



Hello Friends and Family!

Despite it being deep into December there isn't a lick of snow on the ground here on the Rez. Our December has been marked by rain and strangely warm days. Honestly, it reminds me of my Florida Christmases! Regardless of the weather, the ministry has been full speed with Christmas outreach. Here's some highlights from the past couple months.

HOPE

Since October we have added four new students to the HOPE after-school program. It's been great to have new faces and new energy brought into our meetings. Another new thing we've had this Fall has been a stark increase in students who are competing in sports. On one hand, it's sad to have them miss days with us for practices and games. But on the other hand, it's been so much fun to go cheer them on! This season we've had wrestling and basketball with many of our students already talking about trying softball in the Spring! We ended the year as we always have. With new HOPE hoodies and a visit from Santa. Everybody is looking forward to starting back up in January.

Deliveries

Christmas shoebox deliveries are hands down my favorite part of the season. Getting the opportunity to go door to door and seeing the smiles on each child's face is a joy beyond description. This year while delivering gifts I knocked on the door and talked to the grandmother saying we had gifts for the kids. She gave a shocked and confused, "you do?!" Before going inside to get her grandchildren. When we brought the presents to the kids, they were so enamored that they didn't look at our faces.



It wasn't till one of them ran to drop his present off inside and came back out that he recognized me from Kid's Club. "Wait I know that guy, Grandma! He's from the church!" One of the big wins of doing shoeboxes is getting to see children that don't come to

church throughout the year, like this child. Even though we can't do Kid's club the whole year round we still think about and pray for them. Dropping off gifts is a reminder to the child that they are loved by both the Church and God!

Lapwai

We also pulled off a Christmas Kid's Club in Lapwai. Thirteen of our staff made the long drive to throw together a Kid's club with Christmas themed activities and crafts. We ended the event by giving shoebox gifts to each child there. After spending two weeks in the Summer there, we got a much bigger reception this time around. I knew more of their names, and they remembered everything about Kid's Club. After we finished the story, I asked the kids if they remembered the song from the Summer, "My God is so Big". Almost half the kids charged forward to help me sing it and lead the other students. Even though it had been six months since the last time we were there. They sang it like Summer teams were yesterday. One of the staff at the boys and girls club, where we hold Kid's club, said that the students had been regularly asking about us. The day before we arrived the fourth and fifth graders had been remembering all the fun stuff we did in Summer. The staff member said they had kept it secret that we were coming so they could surprise the kids. It was very sweet.

Thank you to each of you for your financial and prayerful support. I pray each of you have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Blessings,
Trey

