
Happy 2015 from the Kees

Tuba City/Navajo Nation Update

January 2015; Newsletter 3



Happy New Year from our family to yours! It's hard to believe next month marks one year since we arrived to work on the Navajo reservation in Tuba City, Arizona! As we reflect on 2014 and the work here, it gives us great joy to see the challenges God has pulled us through, with the gracious help of all who have supported this work. The fall and winter months provide the perfect time for us to meet many of the locals through our wood hauling ministry. We spend this time getting to know the folks that come through our gates. Many need bills paid, many want free wood, others need cash for various things. We do our best to help them earn some of those funds, and in turn, we get an opportunity to know them better. Because of it, many have been led into our church.

Wood Ministry

The Tallman Family

The wood hauling ministry continues to be a great outreach by allowing us to connect with the locals. The Tallman family's story is one example of how this ministry has effectively helped the community. After experiencing an electrical fire which devastated their home, most of their financial resources went towards refixing the house. We were able to help them out by providing wood to heat their home, as about 85% of local homes are still heated with wood burning stoves. This incident forced the Tallman family, a grandmother and her six children, to move into a 22-foot trailer with almost no insulation. With temperatures getting well below freezing, this family was in dire need of heat, providing us a wonderful opportunity to serve and minister to them. The family has started attending our church.

Unfortunately, we have exhausted our wood for the year, and we are making plans to haul twice as much wood next year. With the weather being as cold as it is and with several more months of cold weather, we have a small pile that we use to help the elderly.



Baptisms

We are thrilled to share with you the two baptisms in December!



Patterson Yazzie (mid 40s), our current grounds keeper, was baptized Dec. 20, 2014. Patterson is someone Eric had been ministering to for several months and his commitment to Christ is a huge encouragement to so many! We are excited to see him faithfully attending church and we look forward to continue encouraging him.



Janice Johnson (a grandmother in her 50s) was also baptized on Dec. 20, 2014. Janice has been attending the Tuba City Church of Christ for over 10 years! She witnessed Patterson's baptism and was encouraged to make this important step in her faith through Jesus Christ. She continues to be a great asset to Tuba City Church of Christ! WOW!! God is great!

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving was such a wonderful time for us. An awesome group of young couples (Kellett's, Dillard's, Johnson's, and Wolf's) from the Downtown Church of Christ came and helped us with the planning of a big Thanksgiving dinner and wood hauling for the community. Many Navajo's on the reservation do not acknowledge this holiday, viewing it as a celebration by those who stole their land, so the 100+ turnout was a pleasant surprise. Everyone was very grateful for the food and the fellowship. From this dinner, one local family has begun worshipping with us as well as a gentleman who hitchhikes 20 miles to church every Sunday from nearby Coalmine, AZ. We, along with our church family, feel

spiritually recharged after such great visits from our Christian brothers and sisters that come out to help serve and encourage us.



Christmas Boxes Distribution

With the wonderful help of Whites Ferry Road Church of Christ from West Monroe, LA, we were able to pass out over 75 Christmas shoe boxes full of toiletries to toys, including hand-made hats and Christian-based activities. For many of these local families, the boxes were the only gifts their children would receive. The distribution provided another great opportunity to meet many new people in the community, and seeing the smiling faces of these children and their parents was so rewarding.



Making More Connections

We are overwhelmed at how many new connections we made this year through the Navajo Police Department. We were approached by Sergeant Sombrero, asking if we would be interested in working with individuals on parole needing community service hours. We were hesitant initially, but were assured that these men and women were not a risk for violent behavior. The verse Luke 19:10 came to mind: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost". We were humbled and honored to introduce many of these individuals to Jesus and pray we were able to plant a seed that may lead them to Christ.

Thank you!

We are **so** thankful for your prayers and support. We would not be able to continue this ministry through Tuba City, AZ and the Navajo reservation without your help. We know that God's Kingdom is being expanded through all of us.

God bless you all during this 2015 new year!

Because of Him,
Eric, Tracy, Cayden and Silas Kee

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