"This was a really good start in life for me..."



HEN GILBERT & LAURA BEKKATLA shared their testimonies for Tribal Trails TV, they didn't hold back from telling about some of their struggles.

Yet with peaceful confidence they explain how God encouraged them in very difficult times, and how He showed them that He was in control.

We were deeply impressed by their story, and we're taking this opportunity to share an adapted version of their interview in hope that you, too, will be encouraged.

In the Midst of the Storm

by GILBERT & LAURA BEKKATLA

GILBERT: I was born in March 1948, the oldest of 14 children, and grew up in two different communities. One was Dillon, a reserve in northwest Saskatchewan, and the other was a nearby Métis community called Buffalo Narrows, home to Dene, Cree and Caucasian people. Because my father worked as a commercial fisherman, trapper and construction worker, I often moved around to places together with him. This was a really good start in life for me because I learned how to get along with all kinds of people, which was very helpful when I came to know my wife. We have what you call a cross-cultural marriage.

LAURA: We've been married for 47 years now, and we've had lots of bumps and difficulties along the way. One early example of how we thought differently about things was an incident with a camp stove. We came back after being gone overnight and I lit the stove which was inside the tent. The gas valves weren't real tight and the side of the tent was quite close and I was scared it was going to burn. So I rushed outside, pulling the tent flap up. Meanwhile, Gilbert was across the little creek with some other people, watching, and they were just hooting with laughter. I didn't think it was that funny.

Sometimes it wasn't that easy, but God has been really good. A verse which has supported us is Philippians 2:5: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Getting to know each other's cultures was a great learning experience.

I grew up as a farm girl in Dilke, SK (which is between Regina and Saskatoon) and my parents didn't live out the Gospel at home. But from the

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age of twelve I have had full confidence that I had become God's child. I was not walking in God's ways for a number of years, but I know that I had the conviction of the Holy Spirit. I had a deep desire for God's Word and a deep desire for Christian fellowship. I always felt sort of uncomfortable living in the world.

What made a significant difference in my life was when our oldest son got spinal meningitis at the age of four and-a-half. Gilbert and I had moved to Meadow Lake and, thanks to our neighbour, I began to attend regular Bible study meetings. The Word of God, the encouragement of Christian fellowship, the prayers and financial help of other Christians, and God working in the near death of our son, drew me close to Him. And so I rededicated my life to Jesus when I was 26.

"Through all this I learned to be more dependent on the Lord" GILBERT: The hard time we went through when Gilbert Jr. fell sick was what led me to accepting Jesus as my Savior. I had heard about the Gospel from my grandparents and my parents. My mom was a godly woman who used to read the Scriptures in Dene.

So when our son got spinal meningitis, God spoke to me. The doctor said if he lived, he's

going to be a vegetable, that somebody will have to look after him for the rest of his life. I thought we were going to lose him. But the Christians in Meadow Lake prayed for our son. And because they prayed he got better in three days. I knew there was something special about those Christians. And I wanted what they had. So that summer in July 1977 I accepted the Lord.

Later we both decided that we wanted to become missionaries. So we sold our home in Buffalo Narrows, gave up our jobs and went to Key-Way-Tin Bible Institute in Lac La Biche, Alberta. We burned the bridge behind us so there was no turning back. We have served with NCEM since February 1988. We first served in northern Manitoba for several years. Then we moved to Prince Albert, and I go on regular outreach trips to the North. I helped translate the JESUS Movie into Denesuline, and Laura and I continue to minister in jails. We were taught as new missionaries to continue to be learners.

LAURA: Through all this I learned to be more dependent on the Lord. In Psalm 17:8 it says, "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." That verse reminds me of a little bird in the midst of the storm. But God is sovereign and it's for Him to be in control, not for me to be in control.

GILBERT: In 2001 Gilbert Jr. was killed in a car accident. We've learned that when you keep on trusting the Lord, He will help you through your grieving. We don't understand why, but God understands what He's doing. He's always in control because He's God. And He'll help you through.

So this is the verse that really encouraged me that God will comfort us. And we can encourage others who are going through grief through what God's Word says: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

STUDIO VIEW

Since Tribal Trails began airing in the early eighties, God has been the key player. He put the theme song into the mind of Fred Evans, encouraged Donna Anderson to be our first host, and arranged a connection with a Christian man with ITV in Edmonton (which became the first station to air Tribal Trails via satellite). God gave the idea to build two walls of a "log cabin" in our studio, and brought a volunteer contractor with his sons to give our host, Conrad Flett, a "back home" feel to his studio work. God has arranged for us to travel as far as Ft. McPherson, NWT, to Lawton, Oklahoma, northwest to Anchorage, Alaska, and Fredericton, New Brunswick in the east.

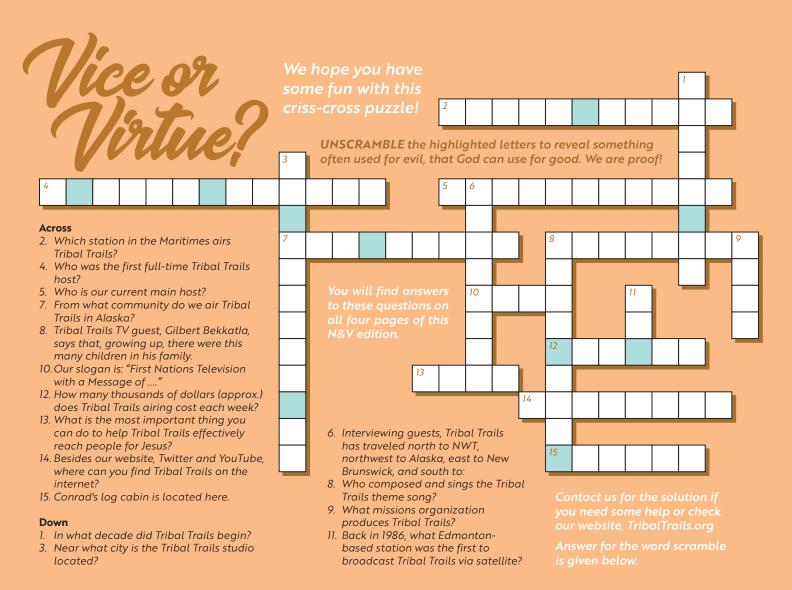
God has also raised up many who financially support Tribal Trails. (Check out the back page of our 2019 wall calendar for a one-year picture of expenses.) Donations to the Tribal Trails ministry are always welcome, but let me give you a few specific project ideas that you or your church can take on:

- Airing time is our biggest ongoing expense (about \$600,000/year). Station costs range from approximately \$100 to \$2000 per weekend airing, with others having no charge (see back page.)
- Spiritual help material is sent to Tribal Trails viewers at no cost to them. Our cost ranges from \$1 to \$40 per package (literature, DVDs, and postage).
- New LED lighting for the studio \$1000 to \$2000 for each studio light.
- Each staff member is required to build their own team of financial supporters (they are not supported by donations to Tribal Trails). Several Tribal Trails staff members are low in financial support.
- Community TV/Radio will often air Tribal Trails at no cost. All we need is an enthused person in the community who will promote the idea to the local stations. Tell your station manager that Tribal Trails is Canadian content from a First Nations perspective (we will send our CRTC Canadian content number if requested). We would be glad to give your community access to our weekly radio or TV downloads.

We welcome your response! ... our contact info is on the back.●

Brent Wahlstrom NCEM-TV Administrator





Answer: Yetevision

From Our Viewers

- "Thank you very much for the book you sent, 'How Do You
 Live the Christian Life.' I also finished the Bible lesson called,
 'Life of Christ' ... it really made me stronger in Jesus."
 NOTE: We now have Bible studies right on our
 Tribal Trails website.
- "Whenever I can't get to church (which has been often this year) I watch your show on TV. I love the talks you give."
- "I really enjoyed Bill Jackson's teaching on 'Judging and Forgiveness.' It certainly put my questions in that regard to rest ... This is teaching I can understand."
- "Receiving the DVD (testimony of the Bekkatlas) you sent has lifted my spirit. Thank you again for sending it."
- "I called your spiritual help-line and talked to [your worker] about my alcohol addiction and how I was unable to keep the Lord in my daily life. She was wonderful to talk to. She helped me that day. The mail package came shortly after ... such great material ... it's like a true message from God."

Praise & Prayer

- Each week viewers phone in to our Spiritual Help-line. We appreciate our team of prayer supporters who take these concerns to the Lord. (Ask us how you can join this prayer team.)
- Pray for our staff doing program-planning putting recorded testimonies into finished half-hour programs. Pray for wisdom and concentrated energy for this task.
- We want to reach viewers of all ages. Praise God for younger
 First Nations people who share their testimonies and songs.
- Pray for new staff to join us to expand the internet ministry (YouTube, Facebook and Twitter).
- The most important thing we can do is prayer. Pray for God to bring First Nations people to salvation, and also help to build and strengthen the Native Church in Canada.
- Pray that First Nations Christ followers will be unified, upholding the authority of Scripture. Pray for discernment for TT staff in addressing controversial issues.

This summer our schedule again includes previously broadcast programs. Meet these guests ...

AGAIN OR FOR THE FIRST TIME

No Longer in Control

Liz Genaille gave her life to Christ first, and Bert later. It wasn't till people saw the change in his life that Bert publicly gave Christ the credit.





But the Lord

Rosanne Swaine had everything she wanted, but still felt empty. When God allowed her world to fall apart, she got serious with God. He put her life back together with purpose.

NEFC Conference

A collection of songs and testimonies from believers gathered at The Pas, MB. A Native Evangelical Fellowship (NEFC) annual event.





Out of the Bondage of Addictions

Martin & Sue Bear realized that, in order to help others, they needed to deal with their own wounds. Soon after they started an outreach Bible study.

Genuine Faith

Todd Dowty tried to control his own life and didn't think about God. Visiting with host Conrad Flett, Todd shares how drug abuse almost killed him. Then God provided a miracle!





Life Or Death

Robyn Keepness was taught about God by her mother, but when her mother died she rebelled. During a detox program, she finally surrendered to Christ.

MISSED A PROGRAM?

To access a large selection of past programs, use our new "search box" on TribalTrails.org



WAYS TO DONATE ... phone 306-764-3388 for details











<u>tribal trails is made possible by the gifts of interested people.</u>

TV BROADCAST S	COSTS		
Nationally	. Vision TV	Mon.–Fri. 1:00 pm & Mon. 2:30 am ET	\$400/day
Maritimes	. CTV Atlantic	Sun. 10:30 am AT	577/week
Thunder Bay, ON	. Global Thunder Bay (CHFD)	Sun. 9:00 am ET	360/week
Burlington, ON	. Yes TV Ontario	Sun. 12:00 pm ET	1050/week
Winnipeg, MB	. Global Winnipeg (CKND)	Sun. 9:00 am CT	1195/week
Winnipeg, MB	. FaithTV 11 (CIIT)	Sun. 1:00 pm & Sat. 9:00 am & 3:30 pm	400/week
		& Mon.–Fri. 2:00 pm CT	200/day
Saskatchewan	. CTV Saskatchewan	Sun. 11:30 am CST	1921/week
Lloydminster, SK	. CITL	Sun. 9:00 am MT	220/week
Medicine Hat, AB	. CHAT-TV	Sun. 8:00 am & 11:00 am MT	154/week
Lethbridge, AB	. Miracle Channel CJIL	Sat. 2:30 pm & 11:00 pm MT	300/week
Edmonton, AB	. Yes TV Edmonton Sun.	12:30 pm & Tues. 6:00 am & Thurs. 10:30 am MT	165/week
Calgary, AB	. Yes TV Calgary Sun.	12:30 pm & Tues. 6:00 am & Thurs. 10:30 am MT	165/week
Terrace, BC	. CFTK	Sun. 4:00 pm PT	135/week
Vancouver, BC	. JoyTV 10 (CHNU)	Sun. 6:00 am & 4:00 pm & 11:00 pm	412/week
		& Mon.—Fri. 11:00 pm PT	200/day
Prince George, BC	. CKPG	Sun. 6:00 am & 10:30 am PT	167/week
Kamloops, BC	. CFJC-TV	Sun. 6:00 am & 10:30 am PT	167/week
Dawson Creek, BC	. CJDC	Sun. 9:00 am PT	130/week
USA: North Pole, AK	. KJNP	Sat. 8:30 pm AKDT	:

COMMUNITY CABLE STATIONS

Check your local TV listing for air time: British Columbia Prince Rupert (CityWest Community Cable 10) Sun. 11:00 am & 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Saskatchewan	. Kegina, North Battleford, Meadow L	ake, Yorkton (see myaccess.ca for more information)) :
			Special
RADIO STATIONS	& NETWORKS		thanks to
CVTD The Wolf	(Fradaristan ND) OF 7 FM	Cup. 11:00 am	stations

CKTP The Wolf (Fredericton, NB) 95.7 FM Sun. 11:00 am who air us The Rock Radio(Yorkton, SK) 98.5 FM Sun. 4:00 pm & Mon. 11:00 pm at no cost CIOT Lighthouse(Nipawin, SK) 104.1 FM Thurs. & Sat. 7:00 pm CFNK Minahik Achimowin Radio. .(Pinehouse Lake, SK) Muskwachees Radio (Hobbema, AB) 89.1 FM Schedule varies CIAJ-FM Aboriginal Christian Voice Network......(Prince Rupert, BC) 100.7 FM... Sun. 9:00 pm PST For info and complete station list visit **ciamradio.com**

For info and complete station list visit **mbcradio.com** For info and complete station list visit **cfweradio.ca**

INTERNET

Watch us on the internet anytime at TribalTrails.org To view online from a large selection of past Tribal Trails programs, go to: TribalTrails.net/video







Tribal Trails News & Views is the newsletter of NCEM-TV, a department of Northern Canada Evangelical Mission (NCEM), issued two or three times a year. Subscriptions are free (donations towards costs are appreciated).

Since the early 1980s NCEM's television ministry has reached across racial, religious, and geographical barriers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your involvement through prayer, financial giving, and other personal contribution can make a difference in the lives of Native North American people who Christ loves and for whom He gave His life.

<u>Addresses</u>: All correspondence (other than US financial or US address changes) should be sent to: Tribal Trails / NCEM-TV

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In Canada please make all cheques payable to: NCEM-TV or Tribal Trails. In the US please make all checks payable to Tribal Trails and send to: PO Box 50806, Billings, MT 59105-0806

Designated Giving Policy: Spending of funds is confined to NCEM Board/Officers approved programs and projects. Each contribution designated towards a Board/Officers approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or the Board/Officers have determined it cannot be completed, the remaining contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.

A financial statement is available upon request. Pre-authorized and online giving is now available. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

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