

Mission Report

Lodge Grass, Montana



Earlier this year some friends of ours suggested we contact Ronnie and Marcella Morris of the King's Kids of Denver (KKD/KKC, now of Colorado). KKC is an organization that organizes Go-Camps and short-term outreach activities for youth. These activities are used to develop the ministry gifts each person has so they can be more effective in their walk with God and expression of the Gospel. Each year they sponsor trips to the Crow Reservation, where they spent over a year and were adopted into the community. This year we were invited to be a part of a Vacation Bible School (VBS) being held at a local Church.



We had a great time with a group of children varying in age from 4 to 12 making flutes. We were also honored to have three ladies from the church sit-in and participate. The theme of the week dealt with the Kingdom so Theresa and I were able to complement the theme with some references to Psalm 150 (Let all that has breath praise the Lord). The kids and ladies seemed very engaged. We heard later that one girl took the time to accent her flute with beads and feathers after the workshop.

But the activities of KKC were not limited to just the VBS. The team was divided into three groups working on several projects. One group ministered to a recently widowed woman near Lodge Grass who needed help getting ready for a memorial service for her husband. The other group was assigned to a foster home in the town of Lodge Grass. The team was busy with repairs and renovations on the house which is home to as many as 13 children at a time. This home was our home for several days and we got to know some of the children raised there.

One "child", Rae-Dawn Ten Bear, now 24, has the responsibility of Town Clerk in the Lodge Grass water department. But she has also traveled the world, being trained in Alaska and even visited Israel. She came to know Richard Twiss of Wiconi International and considers him a significant influence on her life amongst others. She is part of a new generation of young Native people who will carry-on the vision of Richard, maybe not directly, but through her own personal journey. She has a fire in her belly for what she believes and the drive to spread that fire to her peers not only in Lodge Grass but to other Native Communities.

It is a blessing to see kids of all ages engaged in the making of these simple musical instruments. When we visited Manderson, SD on our way home we were greeted by some kids at the school hoping we were there for a workshop. But while a fun activity, the act of making things with the hands is therapeutic as well as the actual playing of the flute. The connection to cultural values and history also reinforces the child's personal identity. This personal identity is crucial to the value that God desires diversity in His Children and that he has a special purpose for us all. We cannot thank the supporters of this ministry enough for giving us the honor to reach-out to this next generation in this way.

