

INDIAN LIFE MINISTRIES Signal



As we look to this year, we want to invite you to join us in praying for opportunities to go the second mile for our dear First Nations people. We are beginning our year with a **benefit concert featuring Don Amero and special friends, March 7 at Jubilee Place, 173 Talbot Avenue. Please mark your calendar and contact us to purchase your tickets (\$20 each).**

We mentioned previously that we hoped to go to the Gathering of Nations PowWow in Albuquerque, NM, again this year, but due to the exchange rate, decided this was not being responsible stewards with the money the Lord has provided. In place of that trip, it is our desire to travel to Native gatherings in Canada, whether it be to powwows or networking with other ministries at their events. As winter progresses and spring approaches, we wait upon the Lord for opportunities to join Him where He is working and to be used for His glory.

We want to take a moment to say a heartfelt "Thank You!" to those who generously donated to our ministry over Christmas and New Years! We are extremely blessed and encouraged by your support. However, as an update, as of March 1, 2017, both Carla (our Office Assistant) and Jim (our Editor) will begin working from home so that we can cut back even further on our expenses. Instead of renting three offices, we will only keep one office shared by Sam (our Accountant) and Jo-Anne (our Director). **We need your financial support to continue the work.** Perhaps you would consider sharing this newsletter with your church family or a few friends on our behalf to help us find others with a heart for Native North Americans who might become new supporters for our ministry? That would be a tremendous blessing! Thank you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you in 2017!

I want to partner with you in bringing hope, healing and honor to Native North Americans

In Canada: PO Box 3765 Redwood Post Office, Winnipeg MB R2W 3R6
In U.S.: PO Box 32, Pembina ND 58271 Tel: 1-800-665-9275



I've checked off the project/s I wish to sponsor:

- General Fund Travel Fund \$
- Tychicus project (\$ 52.40/per institution) \$
- Free Literature Distribution \$
- Prison Ministry \$
- Total Enclosed** \$

Name: I would like to pay with or by:
 Visa MasterCard Check
Address:
City, Prov/State, Postal/Zip: Card# ExpDate...../.....
Phone: Signature



Service for Fork-in-the-Road Days

*Adapted from Service for Fork-in-the-Road Days
Excerpted from Every Day Deserves a Chance by Max Lucado.) All rights reserved.*

Bestselling author Max Lucado relates the story of Dan Mazur, a mountain climber who considered himself lucky. Lucado writes that most other people would have considered Dan crazy. He stood within a two-hour hike of the summit of Mount Everest, a thousand feet from realizing a lifelong dream.

Every year the fittest adventurers on earth set their sights on the twenty-nine-thousand-foot peak. Every year some die in the effort. The top of Everest isn't known for its hospitality. Climbers call the realm above twenty-six thousand feet "the death zone."

Temperatures hover below zero. Sudden blizzards stir blinding snow. The atmosphere is oxygen starved. Corpses dot the mountaintop. A British climber had died ten days prior to Mazur's attempt. Forty climbers who could have helped chose not to do so. They passed him on the way to the summit.

Still, Mazur felt lucky. He and two colleagues were within eyesight of the top. Years of planning. Six weeks of climbing, and now at 7:30 a.m., May 25, 2006, the air was still, morning sun brilliant, energy and hopes high.

According to Lucado, "That's when a flash of color caught Mazur's eye: a bit of yellow fabric on the ridgetop. He first thought it was a tent. He soon saw it was a person, a man precariously perched on an eight-thousand-foot razor-edge rock. His gloves were off, jacket unzipped, hands exposed, chest bare. Oxygen deprivation can swell the brain and stir hallucinations. Mazur knew this man had no idea where he was, so he walked toward him and called out.

Can you tell me your name?"

"Yes," the man answered, sounding pleased. "I can. My name is Lincoln Hall."

Mazur was shocked. He recognized this name. Twelve hours earlier he'd heard the news on the radio:

"Lincoln Hall is dead on the mountain. His team has left his body on the slope."

And yet, after spending the night in twenty-below chill and oxygen-stingy air, Lincoln Hall was still alive. Mazur was face to face with a miracle. He was also face to face with a choice. A rescue attempt had profound risks. The descent was already treacherous, even more so with the dead weight of a dying man. Besides, how long would Hall survive? No one knew. The three climbers might sacrifice their Everest for naught. They had to choose: abandon their dream or abandon Lincoln Hall.

They chose to abandon their dream. The three turned their backs on the peak and inched their way down the mountain.

Their decision to save Hall's life stirs a great question. Would we do the same? Surrender ambition to save someone else? Set aside our dreams to rescue another climber? Turn our backs on our personal mountaintops so someone else might live? We make such fork-in-the-road decisions daily. Not on Everest with adventurers, but in homes with spouses and children, at work with colleagues, in schools with friends, in churches with fellow believers.

We regularly face subtle yet significant decisions, all of which fall under the category of who comes first: do they or do I?

When the parent chooses the best school for the children over a career-advancing transfer.

When the student eats lunch with the neglected kids rather than the cool ones.

When the grown daughter spends her days off with her aging mother at the dementia unit.

When you turn away from personal dreams for the sake of others, you are, in Christ's words, denying yourself.

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16.24 NLT).

Behold the most surprising ingredient of a great day: self-denial. Don't we assume just the opposite? Great days emerge from the soil of self-indulgence, self-expression, and self-celebration. So pamper yourself, indulge yourself, promote yourself. But deny yourself? When was the last time you read this ad copy: "Go ahead. Deny yourself and have the time of your life!"?

Jesus could have written the words. He often goes countercultural, calling us down rather than up, telling us to zig when society says to zag.

"Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matthew 5:41 NKJV)... Jesus set the example for us by telling us to serve others; serve the ones who hate you; forgive the ones who hurt you; take the lowest place, not the highest; seek to serve, not to be served; retaliate, not in kind, but in kindness. He created what we might deem the Society of the Second Mile.

If someone were to ask you to walk with them one mile, go that mile, but don't stop there, continue with them another. Surprise them by saying, I haven't done enough for you. I'm going a second mile!" Do more than demanded or requested. And do so with joy and grace!

Lucado shares, I know a second-mile servant. By profession he is an architect. By passion, a servant. He arrives an hour or so prior to each worship service and makes his rounds through the men's restrooms. He wipes the sinks, cleans the mirrors, checks the toilets, and picks up paper off the floor. No one asked him to do the work; very few people are aware he does the work. He tells no one and requests nothing in return. He belongs to the Society of the Second Mile.

Another second-miler serves in children's ministry. She creates crafts and take-homes for four-year-olds. Completing the craft is not enough, however. She has to give it a second-mile touch. When a class followed the theme "Walking in the Steps of Jesus," she made cookies in the shape of a foot and, in second-mile fashion, painted a toenail on each cookie. Who does that?

Second-milers do. They clean bathrooms, decorate cookies, and build playrooms in their houses. At least Bob and Elsie did. They built an indoor pool, bought a Ping-Pong table and foosball game. They created a kids paradise.

Not unusual, you say? Oh, I forgot to mention their age. They did this in their seventies. They did this because they loved the lonely youth of downtown Miami. Bob didn't swim. Elsie didn't play Ping-Pong. But the kids of immigrant Cubans did. And Bob could be seen each week driving his Cadillac through Little Havana, picking up the teens other people forgot.

Second-milers read Jesus' statement "It's better to give than receive" (Acts 20:35) and nod their heads...The real reward rests at the base of the second-mile post.

When finished your second-mile "task" you realize that having done this, you found whatever strength, energy and drive you needed along the way...And you found joy in going the second-mile.

Daily do a deed for which you cannot be repaid.

Perhaps there is an elderly widow or widower in your church or neighborhood. Take an hour of your time to brighten their day. Maybe there are some kids close by who have no dad. Take them to a ball game or movie or to kick a ball around at the park. Babysit an evening for a single parent to give them some alone time

Lincoln Hall survived the trip down Mount Everest. Thanks to Dan Mazur, he lived to be reunited with his wife and sons in New Zealand. Lincoln's wife was asked what she thought of the rescuers. After several moments of struggling to speak through her emotions, she offered, "Well, there's one amazing human being. And the other men with him. The world needs more people like that."

May we be numbered among them.

This story is a good one to start our new year with as it should make us stop and think and pray about how we are serving our Lord. Do we go the second mile for anyone? Or have we gotten so busy we don't have the time and energy to even go the first mile?

Let us all be encouraged to be a rescuer (Dan Mazur), or a bathroom cleaner (the architect), or a caregiver, or a babysitter. Let us look around us for those that Jesus might be calling us to serve and to go that second mile. If we look, He will show us. And do it all for His glory, not our own!

Some ways that Indian Life strives to "go that second mile" are: responding to all the prisoner letters we receive with a personal letter, book &/or newspaper; striving to give our customers our best service, making an effort to get to know them and encourage or bless them; doing our best to meet special requests for assistance in difficult times (sending Bibles or tracts into communities). As the Lord leads and blesses, we do this that He might be glorified and made known. The following are a few comments from customers/prisoners:

One of our customers spoke of how she has been sharing the books she purchased from us with those around her and the impact they have been having. She said how very much she appreciated our ministry and resources and was praising the Lord for having found us and for what the Lord has given us to do for the First Nations people of North America.

G.B. recently wrote from prison: "I'm writing because I need help to understand a lot more about my Creator and that Indian Life newspaper has good educational reading. I feel comfortable reading the paper and how our people "Native Americans" can help others realize we can move forward and give God our problems and continue in our journey on the right path...I appreciate the good news and positive message through Indian Life Ministries, and I would like to know more about it."

S.G. recently wrote from prison: "Please send me a Bible and any info on becoming a better Christian. I would also like to thank everybody at I.L.M. for sending me the newspaper and "The Conquering Indian Volume 2." I also want to thank Rilla Unger with all the help and question I have in the Lord. I consider myself so blessed in having Indian Life Ministries in my life. I am still looking to learn more, to help further my walk with our Creator."

We are so greatly encouraged to hear how the Lord is using Indian Life resources to minister to people wherever they might be and to have an excellent team of volunteers who respond to all of the letters we receive.



Please mark your calendar and book your tickets to our Concert!



March 7, 2017

**Jubilee Place, 173 Talbot Avenue,
Winnipeg**

In support of Indian Life Ministries

\$20 in advance (\$25 at the door)

Doors open at 6:30 PM;

Concert begins at 7:00 PM