

“His life gave light to everyone. The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.” – John 1:4-5

Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas from the Yakama Reservation! Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement for our ministry with Sacred Road.

2025 has been a year of ups and downs, However, in everything God demonstrates His faithfulness to our family and our team on The Yakama Reservation

Asha is in her second year at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS. She really enjoys the campus and is doing well in her classes. It was a very difficult Fall for her, but by God’s Grace, she is bouncing back and maturing in her faith.

Isaac is in the 11th grade at Zillah High School. He is doing well in school. He continues to enjoy being in the pep and jazz bands - where he recently had two piano solos in the fall concert. He has also surprised all of us by joining the men’s choir at Zillah. He helps out at church by leading one of the young boy small groups on Sundays.

Neena and I continue to work together in the youth ministry and Neena has begun to help lead a girl’s Discipleship Group and serve in our mobile library. I am still serving as Youth Director but also serving the ministry as an administrator.

Our youth group continues to meet weekly with 50-60 kids coming every Tuesday for food, games, worship, and a Bible lesson. Over 30 youth served with us in the summer months working on upkeep on the church facility and serving out in the community. We have 5 Discipleship Groups meeting every Sunday with about 25 kids participating.

Our Native Staff continues to grow and is made up mostly by former youth group kids.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and our family. We continue to be amazed at how God answers the prayers of his people.

Would you please consider a gift to Sacred Road's Youth Ministry? After losing a substantial donor last year, the youth budget is likely to end the year at a large deficit. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to cover the shortfall and set up 2026 to start strong. Please visit our giving page at sacredroadministries.org and click youth or mail your check to Sacred Road Ministries PO Box 400, Harrah, WA, 98933.

The basic 2025 youth budget breaks down as follow:

- Youth Activities: \$10,000
- Meals for Tuesday night meetings and special events: \$13,000
- Gasoline for transportation: \$4,500
- Miscellaneous Discipleship costs: \$3,000

A Youth Group story:

In October, The Yakima Valley YoungLife area hosted their annual fundraiser, "A Taste of Yakima." The fundraiser is a giant dinner where local groups can buy a table and enjoy food from some of Yakima's best restaurants. During the dinner, there are some speakers and entertainment. The best part of it, though, is when a group of the kids involved in YoungLife do a cardboard testimonial. Each youth walks up on stage with a piece of cardboard with their life before knowing Jesus is written on one side and then they flip the cardboard and it describes their life after encountering Jesus.

This year, I took Hopi with me to give his cardboard testimonial. We have taken him to YoungLife camp over the last few years. First of all, I was shocked he was willing to do it. Hopi is a year older than Isaac, so I've known him almost his whole life. He is easily the quietest kid in youth group and pretty shy. He wasn't just willing to do it, he was excited about it even though no one else he knew was doing it. Two of our other youth had to cancel at the last minute.

When his time came, Hopi walked up holding his sign which read: "Always lonely." Then he flipped it over. "Part of a family," the other side read. I had helped Hopi with the sign so I knew what it said. Even so, I was emotional. Hopi's uncle is Toby, who was one of the first kids to be in youth group when we started in 2009. I see Toby every once in a while. His adulthood has been full of struggles with addiction and suicide attempts. In fact, Hopi is the fifth youth from that household to be part of our youth group - the rest of

whom stopped coming to church as they grew older. I believe that God's word does not return void, but I have sometimes been disheartened when some of the kids I know best stop participating in the life of the church. It is a blessing to have my heart gladdened by Hopi's faith. And while I do not know what his future holds, I know he knows the difference Jesus has made in his life and I know that Jesus will never forsake him. I can be genuinely happy when he sends me his senior Homecoming picture - while he is still at the dance, because he knows he matters to me.

We are so thankful for all of you and hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Chuck, Neena, Asha and Isaac

