

The O'Learys

Serving Indigenous Peoples in North America

An Update on the First Peoples Initiative

Significant progress is being made to advance ministry in the First Peoples Initiative. Ryan has been working with the First Peoples Initiative Director of Administration and facilitation to finalize plans for reaching tribes in remote areas of northern Canada as well as reaching Indigenous people groups in Alaska. The team is in the process of finalizing a plan to reach First Nations people in more rural and urban areas of Canada, and a plan is being worked on for reaching the Native population who live in both urban contexts and on reservations in the United States.

Ryan and the Director of Administration and Facilitation are also building relationships with a number of ministries and exploring or beginning to partner in ministry with some of these organizations. For example, they have met with World Servants. This organization facilitates short-term missions trips and is developing more short-term trips to reservations. Ryan and Dale also met with leaders of Fellowship of Christian athletes as we are exploring a variety of sport ministries opportunities.

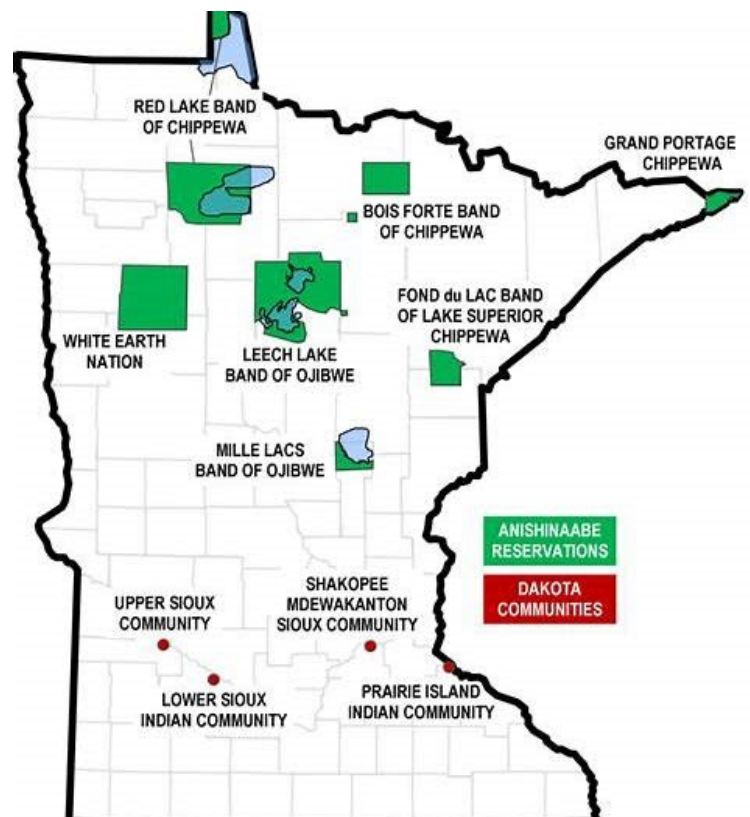
Sharing God's Word on the Yakima Reservation in the state of Washington

We (Ryan and Kristen) along with our 17 year old son Joshua travelled to the Yakima Reservation in the end of July to build relationships with people in this tribe and for Ryan to share God's word. Ryan shared the message in the Sunday morning service and also spoke to the youth on Tuesday evening. It was a wonderful relationship building time with leaders in this ministry as well as with people on this reservation. The pastor encouraged us to make it an annual trip at the end of our time together.

We then drove back to Seattle and connected with leaders and believers in a church that currently supports us in this area. We toured a local tribe nearby the church and had discussions with leaders in this church about Native ministry in the Seattle area as there are a number of tribes in this area. We learned that there are great opportunities for the church to engage more in Native ministry in this area and have been meeting with leaders to discuss outreach options.

Leading a New First Peoples Initiative Consortium Church on a Native Ministry Vision Trip

We (Ryan and Kristen) led a group on a Native ministry vision trip in the month of August. This involved planning the trip and then meeting missional leaders from this church at Vineland Chapel on the Mille Lacs Reservation to discuss how we can partner with this church. We had a great meeting with several leaders in this church. After grabbing a quick bite to eat for lunch, we then drove to Ryan's home tribe, Nett Lake, way up north about an hour from the Canadian border, to meet with the pastor and his wife at this church. More discussion occurred how this Twin Cities area church could partner in Native ministry with this church on Ryan's home rez. Next, we drove to the Lake Vermilion sector of Ryan's home reservation, stayed at the hotel, and then toured this sector of the reservation. The leaders from this church learned that there isn't much ministry occurring on this sector, and we spent some time walking around this sector of the reservation and praying for people in it. We are excited to see how God is going to use this wonderful Twin Cities area church in Native ministry as they move forward in partnering with the First Peoples Initiative. **The map below shows the reservations in Minnesota, including Mille Lacs and Bois Forte.**



Please Pray for...

- Our holistic health as a family. Pray for us as a couple and for our children to continually grow in being healthy and godly people. Our children continue to do well. Joshua is finishing his senior year in high school as a PSEO student at Oak Hills Christian College.
- Pray for our ministry support base to increase as we continue to raise prayer and financial support for our ministry. Being the leader for the First Peoples Initiative, Ryan's ministry time is increasing so is his travel. We need to raise more support. Please prayer about giving toward our support, including our travel budget.
- Pray for Indigenous people in North America to be saved and for the Lord to raise up godly leaders who serve the people.
- Pray for good time management and good quality time/intimacy with the Lord and quality time with our family.



Preaching God's Word in a Variety of Churches

The Lord continues to open doors for Ryan to share God's word in a variety of churches on Sunday mornings. For example, Ryan spoke at a church near Superior Wisconsin on Sunday, August 21st. He shared from Ephesians 2:11-22 and about ministry to First Peoples in North America. Next, he travelled to the very southwest part of Minnesota to speak on Sunday morning, September 11th at a growing church in this area. Lastly, Ryan was asked to speak on Sunday morning, September 25th by our pastor at our home church in Bemidji. It was great to hear the encouraging responses to the messages Ryan shared. For example, there was a young Native lady visiting our home church in Bemidji when Ryan shared. She shared with the pastor of our church how blessed she was to be able to hear Ryan's message as Ryan discussed Native people and Native ministry in his message.



How to give:

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Connecting with other Spiritual Leaders in the State of Minnesota

Ryan was asked by the Director of Transform Minnesota to attend a leadership conference with fifty others leaders from around the state. This conference was in the Lakeville MN area, which is in the southern part of the Twin Cities. Ed Stetzer was the speaker for this one day ministry conference. Ryan was encouraged to meet other leaders in various locations, to hear Dr. Stetzer speak, and to dialogue some with Ed about a key Native ministry issue.

Transform Minnesota brings evangelical leaders and churches together for the purpose of engaging complex issues from a Biblical perspective. This organization believes that together the gospel of Jesus transforms MN. Also, this organization focuses on racial reconciliation in the body of Christ in Minnesota as well. As a tribal member and Christian leader, it is good for Ryan to connect with leaders in this organization.

Leading Others in Prayer

One of the initial activities Ryan is working on as part of the First Peoples Initiative is to establish a prayer movement. We are pleased to share that a prayer coordinator is now in place, and Ryan led the first prayer gathering for the First Peoples Initiative. The focus of this initial prayer meeting involved praying through the Lord's prayer in relationship to Native people and the First Peoples Initiative. Ryan heard that it was a rich time of prayer. We will have regular prayer meetings moving forward, and our new prayer coordinator will soon lead these meetings.