI.

Everett Denison Manuelito of Buffalo Springs, New Mexico, passed away May 22, 2021. He was a direct descendant of Manuelito (1818-1893), the last Navajo Chief. Everett and his wife Martha faithfully attended all of BKI's Native American Leadership Conferences in Window Rock, Arizona. In retirement, he loved to fish and avidly studied the Bible.

We wanted to share a word of personal testimony of these six believers who, by His grace, are now home with the Lord (1 Corinthians 5:3). Each one did what all need to do. In this life, they had the conviction to "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6). May you, by His Word and His Spirit, have the conviction and the faith to do the same (Acts 16:30-31).

BKI continues to send out a weekly "Word of Encouragement" every Wednesday. If you would like to be encouraged each week, go to our website – www.bendedknee.org and sign up.

Pastor Tom will return to his research and writing of the series "Christianity and Socialism" next month. Part seven will deal with the indoctrination of children.