



Hau kola,

Digital Artwork by Terry Tanner

I am often asked about the many needs of our mission field. Churches call most with offers to bring clothes or food. This is needed and after three years here we have got a working network that is filling that need on a pretty consistent basis. The next most often asked question is, "what do the people need as far as fixing the many problems that come with extreme poverty?" If you spend any time on the computer researching Pine Ridge you will find many NGOs (non-government agencies) throwing money at various problems. Most, however, do not have the stick-to-itiveness to insure that those most in need of genuine help get the help. Nevertheless, the help is small in comparison to the problems. Yet, once a person has been around and seen the devastation that is daily life on the reservation, their questions turn to "why", "what if", and "whose to blame." I suppose that it is normal to ask these questions but in massive devastation such as this, the answers are not likely to come quick if at all. How can you one-dimensionalize the wake of corporate and personal sin that has been hidden and ignored for hundreds of years? Or perhaps a better question is, "can you?" or "should we even try?" Still these are just more questions that find no easy answer. However there is one question that is loaded for an answer, it is the "what now?" question. What can be done for God now that all this has happened for so long? This answer may not come quick or easy but if our minds are right in the asking there *can* be an answer. We must have the mind of Jesus, constantly aligning our thinking to His priorities. I have personally seen an insane amount of money wasted on dead end projects that were ill conceived and more poorly executed, by well meaning yet misguided people in an effort to curtail the destruction that seems to feed on many of our people. I often tell visitors to the reservation that I did not come here to clothe and feed the people, although it is a part of what we do. I came here to pull them into the lifeboat and out of the flames of hell. If we only feed people it would be like throwing candy to children in a burning house instead of screaming for them to flee the flames. Now let me say that, I know when we align our thinking to God's it is a frightening prospect. Conversely, if we keep the status quo we are comfortable. Remember what scared the people in Luke 8:35? It was the previously demon possessed man sitting at the feet of Jesus in his right mind. We want to progress the work God has given us with the "right mind." What we are working on right now is an opportunity to immensely progress the main work we Christians were given. It will give the people a Christ centered place to learn about the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 51) and perhaps to one day be clothed in righteousness (II Cor. 5:21).

I don't believe there is anything quite like what we are building here on this reservation. Many people come and make money off such things by charging those who come to help with short-term mission trips. We don't charge the people to come, campers or workers. This ministry marches on the willingness of God's people to give. We don't draw a paycheck from the camp but roll all funds back into the needs. We have tried diligently to present a ministry worthy of our calling and worthy to

contribute to. Not one dollar gets eaten up in a machine but all goes to the vital work of reaching the lost. We have done this for a long, long time, living on faith and expecting that God will always meet our needs.

As most of you know we hold to the biblical procedure of asking God for our needs and telling His people. Therefore, let me just lay out where we are at in this building project. We are pouring concrete and will soon have the plumbing and floor done. However, this will take about all the money we have raised so far. We have many Christian builders awaiting materials for the next phase, which will entail walls and roof. If we can get that far we can use the building this summer. We need OSB sheathing \$2598.00, various 2x4s, 2x6s, 2x10s to the sum of \$4,607.70. We need trusses and metal for the roof, which will be, at best present figures \$26,473.78. At our best figures this will give us a usable building by summer. Since we have plenty of workers waiting in the wings on materials we need to honor these workers, many who have taken their vacation time to help by having materials here by May 7th. If we don't have enough money to order and have materials here by then we will have to cancel the two-week work detail planned to provide a usable building for this summer. This is the very reason I am getting out the newsletter a week early. Yes, I know this is a huge undertaking but the world needs to see God's people do the impossible. Maybe our friends, children and neighbors need to see us do the impossible with God. Remember, like Nehemiah and his walls, this is about building people, not a building. Well, there it is! We can pray this building up!

We still need to button up the bath and shower house if anyone has some time to come and set toilets and sinks. We have all the materials to finish this up we just need experienced laborers.

Our website is now available although it still needs some tweaking. You would simply type in your search box www.youthevangelismstrategies.org and you will be taken to our Pine Ridge mission field where you can view information on camp, projects, and even make safe online donations.

Lastly, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us through email at mtbrennan@liberty.edu, cell phone at (308) 360-2876, or home phone at (605) 455-2052.

In Him – Mike and Monica Brennan

Praise and Prayer Request...

Continue to pray for all those involved in this ministry.

Please pray for the remaining funds/supplies needed for the building.

Please continue to pray for our families, Brennans, Haddens and Mouws.

Please pray for our finances and support.

Pictured here are Lakota men who are trained in plumbing, electrical, and carpentry by Curtis Hoyt from Hands of Faith Ministry. These photos were taken during the new building's ground breaking!

