

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Romans 13:11-12a (NKJV)

February 2019

Dear Friends,

Have you ever felt eager about something? I do not mean eager in the sense of anxiety, but more a great anticipation or sense of urgency? Some synonyms for the word eager could be longing, yearning, or aching. On this crisp winter morning, my challenge to you is this; are you eager to share the good news of Jesus with those around you? Or have we, as a body of believers, lost our sense of urgency?

Throughout the scriptures, we witness groups of people being continually admonished for their lack of concern for the lost in the world around them. What our response to the world around us ought to be is perfectly exemplified in Matthew 9:36. As Jesus was traveling it says that, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." My friends, if we know the Good Shepherd, how is it that we could not be moved with the same compassion? How is it that we could so easily allow our hearts to be hardened to the world around us? In this particular story, Jesus goes on to urge his disciples to pray for workers. What is Jesus urging us to do here and now? As we are nearing the end of one decade, and will very soon be moving into a new one, we must pause to reflect. Our desire is to understand, what will it look like in the next decade to continue to have compassion on the lost. There are more Native peoples in the world currently, than there has ever been before. The need for a sense of urgency is greater than ever before. We wait in hopeful expectation of what the Lord will do in the year 2020 and beyond. With that, we ask that you join us in faithful prayer to seek to understand the vision and purpose we will have here at the Kickapoo Friends Center. Just as Jesus urged his disciples, we urge you to join us in praying that the Lord would raise up workers for the Kingdom. The greatest resources we could hope for are undoubtedly people. May we pray together that not only will the Lord speak, but that as His people, we will be obedient to His call. The command is so clear, but our human hearts so quickly complicate our very purpose here in this world. When asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus had a simple reply. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength! The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30) In the next decade, may we return to the simplistic beauty of the gospel. May our prayers be endless, our obedience immediate, and our hearts full of the freedom and joy that comes only from knowing Jesus personally. May we have a sense of compassion and urgency that His world so desperately craves. For only the Lord can satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. Do not let the sun set on our opportunities.



In Psalm 34:18 we are told that, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." It seems that increasingly, many of the Native youth that we work with fall into the category of the brokenhearted. What I mean by this is that within the past year and a half, it has become ever more evident that that the battle we fight is, "...not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12) Here in McLoud, students have witnessed the death of three classmates in recent months. Two lives were claimed by murder and one by suicide. When working with students, it is incredibly evident that our young people lack an understanding of their identity. They are desperately trying to understand their purpose and we see tragic decisions made when they do not understand that they are children of the most high King. Pray that our youth would come to understand that there is freedom offered to them through Jesus. Pray they are bold and courageous enough to leave the sinful temptations behind them and to walk forth into the light of Jesus.



KICKAPOO FRIENDS CENTER
P.O. Box 570
332118 E. 1070 Rd.
McLoud, OK 74851
Brad & Christine Wood, Directors



Phone: (405)964-2606 Brad's Cell (405)640-4194
Email: brad@kickapoofriendscenter.org
Website: kickapoofriendscenter.org

SHARING THE GOSPEL

In regards to the aforementioned scripture in Matthew, we have often resonated with the part of scripture that talks about how the "harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." (Matt. 9:37) Over the past few months, we have been blessed to hear the witness and testimony of a number of different members in our congregation and community. We have been encouraged to know that the Lord is indeed moving. Rest in the truth that hearts are being restored and lives are being made new. So often in ministry we can grow discouraged when we do not see much fruit being produced. However, in the past year we have witnessed a number of individuals who have made commitments to the Lord and are walking in that truth. Surely, these decisions do not come without struggles and growing pains, but the fruit is indeed present. Praise the Lord for being in the business of restoration! We have been blessed to hear these stories and to rejoice with our congregants.

2018 Work Projects

| Project | Time/Labor Requirements | Projected Costs |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Replace Basketball Court | 3-4 days, 5 people | \$10,500 |
| Repair Doors on Old Church | 1-2 days, 2 people | \$600 |
| New Cabinets and Counter Tops in Community Bldg | 3 days, 4 people | \$3,500 |
| Tree Trimming | 4 days, 5 people | \$750 |
| Replace Posts on one of the Storage Barns | 4 days, 5 people | \$2,000 |
| Build Privacy Fence Behind New Bldg | 2-3 days, 2 people | \$700 |
| Replace Fencing Around New Bldg | 4 days, 4 people | \$2,500 |
| Clean and Refinish Log Church Exterior | 2 days, 4 people | \$600 |
| Treat Playground and Repair | 2 days, 3 people | \$350 |
| Repair and Reside Out Building | 4 days, 4 people | \$3,000 |
| Big Projects | | |
| Out Barn/Storage | | \$25,000 |
| Construction of New House | | \$140,000 |

*Some level of skill will be required on all projects, however there will be many ways that unskilled and untrained workers can assist or be directed by a skilled leader.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 10-14, Quivering Arrow Camp will be June 24-29. Volunteers are still needed for camp. We will need a camp pastor, cook, recreation leader, teachers, music leaders and especially counselors. If you have ever wanted to be involved in ministering to Native Americans, this is a tremendous opportunity and a fun but serious week!



Brad, Christine, and students riding the trolley in Oklahoma City during a day trip to Bricktown!

Youth and adults continue to meet on Wednesday nights for fellowship, worship, and Bible study!



Summer is a great time of fun, growth, learning, and connection here at The Kickapoo Friends Center!



LIGHTS (Ladies Igniting Hearts to Service) have had a very busy year! Some of the events they have hosted are included but not limited to preparing food at countless occasions, blessing kids with coats, preparing shoe boxes for students in need, sharing in food and fellowship together, and planning for future fundraisers and events. Needless to say, LIGHTS has had their hands full. Pray for our ladies' group as they grow not only in numbers, but together. They are very excited to welcome experienced quilt maker Katherine Wooldridge from Indiana for a quilting seminar this April.

Help on projects is always greatly appreciated! Please contact us if you have any interest in participating in or helping with any of the above projects.



Be sure to check our our newly improved web site at kickapoofriendscenter.org! It is now up to date with new content and a mobile friendly layout. We have also implemented a new and convenient option for online giving. If interested, feel free to visit the donations tab on our web page to donate online!



We rejoice in the fact that the Lord continues to provide opportunities both in ministry and in our personal lives. In addition to farming and church responsibilities, Brad continues to work as the chaplain for the Girls' and Boys' varsity basketball teams in McCloud. Christine continues important work at McCloud High School. She still serves as the Indian Education Coordinator where she functions as an advocate for Native students. She works diligently to see each of her students succeed. Nathan has recently been promoted to his own store working for Walmart in Texas. Joseph has also been working for Walmart as an Assistant Manager here in Oklahoma. We are very proud of both of the boys and how hard they have worked to get where they are today.

We thank the Lord for your continual encouragement, prayers, and support. May the Lord bless you and keep you as He gives each of us clear direction and vision for the year, and even the decade ahead.

Brad & Christine Wood