

Real People. Real Life. Real Hope!

TRIBAL TRAILS

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News & Views

www.TribalTrails.org

A department of
NORTHERN CANADA EVANGELICAL MISSION



LIFE STORIES TO WATCH ... & *READ!*

IN THIS ISSUE we're telling you about something that we'd love to send you. It's a new 80-page booklet that includes the life stories of 14 First Nations Tribal Trails guests who have shared on our TV program.

Why are we retelling their testimonies in a booklet? We think that some people prefer reading – it is simpler, with no electronic device needed. But more than that, we believe these are life stories that are worth sharing with others. The booklet can serve as a great gift. After you have read the amazing things the Lord has done in these lives, you can pass the booklet on to someone else so that they, too, can be encouraged!

In this newsletter we only have room for short excerpts from 6 of the 14 guests included in the booklet. Each excerpt shows the difference Jesus has made in their lives – and there's much more to their stories that you will want to read when you receive the booklet!



I TOOK A LOOK AT MYSELF

by Jeff Caouette

Growing up in a large family, there's a lot of fun, but I also witnessed some sad and painful things ... About the time I became a teenager I felt like

I was left alone a lot to raise myself. I began making bad choices.

Nobody really noticed what was going on with me. In terms of food and shelter I was fine, but I certainly didn't have the close attention of a father, or even my mom at times.

About the time I turned 30, I took a serious look at what I had become. I was pawning my possessions, even though I was making money. I was a crack addict and a thief. I had tried to stop, but I felt hopeless.

My brother had given his life to Christ and he gave me a Bible for my birthday. There was a spark of desire inside me

for something more than the life I was living ... I began to attend the same church that my mom had connections with. It was a Native church and I felt accepted. I knew there were people there who had gone through similar experiences as me.

The second week I was there I prayed with the pastor and gave my life to the Lord. The pastor, who became a good friend, gave me a Bible and wrote a verse in it that I will never forget ... John 10:10: "The thief comes to steal and destroy and kill but I come that you may have life and have it abundantly."●



SOMETHING BIGGER GOING ON

by Jordan Fosseneuve

My mom raised me and my two sisters to believe in God and in the Bible ... but I didn't have a lot of positive influence from

my peers. My friends were not Christians, and there was no church youth group to go to, and it was hard to be alone. So I got in with the wrong crowd, and did what they did to be accepted.

One summer I was up to no good with my friends and my mom said, "You're going to Bible camp." I told her, "No, I'm not!" She said, "Yes, you are." I was sure that I wouldn't like it. Off I went to Bible camp ... and it was great! I met really good people ... It was great because I met a lot of people who were very similar to me, from First Nation communities like mine.

At Bible camp I felt free to be myself, but also to wrestle with questions about God. It opened my eyes to see that there was something bigger going on ... Is God real? And if He is, what does that mean for my life? At Bible camp those things slowly started to make sense to me.

However, the biggest thing that won me over to Christ was simply the love of God that was expressed ... It wasn't so much the words, but the acts of love. The people at camp taught me that I'm loved by God, and they modelled it by the way they lived ... I wanted to follow Him.●

CHOOSING TO BELIEVE

by Verla Chatsis

Growing up I had a surface knowledge about Jesus, but I didn't know Him personally. My life certainly wasn't surrendered to God. Like many university students, I was going to parties and bars and smoking weed, but this only made me feel more hopeless. But God was at work even then. I started to read a little New Testament ... I felt something drawing me in.

However, I wasn't ready to give in to God because I knew I would have to give up the way I was living. Then one night at home ... I felt an evil presence ... I knew that I needed to pray ... The evil presence left, but I was still really scared.

[My aunt] told me how she had become a born again Christian. I knew then that Jesus was the answer, that He would help me! ... I was just begging Jesus to come into my life!

[Maybe] I thought ... that if God really loves us, then nothing bad would ever happen – because that's not how the next years of my life unfolded ... I got the news that it was cancer. I had surgery ... then two months later, more surgery.

"The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away," I had said. I came to understand these words (from Job) in the following years. That was the beginning of a deeper walk with God.

The most difficult time came a couple years later. In 2002, they found another tumor ... I [thought] "What did I do to



deserve this?" It revealed my ... wrong thinking. I was taken back to the Scriptures where Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble, but "Take heart, for I have overcome the world."

Even though my circumstances may be bad, God is good. When we become angry and allow bitterness to come in, we cut ourselves off from feeling God's love. It wasn't until I repented of my bitterness and surrendered everything again to the Lord that I was able to sense His love again – but His love had been there all the time.●

WHERE WAS GOD?

by Venus Cote

I blamed God for everything, even though I didn't know who He was. I blamed Him for all the turmoil in my life. I thought that ... it was God's fault that I didn't have a mother. I grew up very angry, but we never talked about our hurts ... When my family drank, a lot of anger came out.

At an early age I learned how to drink, and the liquor helped me to forget ... A part of me didn't want to live anymore.

[Years later] one morning I woke up in my hospital bed, laying there thinking about my

First Nations Tribes Share Their Life

We're happy to send you complete 80-page booklet "Real People"

In it you'll read the life stories of the six whose excerpts we've in our newsletter, plus eight more.

It's an encouraging booklet you can share with others! You can also request extra copies from your church library.

Call or write us at: 306-764-3333



Tribal Trails TV Guests Stories

complimentary copies of our new
Real Life. Real Hope!"

of 14 Tribal Trails guests --
included in this *News & Views*

you can read, then share with someone
copies to give to friends, or place in your

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life. I was 24 years old and had nothing to show for it. My life flashed before my eyes. God brought to my memory every person who shared about Jesus with me.

I thought, "Okay, God, if what people say about you is true ... I give you everything I have." That day I knew that things had changed! My family came to see me and I told them that I was done drinking. That was January 10, 1985, and I've never had a drink since.

By then we had missionaries on the Reserve ... They talked about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins ... I confessed to God that I was a sinner, and received God's forgiveness. I started reading my little Good News Bible, and the first verse I memorized was John 3:16 ... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." That verse was new to me and I realized for the first time that I had eternal life!●



ABANDONED, THEN ACCEPTED

by *Selena Smith*

A lot of my story has to do with the struggles that I faced as a young girl growing up in abandonment and addiction in

my family ... I was bounced from one home to another until age nine. Then [for awhile] my brother and I lived with my grandmother in a Métis settlement ... then I moved to a group home. I was supposed to get some counselling and help there, but I ended up hooking up with some bad kids.

People who I'd met through my mom offered a place for me to sleep ... I got pregnant three times by the time I was 18. I was told to go have abortions, and I didn't feel like I had a choice. On so many levels I already felt hopeless and

broken ... Soon I was walking the streets of Edmonton ... It was my first experience with prostitution.

I got shipped to [jail] ... One night ... I was having bad chest pain. I noticed the other girl in my cell was reading her Bible ... I muttered under my breath, "If there is a God, take away this pain." And He did! His presence was very real. I asked the church group to tell me more about God ... but (after my release) I allowed my addictions to take over ... (eventually) I said, "Lord, I need You."

God has done so much for me. I graduated from Teen Challenge in January 2017, and [then served] in leadership training. I've made mistakes in my life, but I know that God sees me ... as spotless and blameless and pure. He sees me as His daughter ... He is quick to save when you call on His name.●



I DIDN'T RUN AWAY

by *Josh Dueck*

I grew up ... mostly in adoptive care, and some foster care. Where I grew up there were no other Indigenous people, except for other kids who were in adoptive or foster care ... In reality I found

it hard to feel like I belonged anywhere. A big influence, however, was going to Bible camp in the summer. It didn't matter that I was Native or not ... I just really felt that they loved me and they accepted me.

A friend invited me to his church youth group. I saw the same acceptance that I had felt at Bible camp ... It was the highlight of my week – a couple hours to be with people where I didn't have to feel like an outsider, or feel worth less than others. It was a little after that time that I made a commitment to follow Jesus.

Today (my wife, Helyn, and I) are thankful that our kids won't have to experience the things that we experienced. We can stop that cycle ... of trauma and pain. Sadly, I think of friends and family who have just accepted that this is how it's always going to be. They think they can never have a good family because of the situation they were born into. It's so heartbreaking to hear that because, actually, we all do have that choice to change things.●

With the Lord

We were saddened to hear of Jean Hiscox's passing on November 21, at age 90.

In last spring's 40th Anniversary issue of *News & Views* we shared how Derrick & Jean pioneered our Tribal Trails TV ministry in the late 1970s, then faithfully served in program production for several decades.

Jean is survived by Derrick, their three children and their families.



INTRODUCING...

This ministry is made possible by your gifts, and the efforts of our Tribal Trails missionary workers.

Here are a few you may have not yet met ...



Corrie Hill joined our Tribal Trails staff in 2021 to serve as a creative coordinator. She grew up in The Singing Hills family and has a strong desire to reach her own First Nations people through media.

Kari Parlane also grew up a member of The Singing Hills. She and her husband, Rob (an associate NCEM member), also recently joined us to help share the Gospel through Tribal Trails TV and media outlets.



Linsey Yanke has been serving with us part-time this past year as an intern. She is part of our team launching "Generation Hope" ... a new media outreach to younger First Nations viewers.

Bernadette James, who joined us in 2017, coordinates prayer requests for our prayer team and duplicates Tribal Trails DVDs. Her husband, Kirby, pastors a First Nations church in Prince Albert, SK, where they reside with their teenage son, Kobe.



Each of our Tribal Trails staff members are responsible for building their team of financial supporters.

If you are interested in supporting one or more of these four -- and other members of our team currently in need of additional financial support -- please contact NCEM or Tribal Trails.

WAYS TO DONATE ...

Check our website or phone 306-764-3388 for details.



Tribal Trails is made possible by the gifts of interested people.

MORE WAYS to tune into TRIBAL TRAILS

We began as a **Television** outreach ... through local TV station broadcasting, then on cable and satellite stations.

Radio followed ... and we continue presenting Tribal Trails on local radio and networks in several provinces.

Then came **Internet** ... allowing viewers to access our latest programs anytime day or night on www.TribalTrails.org ... and also watch a large selection of our past programs.

On your computer or phone you can also access Tribal Trails video updates and programs on **Facebook**, **YouTube**, **Twitter** and now...

PODCASTS

These are half-hour audio presentations that can be downloaded to your computer or phone so you can listen to them when it suits you -- convenient to have playing while you relax or work around the house ... or connect to your car's sound system while you drive.

Go to the website where you normally access podcasts and --if you are new to using podcasts-- please contact us and we will gladly explain how you can connect to this new great way of hearing **Real People. Real Life. Real Hope!**



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 contributions can make a difference in the lives of First Nations people who Christ loves and for whom He gave His life.

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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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