ALSO SEE
Navajo Ministries
School Sees BIG GROWTH

A Family of Faith
MOONE FAMILY
FOLLOWS GOD’S PATH
Help Us Cross the Finish Line!

As of early September 2012, the 8,000-square-foot Education and Activity Center was entering the final stages of construction. Set to open by early fall, the new facility will house the Navajo Ministries School, a small library, a games and activity area, a new central kitchen and cafeteria, and more.

Most of the new building project is funded, but we are still in need of friends who can help us cross the finish line with necessary equipment expenses for various parts of the facility. Part of these needs include school furniture, tables and chairs, technology upgrades, landscaping, and an expensive water line for fire protection.

By becoming a $1,000 “Complete the Dream” supporter you will be helping fully fund this center, which costs more than $1 million. The payments can be made over a three-year period – a gift of $334 a year, or $28 per month for 36 months.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped so far, and another sincere thanks for others who may be considering a gift to this wonderful new facility, which is phase one of the overall Navajo Heritage Center project.

To make a financial gift to this amazing project, please use the envelope located in the center of this magazine. Simply write “Complete the Dream” on the inside of the envelope, and you will be helping move this project closer to completion.

More information on the overall Navajo Heritage Center project is available at www.NavajoHeritageCenter.org or by contacting Vice President Eric Fisher at 505.324.5260 or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org.
Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Fall 2012 edition of Navajo Neighbors, a magazine that focuses on what God is doing through the programs here at Navajo Ministries. We also provide a cover story each issue that highlights Navajo people who are making a difference in their communities, and beyond.

For this issue, Navajo Neighbors features our very own Pat Moone and her successful daughters, who have traveled the country both for academics and sports. All along the way, they have looked to God to direct their paths. We hope you enjoy reading about Pat and her wonderful family. Pat, a former assistant houseparent, is now a full-time teaching assistant for the Navajo Ministries School.

Other stories in this issue include:
- The Four Corners Home for Children welcomes new houseparents, including a young mother who used to be part of the childcare program.
- The Counseling Center takes a look at therapy options when it comes to healthy living.
- Navajo Ministries again had a successful Vacation Bible School season, working with four different churches from as far away as Hawaii.
- Two KNMI Vertical Radio DJs share their amazing story of God’s love, and a little baby named Elijah.

That’s just a teaser for what awaits you inside these pages. Enjoy, and thank you for your prayers and support for Navajo Ministries.

God Bless,
Eric Fisher
Editor and Vice President
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vice President Appointed at Navajo Ministries

It is with a grateful heart that I announce the appointment of Eric Fisher as Vice President at Navajo Ministries. This decision was made by a unanimous vote of our Board of Directors during their regular meeting in July.

Eric’s willingness to step into this position is an answer to prayer on behalf of our board, Kay, and me personally. Four years ago we saw God move by bringing Eric to us as he accepted the position of Director of Development, which included the leadership of the capital campaign for the Navajo Heritage Center. He hit the ground running and has continued to provide strong leadership with our public relations and fund-raising. God certainly brought the right person at the right time.

We have all been blessed with Eric’s gracious personality and willingness to serve as a team member. His connections with our community have produced new friendships and supporters over these past four years. I am also thrilled with his desire to please God in his life as he provides for his family and helps us meet needs here.

Eric spent 20 years in the newspaper business before joining Navajo Ministries in early September 2008. He is a 1987 graduate of Eastern New Mexico University and holds a communications degree, with a double major in radio-television and journalism. He is president-elect of the Farmington Rotary Club, co-chair of the Four Corners Conference for Professional Development and a 2010 graduate of Leadership San Juan. Eric is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Farmington. Eric’s wife is Terri, who is a first-grade teacher in Farmington. Together, they have four children ranging in age from 28 to 14.

“I am honored and humbled to accept the position of Vice President at Navajo Ministries,” Eric said after the promotion. “This is an outstanding organization with an excellent group of employees, volunteers and other supporters who are all helping to provide hope and restoration through the programs here. I look forward to what God has in store for all of us in the future.”

Navajo Ministries Board Chairman Larry Bomberger added, “Knowing how God called Eric to the ministry to fill our needs as Director of Development, we have witnessed his own development as he has embraced his role and commitment to the values and principles upheld by the ministry. We, as a Board, unanimously agreed that Eric’s promotion to Vice President of the Ministry would be his next faith-step in his Christian walk.”

I have found Eric to have many of the same ideals and aspirations for Navajo Ministries that I have had over the years. He has a common-sense approach to problem solving and welcomes conversation and dialog with anyone who wishes to visit with him regarding the various outreaches of Navajo Ministries.

I expect to remain faithful to God’s calling in my life as President until God and the Board of Directors decide it is time for me to take on other roles that will be more beneficial to the continued growth and development of this ministry.

These are exciting days for Navajo Ministries! We are nearing the completion of phase one of the Navajo Heritage Center, with an open house expected in early October. As we look to the future, I am pleased to say that we have capable leadership in positions that will carry God’s hope and restoration on to our neighbors in Navajoland for years to come.

James D. Baker, President
Long-time Ministry Friend Joins Board of Directors

Sandra Pobanz said she always dreamed of working on the staff of Navajo Ministries. This past summer, she didn’t exactly join the staff, but she did receive a very noteworthy assignment as a new member of the ministry’s Board of Directors.

Sandra, a long-time resident of Illinois, volunteered countless hours over the past two decades as a Navajo Ministries area representative, telling anyone who had an interest about the programs at the Farmington-based, non-profit organization. She recently moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, and when a position opened up on the board she was asked to apply.

“It just never happened for me to work here as a staff member, but this is the equivalent of being on staff. Joining this board is a milestone in my life,” Sandra said after her first Board of Directors meeting on July 26. “This is a really great time to be coming on to the board. Things are so alive here … God is alive through the programs here and the people are focused on what God wants for this ministry.”

She brings a wealth of professional and ministry experience to the board, and is retired U.S. Army, Civil Service. Today she attends the Scottsdale Bible Church and volunteers at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Sandra has been connected with Navajo Ministries since 1974, when her Illinois church began supporting what was then Navajo Missions.

“We had a Sunday School project and I noticed a small ad the size of a postage stamp for Navajo Missions in Moody Monthly. That’s how it all got started. Through the years I’ve been so impressed with the dedication, honesty and integrity of this ministry. I also like that it’s an inter-denominational approach that includes all Christian churches,” Sandra added.

Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker said he is pleased to see Sandra become a new board member.

“I first met Sandra in the 1980s at her church in Geneseo, Illinois. We spoke in her church several times over the years. She became a volunteer representative and loyal friend for Navajo Ministries and made presentations in churches and organizations in the northwestern Illinois area. Her passion for our various ministries has been evident over the years as she shares our vision with those she meets. With Sandra’s recent move to Arizona we are thankful that she can now become more active as a board member,” Baker said.

Everyone associated with Navajo Ministries sincerely welcomes our good friend Sandra Pobanz as a new member of the Board of Directors.

Children Raise Funds for African Orphans

Children who live at Navajo Ministries as part of the Four Corners Home for Children program helped raise money in late April for orphans in Africa during the River Run for Orphans event at Berg Park near the Animas River in Farmington.

The children raised enough funds to nearly pay for a $400 house that will be used by women taking care of orphans in Africa. Navajo Ministries partnered with the Farmington-based National Day of Care organization, which has a goal to build 1,000 Houses of Hope. After construction, a Bible study is established in the homes and then a church is started.

The experience helped teach our children the value of giving back to those in need in other parts of the world.

Plummer Golf Tournament Supports Heritage Center

The third annual Marshall Plummer Charity Golf Tournament, held July 21 at Riverview Golf Course in Kirtland, New Mexico, again helped support the Navajo Heritage Center project at Navajo Ministries.

The tournament drew a record 67 golfers and brought in nearly $7,000 toward the Education and Activity Center construction, which is phase one of the project. Marshall Plummer, who passed away in March 2010, was co-chair of the Navajo Heritage Center Task Force and the first-ever Vice President of the Navajo Nation from 1991-1995. The classroom and library in the new center will be named in Marshall’s memory.

Thank you to all of the people who made this tournament a success!
Pat Moone has spent most of her life following God’s path. That road has been filled with many wonderful memories, and challenges along the way. “You get tested in your faith,” she said. “You just continue to stand on the Word of God. It’s only by the grace of God that we’re able to live the lives we do each day. I gave my life to the Lord 30 years ago, and much of my family followed after that. The Christian principles and Christian fellowship has given us many friends and support.”

Pat’s children have also followed their mother’s faithful example. Daughters Cary, Sandre and Tristin are all leading successful lives, and each credit God for being there every step of the way. Her son Patrick is also strong in his faith and is involved in tutoring inmates who are attempting to earn their general equivalency diplomas in Arizona.

As for Cary, Sandre and Tristin, they have each enjoyed stellar softball careers. While Cary is now a high school softball coach, both Sandre and Tristin have spent time getting collegiate educations in New York City. Pat, who is married to Jerry Moone, continues to provide the guidance only a mother can, while also serving as an assistant teacher at the Navajo Ministries School. She also has been an assistant houseparent in the childcare program throughout the years.

“I’ve been helping all of my kids grow in the Word of God. Now they’re all 20 and older. They do have strong faiths and love God. They are also confident in what they’re doing. It’s only because of God’s mercies that we’re where we are today,” Pat added.

This past summer, Pat and her busy daughters were able to sit down for an interview for Navajo Neighbors. Here is a quick look at where they are today.

Cary

Cary Moone was a highly successful high school and college softball pitcher. Today, she has taken her years of knowledge of the sport to the coaching ranks. For the past six years she was a head coach at Shiprock, New Mexico, Durango, Colorado, and Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington. She’s now an assistant coach for Farmington’s...
Navajo Neighbors

Piedra Vista High School, one of the most accomplished programs in the Southwest. The Lady Panthers have won seven consecutive New Mexico Class 4A state championships.

Who does she credit for her successes, on and off the field? She has a fairly simple response.

“God provides for all of our needs. He’s been very good to me all throughout my life,” Cary said. “I depend on Him for everything.”

A graduate of Kirtland Central High School, Cary is the oldest of the three sisters at 27. She excelled at three different locations during her collegiate softball career. After starting at Lake City Community College in Florida, she transferred to Georgia Southern, where she became one of the top pitchers in the nation.

“I still hold the school strikeout record at Georgia Southern with 206 in a season. I also ranked 20th in the nation in strikeouts per seven innings,” Cary said.

Prior to her senior year, she took a break from college, only to return in 2008 to play at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

“I was 23 playing with a bunch of 18 and 19-year-olds. It was an unbelievable year, and it was fun. After that last year in college, I started coaching. My sisters and I grew up together playing sports, and we’re still doing it today,” Cary added.

In late August, Cary and Tristin both became national softball champions at the National Indian Athletic Association Tournament in San Jacinto, California. Tristin was named most valuable player and Cary was placed on the all-tournament team.

Cary is also involved at times with KNMI Vertical Radio, a program of Navajo Ministries, as an assistant with high school game broadcasts. And, she spent three years working for the Oasis Church in Farmington.

“I really like helping kids in the community. I can pass on some of the things that I’ve learned,” she added.

Sandre

While Cary continues to give back as a coach to young people, Sandre Moone recently received her master’s degree in accounting from Pace University in New York City. She is now working as an auditor at a firm in Albuquerque.

Much like her older sister Cary, Sandre credits God for the successes in her young life. Going to college in New York was a big step for Sandre, but it was one guided firmly by her faith.

“It’s God’s hand that has really gotten me where I am today,” she said. “Throughout my life I can always look back at the things that have happened and can see where He helped me. It’s never made sense to turn away from Him.”

Sandre Moone also gave a moving graduation speech in May to the Navajo Ministries School students who were moving on to sixth grade, and middle school.

“That was a lot of fun talking to the school students,” she said in reference to the “graduation” speech. “I wanted them to know that God is always there for them, no matter what they’re going through.”

Sandre said she’s seen many “little miracles” in her life, including how God guided her during her time in New York City. It was a major change from living near the Navajo Nation in northwest New Mexico.

“People of faith have always helped me. (Former Navajo Ministries employee) Ann Holbrook meeting us in New York to help us move in, a teacher who helped connect me with

Sandre Moone is pictured with Navajo Ministries School graduates Destiny and Chonita last May. Sandre gave a graduation speech to the school students.
Navajo Neighbors

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a place to live when I had nowhere to go ... And, then there were the friends I met in the churches I attended in New York. When I look back, it’s like, wow, God was there the whole time. I learned so much about the world and turning to God when I went to college in New York,” Sandre said.

She now looks forward to her future, or what she calls “putting her adult ducks in a row.”

“Moving to Albuquerque, it’s not too far away,” she said of the three-hour drive from home. “I think it’s certainly a smaller scale than trying to live in a city like New York.”

Tristin

Tristin Moone is certainly enjoying her time at Columbia University in New York. Now a junior majoring in environmental engineering, Tristin was selected first team All-Ivy League last year as a designated player, hitting nearly .300 with four home runs for the Lions.

She also came back home this summer to take part in a diabetes prevention internship at Diné College in the Navajo Nation. Next softball season, Columbia will head to Australia to play some games, and her family hopes to attend the competition Down Under.

Home-schooled until she was in middle school, Tristin has always been a stellar student and athlete. She helped lead the Piedra Vista Panthers to consecutive Class 4A state softball championships in 2008 and 2009, both with her pitching arm and bat. She won 14 games as a pitcher, giving up less than one run a game. In the classroom, she was class salutatorian and an honor graduate.

Before heading to New York City and Columbia, Tristin spent a postgraduate year at Phillips Academy near Boston. That year helped prepare her to succeed at the prestigious Ivy League university. She was also a standout athlete there, being named Most Outstanding Player and earning a Merrimack Valley All-Star selection by the Boston Globe.

“A lot has happened in my young life. I would say as things have evolved, there was no other explanation than God was really helping me and giving me wisdom to be ambitious. He gave me courage to take the next step to do something. It’s amazing what has taken place from the time I was being home-schooled to now,” Tristin said.

Being so far from home at college, Tristin says she has often relied on prayer to get her through many situations.

“When it came time to pick schools after high school, I prayed about it. I had a lot of opportunities and I knew God would make it better, no matter what I chose,” she added.

Pat Moone, now in her second year as a full-time assistant in the Navajo Ministries School, said Navajo Ministries has had a major positive impact on both her and her family’s lives. She takes great pride in seeing her family succeed, but she realizes the young children at Navajo Ministries can also make a difference with the right educational, emotional and spiritual support.

Just working here in the various programs and being involved with VBS events through the years, I think that people are giving their time and finances to a good cause. I know right off hand that the Navajo people are helped by these programs. Every child
that we have here is capable of doing what my children have been able to accomplish, and beyond,” Pat said.

While Pat plans to continue working with full-time teacher Tawnya Vollmert in the near future, she has big global mission plans down the path that God has given her.

“I’ve done some mission work in Africa with the Assemblies of God outside of Nairobi. I want to do a long-term mission trip to Africa some day,” Pat added. “But, God knows where we need to be each day. I’m just following Him.”

Bi-Fly Reels In Funds for Childcare Program

The 19th annual San Juan River Bi-Fly Fishing Tournament netted nearly $40,000 for the Four Corners Home for Children on August 17 and 18. More than 60 anglers participated in the catch-and-release tournament, which has become the elite trout fishing event in the Southwest each year.

A good portion of funds were raised by the anglers, who gathered pledges for their largest fish caught during the tournament. More funds were raised through sponsorships, live and silent auctions, and raffle prizes at the tournament banquet. A special “thank you” goes to the Carl C. Anderson Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation, of Austin, Texas, for providing a $5,000 challenge grant that was met during the August 18 banquet.

Terpsmas Celebrate 25 Years with Ministry

Friends, family and staff members gathered August 24 at the gazebo area at Navajo Ministries to celebrate Rick and Paula Terpsma’s 25th anniversary with the ministry. Rick and Paula served as houseparents beginning in 1987, moving all the way to New Mexico from Alaska.

They spent more than 12 years providing loving homes to many children. Since the early 2000s, Rick and Paula have served the ministry in a number of ways. Rick has been mainly involved in the maintenance program, while Paula has worked in the school, served as an assistant housemom and overseen the barnyard animals at the ministry. They also have worked with many of the volunteer work teams that visit Navajo Ministries each year.

Congratulations to Rick and Paula! You have truly been a blessing to everyone at Navajo Ministries.
Jeffrey Family Follows God’s Call

It’s been a summer of change for Randall and Rolanda Jeffrey – and a summer following God’s lead. Married since 2003, Randall and Rolanda visited Navajo Ministries in June, reconnecting with old friends from when Rolanda was part of two programs at the ministry.

Rolanda, Randall and their two children, Marilann, 17, and Enoch, 8, spent a couple of days in Farmington, including some special times at Navajo Ministries. Rolanda, who is Navajo, recalled with fond memories about how she was helped twice by the organization, first as a teenager needing a place to live, and then as a single mother with a young child.

While visiting with staff members, Rolanda and Randall were informed that the ministry was looking for a set of houseparents for one of the long-term children’s homes. The Jeffrey family was well-grounded in Kansas and initially had no serious interest in making a move to New Mexico. Day by day, however, those feelings changed. God had a different plan for the Jeffrey family. After much prayer and reflection, Randall and Rolanda were both set to become new houseparents with the Four Corners Home for Children in September.

“I had been praying, asking God what ministry he had for us next and this came our direction,” Rolanda said. “I am thankful for this opportunity to be a part of Navajo Ministries on the other side, rather than the one being helped. Part of me always wanted to be a part of Navajo Ministries, but I didn’t think it would ever happen.”

Randall, who had a good career with a major retail company, said he had no idea earlier this summer that his family would be moving to Navajoland to care for children in need.

“We were not looking to move. I was extremely happy and fulfilled doing what I was doing right where we were,” Randall said. “This whole adventure reminds me of a scene from C.S Lewis’ ‘Prince Caspian.’ The children are chasing Aslan, going a certain way; and then all of a sudden the path changes drastically and the path leading down the mountain is there. This scene has always held special interest for me, and it holds true for us right now – when we are chasing after God, the path we’re on can change at a moment’s notice. Only He knows where He’s leading us!”

Rolanda still recalls the many positive experiences she had when she was part of the ministry’s programs.

“The best thing about coming back the second time when I was a young mother was the fact that there was a counseling program that was mandatory,” Rolanda said. “That’s how God basically prepared me for healing. Counselor Linda Eubank and Cindy Crebo were very helpful in my healing.”

The Jeffrey family is now looking forward to what God has in store for them as houseparents. They continue to discover that God’s path can lead to unexpected, rewarding places. We all welcome Randall, Rolanda, Marilann and Enoch to the Navajo Ministries “family.”

Employment Opportunities:
We currently have a position open in our childcare department for FULL-TIME HOUSEPARENTS. If you are interested in joining our team and playing a significant role in the lives of our children, please contact Kelly Hargrove at 505.324.9231 or KHargrove@NavajoMinistries.org
Navajo Ministries School Sees Big Growth

By Tawnya Vollmert

School is back in session, and there have been many changes at the Navajo Ministries School. We’re growing, preparing for our big move to the new school building, and staying really busy learning.

We have almost twice as many students this year as we did a year ago. As of late August, there were 14 students in our class, ranging from first grade to fifth grade. My self, assistant teacher Pat Moone and everyone involved with the school are really enjoying our class size.

This is a really neat group of children. They all really want to learn. So, even though there are some learning gaps to address, everyone is putting their best foot forward. We have been trying out several mini-sessions for exercise scattered throughout the day. This is really helping the students with focus and concentration.

We are all enjoying our insect lessons right now with Mr. Bill. Once a week, Bill Eubank with our Counseling Center has been coming in for an hour lesson on insects. Soon the students will get to start creating their own insect collections. In between lessons, they are reading and writing about insects as well. They get so excited when the day comes for Mr. Bill’s visit!

We are eagerly expecting one more exciting change. We get to move to our new classroom very soon! Every day we have more ideas about how wonderful this new building will be for all of us. Of course, the students are excited that they’ll be closer to the playground and that will mean more of their recess will actually get to be spent on play.

We also can’t wait to have more restrooms, since 14 students to one restroom can be a bit slow at times. The benefits we are anticipating in this new space at the Education and Activity Center are too many to mention. We all deeply appreciate the many people who have made this possible.

Tawnya Vollmert is the full-time teacher at the Navajo Ministries School.
When it comes to mental or emotional health we would like to think that Christians have an edge, but often that is not true. Statistically we suffer with the same issues that continue to plague mankind. We live in a fallen world and are not immune. This often becomes a “test of faith.” We may ask: “If we are living our life to the best of our ability in answer to the Lord’s call, why are we going through this and why did God allow this to happen?” We have all asked those questions from time to time. And, of course, we all want God to heal our hurts miraculously. While He certainly does at times, sometimes we have a rough road to walk. Thankfully, He is always there for us to lean on through the troubled times.

As therapists, we often hear something like this: “I don’t believe in medication. So that is not an option for my mental or emotional distress. God will take care of me.” Christian counselors often have to help clients understand that some mental health issues are best handled with therapy, and medication. It lessens the severity of the problem and the effect it has on family members as well.

If we have heart disease we are not averse to taking heart medication, so why do we baulk at psychotropic medication? Is it not better to take medication when needed so that we can better accomplish God’s purpose for our life, rather than be a source of anguish to ourselves and others around us?

We are never asking our clients to do something we ourselves would not do. Bill has PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) from his time of service in Vietnam. He willingly takes medication to stop nightmares, helping him deal with the anxiety that goes along with this diagnosis. We now understand that PTSD causes permanent changes in brain function. As for Linda, she inherited an anxiety disorder.

Linda’s grandmother didn’t have medication available to her, and Linda’s mother is from a generation that believes that being on psychotropic medication means you are “crazy.” We are thankful that God has given wisdom to researchers to provide medication that allows us to do our job and be in interpersonal relationships without causing stress for others.

Bill and Linda Eubank are licensed professional clinical counselors at The Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.
Teams Make **Lasting Friendships**

During Summer

Each year, volunteer church teams from throughout the country come to Navajoland to build friendships, provide spiritual guidance and donate some hard work to a variety of much-needed projects. These teams also spend much of their week teaching Vacation Bible Schools throughout parts of the Navajo Nation.

One child attending a VBS did a great job in summing up the reason and purpose that these teams come each summer. When one of the leaders asked the youngsters, “Where do you think we came from,” expecting them to answer back with a state or area of the country, a boy named Alex shouted out with excitement – “You came from Jesus!”

We truly appreciate each of the teams that come each year. This year, the groups came from as far away as Maui, Hawaii, representing the Kahului Union Church. We also welcomed a new group of Koreans from Disciple Mission Church in Denver, along with repeat visits from Vineyard Church of Knox County, Ohio, and Concordia Lutheran Church from Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Work projects at the campus of Navajo Ministries included fence staining, landscaping, retaining wall work, and installation of two new basketball hoops and an enlarged playing area by the Concordia Lutheran team. It was another amazing summer of glorifying God through partnerships across America. 

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**Disciple Mission Church, Denver & First United Methodist Church, Farmington**

**Kahului Union Church, Hawaii**

**Vineyard Church of Knox County, Ohio**

**Concordia Lutheran Church, Colorado**
A Miracle Baby is Born to Station DJs

Editor’s Note: The following is Dani and Donnie Edwards’ story of the birth of their amazing son, Elijah. Elijah was born to Dani and Donnie, both radio DJs for KNMI Vertical Radio, on May 17 at just 1 pound, 7 ounces. The story, written in Dani’s own words, tells of God’s great power and love, especially in times of severe difficulties.

It’s one of those things in life that you never think will happen to you. I was 22 weeks and five days pregnant the day my water broke in early May. I was so scared and didn’t know what was going to happen from that point.

My pregnancy was high-risk from the beginning and I had done everything I knew how to do to protect my unborn child, but now we had arrived at a place of crisis. The doctors said there was no chance of him surviving birth unless they could keep me from delivering for at least another two weeks, and then the chances were still very slim for his survival. At that point, I had no choice but to put my son’s life in the hands of our faithful God.

Amazingly, I spent nine days more in the hospital in Farmington before I went into labor and was flown to Albuquerque. Then, by the grace of God, I was able to make it another eight days before I gave birth to Elijah Smiley Edwards. When he was born, the umbilical cord disintegrated, showing that he couldn’t have remained in my womb any longer.

When I looked at him, all I could say is “He’s so tiny.” The doctors and nurses then swiftly carried him away to resuscitate him. I was terrified, exhausted and overwhelmed at the thought of what might happen to my fragile, 1-pound, 7-ounce baby.

Again, in desperation, I put trust in God, who I knew held this tiny life in His powerful hands. I knew He was in control.

About three months have passed since the day my water broke, and my husband, Donnie, and I have been on the ride of our lives. Once we almost lost Elijah due to such severe chronic lung disease that the medical professionals caring for him had hit a wall, telling us there was nothing more they could do. But even at this point when the doctors saw very little hope, God responded to our prayers and continued healing and sustaining Elijah.

We have surrendered him to God so many times and said, “Your will be done,” and God has shown us repeatedly that it is His will that Eli remain on this earth and serve as a testimony of our Lord’s grace and mercy toward us all. So many people have witnessed the power of God through his life so far, including the nurses, who now call him, “Elijah the Prophet Edwards.”

We continue to pray for this precious family – and the miracle baby named Elijah. Please join us in supporting the Edwards in prayer.
A Dear Friend Welcomed Home

By Kay Baker

On Sunday, August 5, 2012, Jesus welcomed home one of His dear saints – Evelyn S. McNickle.

Evelyn, and her husband, Larry, visited Navajo Ministries around 1980. As they shared a meal in our home, I searched my mind to remember where I had met Evelyn before. She looked so familiar, yet we couldn’t remember where we would have met each other. It wasn’t until hours later, when Larry and Evelyn mentioned Camp Yolijwa in Doubling Gap, Pennsylvania, that I realized Evelyn had been my camp counselor when I was a young girl. I dug out my camp photos, and there was Evelyn standing with me and four other elementary-aged girls.

In August of 1981, Larry and Evelyn became a part of our Navajo Ministries family. They came to serve the Lord “wherever needed.” They served faithfully until March 1987, when they retired for the second time. This time they retired from full-time ministry in the Navajo Nation, serving the Navajo people with loving hearts, meeting their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

Evelyn always came to our Navajo Ministries banquets when we were in the area. Last fall, when we held a banquet at Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania, Evelyn was there with her daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and James Wenrich. At 90 years old, Evelyn told me this would be her last banquet to attend. Her sweet smile and warm hands assured me of her love and prayers. We rejoice, with bittersweet sorrow, that she is home with her Lord.

We continue to give thanks for friends who have recently remembered their loved ones with a Living Memorial gift to Navajo Ministries. Some people also have honored those who are still living. These gifts are used to provide for the needs of the children living at the Four Corners Home for Children.

Should you want to remember your loved one in this way, please fill out the envelope in the middle of this magazine. An attractive card will be sent to the family of the one being remembered. No amounts are mentioned and all gifts are tax deductible.

Thank you for your prayers and support of the children in our care. You are a blessing to us all.

Kay Baker is the Director of Partnership Ministry at Navajo Ministries.

Living Memorials Through August 2012

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<td>Bernadette Tsosie</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Brown</td>
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<td>John and Alice Jones</td>
<td>Roy and Richard Jones</td>
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<td>George P. Stephenson</td>
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<td>Frederick H. Koss, Jr.</td>
<td>Kitty Koss</td>
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<td>Norman Rush</td>
<td>Marie Dent</td>
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<td>Opal Treibs</td>
<td>Neil L. Pobanz</td>
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<td>Sandra Pobanz</td>
<td>Polly Walters</td>
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<td>Larry and Donna Walters</td>
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<td>Mrs. Robert Childress</td>
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<td>Dan and Joanne Childress</td>
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<td>Eddie and Barbara Dunn</td>
<td>Breann Chavez</td>
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<td>Jami and Lisa Chavez</td>
<td>Gail Ransdell</td>
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<td>Jimmy and Patsy Harelik</td>
<td>Evelyn McNickle!</td>
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<td>Stuart and Anne Rubin</td>
<td>Evelyn McNickle!</td>
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<td>John and Margaret Wenrich</td>
<td>Evelyn McNickle!</td>
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<td>Jim and Kay Baker</td>
<td>Evelyn McNickle!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constance K. Maser</td>
<td>Jim and Kay Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Inman</td>
<td>Wil and Linda Yazzie</td>
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<td>Mrs. Amy Leary</td>
<td>Charles Davis</td>
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Each Christmas season, Navajo Ministries partners with Navajo pastors to help collect and deliver food, toys, Bibles, blankets and other items to needy families in the remote parts of the Navajo Nation. Navajo Ministries is again collecting these items for this year’s Christmas Connections, which will help more than 300 families in distant areas of the Navajo Nation.

Some of the items needed include:

- Health supplies, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner (even small sizes), deodorants, combs and brushes
- School supplies.
- Kitchen items, such as dish cloths, tea towels and pot holders
- Small stocking stuffers for all ages, children and adults

More information on Christmas Connections needs is available by contacting Director of Partnership Ministry Kay Baker, at kbaker@NavajoMinistries.org, or 505-324-5236.

In late August, the Navajo Ministries School teachers and students were looking forward to moving into the new Education and Activity Center. Teacher Tawnya Vollmert ordered a number of needed items for the new school through the Campbell’s Labels for Education program. Some of those items included exercise mats, balance beams, sports balls, computer learning items and a plant science kit.

The current submissions for Box Tops for Education for the new school year total $1,487.80, and the total for the 2011-12 year was $3,189.70. Thanks to everyone who helps with the Labels and Box Tops programs. Every submission is making a difference for our students!

For more information on these wonderful programs, please contact Kay Baker at kbaker@NavajoMinistries.org or call 505-324-5236.