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# MINISTRIES OF SACRED ROAD

## Hope Fellowship Church Plant

From the very beginning, the goal of this Ministry was to establish a healthy, dynamic church in the town of White Swan. In 2003, many children we met here had never heard of Jesus and even most teenagers and adults had virtually no knowledge of the Bible. The need for a healthy church was evident. We thought it would take at least 12 years to get a church started but, by God's grace, Hope Fellowship had our first Sunday service on Easter 2012. Now over 400 people are actively involved on a regular basis in Sunday worship, Tuesday Night Youth Group, Thursday morning Men's Prayer Breakfast, Women's Ministry, and the Youth Group's Discipleship Groups. We also praise the Lord that approximately 110 people have been baptized in the last 10 years. Our Church family is growing deeper in love for and faith in Jesus.

## Warm Springs Reservation

In 2006, the tribal council of the Warm Springs Nation in central Oregon asked us to send "our people" to their reservation to "share the love and truth and light" that we were bringing to White Swan. The next summer we sent one team to serve. The leaders in Warm Springs asked for "more people and more weeks." In the summer of 2018, we were able to send approximately 150 people for four weeks. As of January 2023, we have a full-time team of Sacred Road Staff working in Warm Springs. Our relationships within the Warm Springs community are growing and the local YoungLife organization has started gathering in the school thanks to the work of our staff there.

## Short-Term Teams

We offer four weeks in Spring and five weeks in Summer for short-term missions. These teams work on homes in the community, work around our Church building, chop and deliver firewood, host Kid's Club in the housing projects, and more. In Summer 2024, 300 people came to Yakama and 130 to Warm Springs on one-week teams from around the country.

## Christmas Ministry

Spring and Summer aren't the only busy times in the life of the ministry. There are many ways to reach out with the Good News of Jesus at Christmas. Sacred Road invites the Body of Christ to participate with us in the following ways: "Adopt-a-family" is a way to minister to a household that has had a particularly difficult year. Toys, coats, clothing, towels, sheets, or cookware are wrapped and boxed to meet many needs of one family. "Shoebbox Christmas Gifts" are collected for children and youth and distributed the week before Christmas. The "Walmart Gift Card" drive enables us to help healthy adults provide Christmas gifts for their own children or grandchildren. Finally, food is collected and approximately 40 food boxes are assembled and distributed, providing a nice Christmas meal for families.

## 412 Program: Young Adults Ministry

Rooted in Ephesians 4:12, the young adults ministry seeks to "equip the saints for ministry" through life-on-life mentorship, education, and vocational training. Through the 412 Program, Sacred Road can hire young, Native leaders to fill full and part-time positions at the Church, develop role models for the children and youth in our Church, and encourage the community, at large, through young adults who are actively serving in the Church, in the community, and in their homes.

## Transportation

Reliable transportation is a major issue for many people living on the Reservation. Most of the people wanting to come to Church and Church activities don't have a way to get there. To meet this need, Sacred Road sends out vans and buses to pick up people of all ages. Sacred Road's "fleet" includes three school buses, one shuttle bus, and 6 vans. Approximately 300 rides are given each a week and, in the summer, approximately 700 rides a week.

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## Youth Ministry

The teenagers in our community call our youth group "The B.Y.C.E." (Best Youth Group Ever). Approximately 200 teens from our community come regularly on Tuesday nights. We have a meal, play games, and have worship and a lesson. One youth recently told us, "Youth Group makes me feel loved." Another wrote, "We are a family." Our youth group gives the kids on the Rez a chance to let their guard down and enjoy "good clean fun."

## Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups, also known as "D-Groups" are for youth who are plugged into the Youth Group, express interest in being in leadership roles within the church, and have a desire to grow a deeper understanding of the gospel. They meet in small group settings once a week with leaders from our church for a meal, fellowship and a chance to ask questions and have Bible studies.

## YoungLife Partnership

We have partnered with YoungLife since 2016. YoungLife gives us an opportunity to go into schools to meet with kids. The meetings and "contact work" that we have at the school have been startlingly fruitful. We are greeted with excitement by kids and staff. During the summer, we are able to take students from our church to YoungLife Camp. This opportunity has led to dozens of students making their first profession of faith.

## Firewood

One of the goals of Sacred Road is to love our 'first neighbors' like family. One of the ways we do that is by providing free firewood to elders who cannot cut and stack their own. During the fall and winter we cut, split, deliver, and stack firewood for elders in our community. In recent years we have been able to provide over 100 large loads of wood to elders. That's over \$20,000 of firewood!

## Food Ministry

Food is foundational to our ministry. Each Sunday service is followed by a meal for our Church family and each of our weekly ministries includes a snack or meal. Food boxes and "Backpack Buddies" play a role in Mercy Ministry. Food boxes are delivered to help a family get through a tough time and opens the door for healthy interaction with adults. "Backpack Buddies" is a program which provides two days worth of food for a child that has no healthy adult to take care of them. The backpacks contain nutritious items that do not need to be cooked and are distributed on an "as needed" basis. They can even be distributed through school counselors on Fridays to provide food for a weekend.

## Children's Ministry

Ninety percent of the children who attend church come without parents. At church, the kids small group leaders serve as "surrogate parents" for the day. Children stay with their small groups for the entire church service. They learn about Jesus together as a family. Over the past year, we've had about 200 different children come to Hope Fellowship on Sunday.

## Kid's Club

During the spring and summer, Sacred Road teams host Kid's Club for over 300 children across both the Warm Springs and Yakama Reservations. Kid's Club is a fun, safe time to play, do crafts, and investigate interesting activities. During snack time, kids watch and act out a Bible story. Most of the children come from broken homes and rarely have the opportunity to play in a safe place. Kid's Club allows Sacred Road to offer a safe place, while being in the community and sharing Jesus in word and deed with children. In 2020, Sacred Road began partnering with tribal members on the Lapwai Reservation, in Idaho, and have now hosted semi-regular Kid's Club events there.

## H.O.P.E. After-School Program

H.O.P.E. After-School focuses on 5th and 6th graders in our church. The program seeks to aid students in overcoming obstacles in their day to day lives and succeeding in their educational endeavors. We aim to build healthy relationships with our students while helping them cultivate a love of learning. Our approach can be divided into two categories: homework help and educational activities. On top of helping students with whatever their assignments might be we also work on science experiments, art projects, or spelling bees. We want to make learning fun and interactive for the students.

