The Native American LINK, Inc. Newsletter

Issue 74 FALL/WINTER 2025

ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD

Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Being able to serve in the Native American LINK ministry has been nothing short of an adventure. Each year when Willene Pierce, the founder and first Executive Director/Treasurer of the ministry, completed each of the first 15 years, she would close her report with, *"well we have made it another year – what an amazing journey!"*

These are the words of Beth Echols, former Director of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department: "I remember the day when Willene met with a small group in the conference room of McLean Baptist Church and shared with us her plans for the future. I even recall the chair in which I sat, spell-bound as she recounted her love for the Native American women with whom she had worked many summers teaching Vacation Bible School. She spoke of her dreams to begin a ministry with Native Americans. She had chosen the name of LINK, Living in Neighborly Kindness.

As she talked, I began to have "cold chills" as I saw the sparkle in her eyes and heard the animation in her voice. I realized then that she had a calling from the Lord to a brand new ministry among Native Americans. ....Willene was faithful to her calling to the end of her days. And what a legacy she left behind!"

With that in mind, 2026, here we come!

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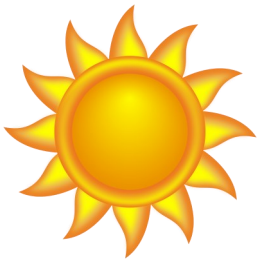
So Sorry…
ONLINE GIVING *NO LONGER AVAILABLE*
(was not cost effective for us)

We still accept personal checks, cashiers checks, money orders, cash, etc.
Native American LINK Inc.

SIZZLIN' SUMMER ACTIVITIES!



JUNE—

- Prepared Indian Falls Creek Golf Tournament Hospitality Bags
- Participated in the SBC-WMU Annual Meeting in Dallas
- Invited to exhibit a LINK display area at WMU Annual Meeting
- Augusta Smith included in the Annie Armstrong Emphasis.
- Gave support for Rachel Scott's mission trip to NYC. Trip sponsored by OU –BCM.
- Choir Practice … a NEW HYMN coming soon!

JULY-

- Provided VBS, Adult Bible Study & Music Worship at the Western OK Indian Baptist Family Camp held at Southwest Assembly, Lone Wolf, OK. 12 Volunteers this year!
- Attended last session of MSW Baptist Assembly
- Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly—LINK Women's Sessions topped 200 in attendance Excellent Bible Studies & Welcomed the Bold Challenge Testimonies, Crafts, Pastors' Wives Celebration, and the Native Praise Choir!
- Choir Practice

AUGUST-

- Back to School Activities
- LINK Board Meeting—Preparation for Central OK Regional Women's Conference
- MORE Choir Practice, Practice, Practice!

Fall Opportunities

SEPTEMBER activities included Choir Practice, LINK Planning meeting, attendance at the FoNAC Native Voices Conference, the OK Baptists Women's Leadership Training held at one of our Native Baptist Congregation churches, and our Executive Director leading the women's session of the Chi-Ka-Sha Baptist Association Family Conference. Our women were and still are involved in several church fall revivals.

OCTOBER brought invitations for the NATIVE PRAISE CHOIR. Included was the National Indian Council on Aging & the 50th Anniversary of First Indian Baptist Church of Shawnee. Also, we sang for Eagle Point Church of God & Southwest Christian Academy at Little Rock, AR. LINK sponsored our Central OK Regional Women's Conference at Oklahoma City with 86 women in attendance. Our last event for October was singing for Cultural Night at Oklahoma City University.

FELLOWSHIP OF NATIVE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS

www.fonac.org
Gary Hawkins
Executive Director

On September 19, two longtime missionary ministers were honored for their 125+ years of combined ministry to our Native American Peoples of North America. Brothers Earnest Best and Jimmy Anderson are both well-known in Indian Country. Each has traveled thousands of miles to reservations across the United States and to many other countries sharing Jesus Christ.

Our Native American LINK was blessed to be able to travel with Brother Jimmy Anderson to Northwest Territory, Canada in 2016 and 2017, along with another longtime missionary, Rev. Don Tiger. LINK Team members included: Augusta Smith, Stephanie Wickliffe, Ruth Walker, Priscilla Blackfox, & Lindsey Arneecher. It was a great experience to learn from such committed Christian men, making new friends along the way.

From the Director:

What makes LINK work? When God puts our ladies together, ideas flow. The key is to be available to God's service, be bold to try new things, use the gifts and talents of willing workers, accept challenges that glorify God in every opportunity, have listening ears, compassionate hearts, and lots of love and prayers.

Last year, we welcomed Dee Humphrey as one of our testimony speakers at Indian Falls Creek. This year, Dee was our Bible Study teacher for the week at IFC. Since then, many of our Native churches have welcomed her to be a guest speaker at their events. This is what we love to see!

We brought Rachel Scott back to share her journey with us after childhood leukemia. It's been exciting to watch her grow. Now, she is a 4th year student at the University of Oklahoma with a major in Psychology and Pre-Med. Add to that, she sang a heartfelt solo for our women, with a beautiful voice. Rachel is actively involved in the college BCM.

We missed ladies crafts at Indian Falls Creek for two years. This year, while speaking at a ladies retreat at a small, rural church at Hulbert, OK, I took notice of the young lady who organized this event, plus offered a craft time for attendees. Everyone loved this opportunity! I asked her if she would consider offering craft activities at Indian Falls Creek. She had never attended Indian Falls Creek, but her mother had. She agreed to share her craft ideas and the women thoroughly enjoyed their time of fellowship! Thank you, Jessica Harkreader!

The summer was complete with our LINK Executive Board President, Priscilla Blackfox, who completed her Master of Theological Studies in Discipleship Ministries. She will graduate at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in December. We are very proud of Priscilla's wonderful achievement!

For November, we end our year of singing at Belvin Baptist Church's 50th Anniversary and singing at a revival service of Ada Indian Baptist Church. We will complete our involvement in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox ministry. The remainder of the year will be committed to seeking ways to help those in need, due to hardships, particularly in our Indian communities. We commit to Live in Neighborly Kindness. As our LINK scripture reminds us, " He answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " Luke 10:27

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SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Priscilla

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

Treasurer: Michael Smith
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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

NATIVE AMERICAN LINK

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PRAY WITH US

- *PRAY for God's continued leadership of the LINK ministry*
- *PRAY for our Native Baptist churches without pastors*
- *PRAY for innovative ways to present the Gospel story to all people effectively*
- *PRAY for Mike and Augusta (Gus) Smith's grandson, 15 year-old Peyton Smith, who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in September. Pray for him as he has 10 chemotherapy treatments. He knows prayers will help him through this journey. Pray for his parents, Jared & Sarah Smith and Peyton's three brothers.*

2025 SPECIAL MINISTRY MOMENTS

Honoring Missionaries
125+ Years of Ministry

Ministry to Grace
Rescue Mission, OKC

Women in Music Ministry
The Gastineaus

Dee Humphrey
Bible Teacher

Dr. Jennifer Barnett
Best Methods of Knowing
Your Bible

The Welcome Team at
Central OK Conference

Michael Smith-LINK Treasurer
Honored as Cherokee Warrior

Carol, Ruth, Yvonne
Enjoying IFC Crafts

LINK has been honoring Pastor's Wives
each year at Indian Falls Creek
THANK YOU to Shirley Falls & her team!

Joyful Cherokee Family
New Jesus follower!
10 yr-old Isaiah
Four generations!

CONGRATULATIONS!
Priscilla Blackfox
Midwestern Seminary
Graduate

MORE MINISTRY MOMENTS….

This is what our Native American LINK Women's sessions looked like this year at Indian Falls Creek.This year our registration Peaked at 212!

Our beautiful Native Praise Choir. We are asked to sing on Wednesday Night IFC evening worship service. We welcome the opportunity of praise!

What a great Western OK Indian Baptist Family Camp we enjoyed this year! Couldn't ask for a better group of volunteers. Missing Mike Smith & Bill Johnson in this photo. Circling the table, starting at the back: Wilma Fixin, Ruth Walker, Marisue Rowe, Gus Smith, Gail Lusty, Carolyn Whitaker, Julie Johnson, Patricia Brown, Mary Vaughn & Eileen Tidwell. Our tasks included VBS Pre-K through youth, Adult Bible study, and Bill served as Music Director.

A special moment at Indian Falls Creek is honoring our veterans and active military. It's a very impressive presentation, seeing our veterans march into the tabernacle, complete with tribal flags, the color guard carrying the national flag and MIA/POW flag, the playing of the Tribal drum & the flag song sung. A beautiful salute!