



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NATIVE AMERICAN LINK!

-25 Years of Ministry to women, children, families

-Founded by Willene Pierce

-Living In Neighborly Kindness

- *Luke 10: 27* "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

-Established the Native Praise Choir



-Provides Ministry Opportunities

Supports, Promotes & Participates in Missions

Provides Training Opportunities

Outreach Programs to Western Oklahoma

We will host a 25th Year Celebration at Indian Falls Creek on Wednesday afternoon, August 2, 2023. If you're in the area, join

us!! More details soon.

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### OK Women's Retreat

**April 21-22, 2023**

**Registration begins**

**February 1**

**oklahomabap-**

**tists.org/women/**

**retreat**

**LINK has cabin for**

**women in Native**

**Churches**

**Capacity: 50**

**Contact Augusta**

**Smith**

## In the Year 2022

- Great attendance at NE Women's Conference in April. All the prayers & planning was evidenced in the enthusiasm of the women
- The Native Praise Choir was so blessed to sing for loved and respected Jimmy Anderson, Muscogee Creek and longtime missionary among our people. Stepped down as church pastor, but will always be a missionary. Great impact for the cause of Jesus Christ, particularly among Native peoples.
- Always a blessing to sing at our tribal nations' events. Sang at the Muscogee Creek Festival
- Love, love, love returning to conduct VBS at Western Oklahoma Indian Baptist Family Camp each year! Will go as long as we are able.
- LINK Executive Director blessed to contribute an article in the book, *Because of Hope*, published by National WMU. This is one of the featured books for the year.
- Thank you, Pottawatomini-Lincoln Baptist Association for the invitation to sing at Annual Meeting
- Glory to God as we were able to sing at Indian Falls Creek, a gospel singing, VA Outpatient Clinic, a school, Christmas Tree Lighting & more!

## Students Seeking Advanced Education

Several Native American men and women are currently in seminary studies, which makes us very proud of all of them. To name a few:

**Emmitt Mckenzie@Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Elijah Walls@Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Priscilla Blackfox@Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Chris Tiger@ Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Please pray for these who are preparing themselves for specific ministries.

## Laura Mackey Steps Down as LINK President

Laura Mackey, Choctaw from Red Oak, Oklahoma, and member of Thessalonian Baptist Church will be releasing her duties as President of The Native American LINK Inc. in 2023. Laura was the elected President of the LINK Executive Board for 25 years. She was very instrumental in working with Willene Pierce, the founding Executive Director-Treasurer, in the organization's inception in 1998. She, along with Willene and Georgia Glass (then WMU Director of Cherokee Baptist Association) signed the organization's charter request for the non-profit organization status that continues today. She assisted in developing the organizational by-laws. Laura will continue to serve on the Executive Board, and will hold the position of Consultant and Historian of the organization. LINK is very grateful for Laura Mackey's leadership for 25 years!



## **NATIVE PRAISE CHOIR NOTES**

Recently, we were invited to sing at the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. Accepting an invitation to sing at any venue, whether it be at a church, for a civic organization, a school, or a Christmas tree lighting for a health clinic begins with prayer. Many times, the request is to “perform” or to “entertain.” Our purpose has been and will always be to lift up the name of Jesus Christ in our Native languages. Each venue is different, and each audience is different. We accept invitations, as God leads us, and pray for the message of each hymn that is sung, pray for each choir member who willingly gives of herself as a testimony of her faith, and we pray for the listener. Always, we pray, that it will be the voice of God’s love that is heard.

## **Priscilla Blackfox Assumes Role as President of The Native American LINK Inc.**



As an active LINK Executive Board member, Priscilla has demonstrated tremendous organizational skills, a deep love for missions, and is a woman of vision. She is currently enrolled at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where she pursues a Master of Theological Studies with emphasis on Discipleship Ministries.

Priscilla proudly represents her Cherokee heritage as a member of the Native Praise Choir. She is mother to two daughters and “elisi” (grandmother) to three beautiful Cherokee/Mississippi Choctaw granddaughters. She is a children’s Sunday School teacher, past Vice-President of Oklahoma WMU, and continues to provide training to WMU organizations. We welcome Priscilla as the second President of The Native American LINK.

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### **The Director’s Corner:**

As Willene Pierce handed the position to me in 2013, she reviewed all the finances carefully with Mike and me. At the close of the meeting, she told us that it may be enough to carry the ministry at least three more years. We have lost many contributors since that time; yet, we know it is God who has kept us going. It is God who has affirmed over and over that we are a vital LINK to the Native American ministry throughout Oklahoma and beyond. If you have continued to contribute to this ministry, we are thankful, indeed! Many think LINK is the Native Praise Choir; it is, but so much more! To be involved in lifting up the name of Jesus Christ at every opportunity has been an adventure, a joy and a personal blessing. We invite you to become a LINK supporter. You won’t be disappointed.

President: Priscilla Blackfox  
P. O. Box 470974  
Tulsa OK 74147  
Phone: 918-316-0473  
pblackfox37@gmail.com

Executive Director: *Augusta Smith*  
P. O. Box 470974  
Tulsa, OK 74147  
Phone: 918-931-2218

NativeAmericanLINK@gmail.com

WEBSITE: TheNativeAmericanLINKInc.org

FACEBOOK: Native American LINK, Inc.

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Priscilla

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS to The Native  
American LINK, Inc. Thank you.

Treasurer: Michael Smith  
P. O. Box 470974  
Tulsa, OK 74147  
Phone: 918-863-4636

BOARD MEMBERS:

Patricia Brown, Shawnee, OK  
Angella Fish, Wetumka, OK  
Christine Fleming, Norman, OK  
Martha Johnson, Morris, OK  
Norma Lee, McAlester, OK  
Elsie Little, Shawnee, OK  
Laura Mackey, Red Oak, OK  
Suzanne Russell, Ada, OK  
Ruth Walker, Tecumseh, OK



P. O. Box 470974  
Tulsa, OK 74147

- PRAY for us to follow God's heart for our LINK ministry.
- PRAY for our Executive Board as we make plans for a Western OK Women's Conference and as we plan for a 25th Anniversary of LINK in 2023.
- PRAY for the Native Praise Choir to be covered with God's protective hand and that we will sing hymns with worship in our hearts. Pray for the new choir members.
- PRAY for our Native churches. Pray for our pastorless churches.
- Pray for Priscilla Blackfox in her new LINK leadership position.