Story Telling & Nature



PARRY STELTER

"Spiritual lessons in life that come from nature are immensely powerful because nature is all around us and they point us to Jesus."

HEN I WAS FIRST SOBERING UP after being a binge drinker twenty years ago, I went to a support group for people with drinking problems. I had my home group that I went to, and I also went to other meetings. There I spent most of my time just listening to others and also taking my turn to speak about what was going on in my life. It's great when you can find people who understand you. One time I heard a man say something humorous to another man who had spoken that day. In short, he said, "I appreciate what you are doing in your life, but half the time I can't understand your parables." Everyone then had a little laugh.

As an Indigenous person who loves the teachings of Jesus, I have often seen similarities between the way Jesus taught and the way many Indigenous people think. The way many of my ancestors used to teach life lessons shows our connections to each other and our connections to nature. That's why many of the stories mentioned eagles or bears or plants or herbs.

In Matthew 13 & 14 Jesus taught in parables to the crowds and to His disciples. He used many aspects in nature to get His point across. Then He explained what the parable meant. Jesus also said that, even though He spoke in parables and explained them, unfortunately many would still not understand or respond to the Gospel message and apply it to their lives.

I have a pastor friend who is also Indigenous, and sometimes I would indirectly ask his advice through explaining a situation I was thinking about. Then, instead of him directly telling me what to do or give some options to think about, he would tell me a story. Then I had to think about his story and wonder what I was supposed to get out of it. Just because I'm Indigenous doesn't mean

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I'm great at interpreting the meaning of someone's stories! Was there some hidden meaning? What did he mean by that? Was he referring to me? So, understanding meanings behind stories isn't always easy, whether it's reading the parables of Jesus, or listening to Indigenous story telling.



Parry & Angeline Stelter with their daughters.

The point I'm trying to get at is that when I look at how Jesus taught people spiritual life lessons, it's vital to see the hidden meaning. The Bible says that those with ears to hear and eyes to see should pay attention. Matthew referred to what Isaiah said when he referred to the fact that God called him to speak truth, but the people wouldn't listen. God wanted him to warn the people, but they wouldn't pay attention and respond with belief and action. What a calling that was!

Jesus also said many times to His disciples that they were slow learners, and He wondered when they would have true faith. So, as believers, we need to pay attention to the stories and parables that Jesus taught us in His Word. If you understand what Jesus said, then be wise and do that thing.

My fellow Indigenous people love to tell stories, and they love to talk about the interconnectedness of everyone to each other and to nature. Jesus' parables were meant to show us how living in the kingdom of God is meant to be. He, too, used stories from nature, including stories about weeds, wheat, yeast, and mustard seeds.

Jesus' parables may not always be easy to understand, but with the resources we have such as commentaries and online resources, our job of understanding is made easier. Bible scholars have taken the time to help us understand these stories. Spiritual lessons in life that come from nature are immensely powerful because nature is all around us and they point us to Jesus.

I encourage you to read these stories from the Bible and, when you do understand them, share that truth with others and apply it to your own life. That's when the Bible and these life lessons truly come alive in your life. If you are saying, "I don't understand this parable," then ask for help and don't allow yourself to be a person who doesn't understand. Be a person who wants to understand spiritual stories, and then pass those lessons on to others because that's how the kingdom of God is built. One story at a time.

Parry Stelter has been our guest on Tribal Trails. He is originally from Alexander First Nation, and he and his wife, Angeline, live in the Edmonton, Alberta, area. Parry serves in Bible teaching and writing through Word of Hope Ministries (www.wordofhopeministries.ca).

VIEW FROM THE STUDIO

Brent Wahlstrom, NCEM-TV Administrator

ur studio has been going through a transition. We call it "Out with the 1990s." Out with the dusty rose. The Tribal Trails studio recently got a make over. Keep your eyes peeled for when the new paint job makes its appearance in the upcoming season of Tribal Trails programs!

There are many new things happening at Tribal Trails: new guests, new stories of how God worked in lives, new methods of dealing with ministry in a restricted environment, new equipment, new staff, new volunteers. But many of the deep needs are not new. Let me share part of host Rita Anderson's burden with you.

"My people have more than enough to worry about besides COVID-19. They still need fresh clean water in some villages. Suicide is widespread in every community and has hit our young people the hardest. Alcohol and drugs are widespread in our communities and running rampant. My people need many things, but most of all, they need the Lord."

Thank you for joining together with us in reaching out to a country in need.





FROM OUR VIEWERS

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'"

REVELATION 5:9 ESV

- "I HAD A FRIEND WHO HAD CANCER and she said Tribal Trails
 was watched every day and gave her strength and hope to go
 on and be an encouragement to her children as they cared for
 her in her last days of pain." Rosanne
- "VERY PROFESSIONAL. You reach hurt people. God bless you!"
 Volker from Germany after watching one of our shorts on YouTube.
- "I HAVE BEEN WATCHING TRIBAL TRAILS for a few years now and I am blessed by the testimonies of guests who come on your show. The testimonies are genuine and uplifting and the music is excellent. I came to Canada from India many years ago. I was born a Hindu and was baptized in 2012. I have been a follower of Jesus ever since." Hansa
- "I AM NOT INDIGENOUS, but first happened across your show on TV while living in Winnipeg back in the 1980s. I appreciated your perspective and gentle but clear way, but didn't think it was for me. Again in the 90s I watched a few times, and you were still you. It was a long time before I became a Christian—not until 16 years later at the age of 40—but you and the Tribal Trails program, along with many others, helped me to finally come around. Well here I am ... unable to go to (church) on Sundays, so for some reason I thought to see if the program was still running, perhaps on the internet. Well there you were, or rather are, and I listened to both Huron Claus and Kevin Moore. And of course you were still there, guiding people to reconciliation with Christ's peace in your heart. Thank you for the past, and thank you for now." Mark
- "The Boys (correctional centre) wanted me to write you a letter of appreciation as it is a big part of our week in a place where we don't have much to look forward to. I was wondering if you could write back. We have a young lad here who is FASD and I keep telling him Tribal Trails cares about us. He has no contact with his family and has a tough time. In here he likes to sing with the artists on your program and a letter would mean a lot to him as well as the rest of us. Also some reading material about Christ if possible. Thank you so much for what you do. Don't stop and we will be here watching weekly." Wesley •

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

HOMIN OR FOR THE FIRST TIME

Worth Dying For

Terri Ward served at a Bible camp as program director. It was at camp she first learned about Jesus and since then her summers at camp have continued to be very important to her.





Jesus: The Overcomer

Trevor & Sherry Flett didn't follow Christ until after the birth of their third child, but the Lord is helping them grow in faith and they have seen how God changes families.

The Changed Life

David Kanakakeesic pursued education in social work & pastoral care. Returning to his home community, he tells how he depended on the Lord to serve & reach out to others.





God's Matchmaking

Brad & Selena Smith share how Christ impacted their lives, helping them overcome some of the obstacles they were facing, and bringing them together as a couple.

I'm Forgiven

Ron Desjardin knew that if he didn't change his lifestyle, his life would soon end. He describes his path to the forgiveness he graciously received from God and also his wife.





God Brings Healing To My Life

Hilda Wemigwans tells how she grew up in a dysfunctional family, and her struggles continued into adult life. In her search for meaning she finally gave in to Jesus Christ.

MISSED A PROGRAM?

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



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TV BROADCAST	T STATIONS		AIR-TIME COSTS
Nationally	Vision TV	MonFri. 1:00 pm & Mon. 2:30 am ET	\$406/day
Maritimes	CTV Atlantic	Sun. 10:30 am AT	595/week
Thunder Bay, ON	Global Thunder Bay CHFD	Sun. 9:00 am ET	368/week
		Sun. 12:00 pm ET	
Winnipeg, MB	Global Winnipeg CKND	Sun. 9:00 am CT	1231/week
Winnipeg, MB	FaithTV 11 CIIT	Sun. 1:00 pm & 11:30 pm & Sat. 3:30 pm	406/week
		& Mon.—Fri. 2:00 pm CT	203/day
Saskatchewan	CTV Saskatchewan	Sun. 11:30 am CST	1979/week
		Sun. 9:00 am MT	
Medicine Hat, AB	CHAT-TV	Sun. 8:00 am & 11:00 am MT	154/week
Lethbridge, AB	Miracle Channel CJIL	Sat. 2:30 pm & Tues. 6:00 am	300/week
		& Mon.—Fri. 10:30 pm MT	275/day
Edmonton, AB	Yes TV Edmonton	Sun. 12:30 pm & Tues. 6:00 am MT	165/week
Calgary, AB	Yes TV Calgary	Sun. 12:30 pm & Tues. 6:00 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	418/week
		& Mon.—Fri. 11:00 pm PT	203/day
Prince George, BC	CKPG	Sun. 6:00 am & 10:30 am PT	167/week
		Sun. 6:00 am & 10:30 am PT	
Dawson Creek, BC	CJDC	Sun. 9:00 am PT	130/week

COMMUNITY CABLE STATIONS

Check your local TV listing for air time:

British Columbia	Terrace, Kitimat & Prince Rupert (CityWest Community Television) Sun. 3:00 pm
Saskatchewan	Regina, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Yorkton (Access7) Sun. 8:00 am
	Prince Albert (Shaw Spotlight) Tues. 6:30 pm & Sun. 4:00 pm & 10:30 pm

RADIO STATIONS & NETWORKS

CKTP The Wolf	thanks to stations who air us at no cost.
Voice Network	mq 0
For info and complete station list visit ciamradio.com CHON-FM(Yukon) 98.1 & 90.5 FM	
For info and complete station list visit chonfm.com MBC—Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (SK)	: \$175/week
For info and complete station list visit mbcradio.com CFWE	
CJWE	90/ Week

INTERNET

Watch us on the internet anytime at **TribalTrails.org**







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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 contributions can make a difference in the lives of First Nations 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: 9169 W. State Street, Suite 500, Boise ID 83714

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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