JOE AND GERRI BEGAY

A Story of Incredible Restoration
A Great Time of Need

Since the summer of 2012, the Four Corners Home for Children program has been filled to near capacity due to a dramatic increase in need for services. At the same time, operational funding for this invaluable program has seen consistent decreases in recent years. The need has never been greater, but the overall funding to provide for essential services such as food, clothing and transportation has been stretched too thin.

Your sponsorship of the Four Corners Home for Children, which is licensed to care for up to 28 children, will make an amazing difference in young people’s lives. Will you join us today in helping to bring hope and restoration to children? We thank you for your interest, and your prayers for this life-changing program.

If you would like to sponsor the Four Corners Home for Children, at $25 a month or more, please fill out the envelope in the center of this magazine. You will also get consistent updates on the children you are helping support.

PLANNED GIVING APPRECIATED OPTION

Deferred gifts, also called planned giving, are a much appreciated way to provide support to Navajo Ministries and its programs. Bequests, life insurance and charitable remainder trusts are several planned giving options. If you would like more information about planned giving, please contact one of our deferred giving specialists by calling 505.325-0255 or e-mail us at NMI@NavajoMinistries.org.

SUPPORTERS MAKE BOX TOPS, CAMPBELL’S PROGRAMS SUCCESS

Since 2001, friends like you have been saving Box Tops for Education and sending them to Navajo Ministries to help our On-Site School. During the 2001-2002 school year, we received $264.50 through Box Tops for Education. Through the help of those who send in Box Tops, we will receive more than $4,500 by the end of this school year!

We have also been participating in the Campbell’s Labels for Education Program since 2001. School supplies, videos, computer learning games, iPads and sports equipment have been added to our school due to the amount of Campbell’s UPCs we receive each year. Currently, we have 192,253 UPCs banked with Campbell’s, ready to be used to purchase more needed items for the school.

Box Tops and Campbell’s UPCs can be sent in any time throughout the year. Please mail your donations to Kay Baker, Navajo Ministries, P.O. Box 1230, Farmington, NM, 87499.

Thanks for your support of our students!
From The President

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Letter From the Editor

It is always our pleasure to present a new edition of Navajo Neighbors magazine. This Spring 2014 issue is filled with uplifting stories of what God is doing here at Navajo Ministries, along with a cover story that truly speaks to what can happen when a husband and wife turn from darkness and completely rely on their Heavenly Father.

Joe and Gerri Begay are well known friends of Navajo Ministries, having served as missionaries here since the mid-1980s. Anyone who has traveled on one of the annual Navajoland Tours has heard their amazing story of redemption and forgiveness. They have also shared their story on many speaking trips across the United States. We hope you find encouragement and hope while reading their story. It’s a story made of miracles.

Also in this issue, you’ll read about:

- New houseparents Cliff and Kristine Young, who have a house full of children. The Youngs, along with their young son Max, joined us late last summer after working at a children’s home in Waco, Texas.
- Once again, hundreds of needy families in the Navajo Nation were helped during the annual Christmas Connections event.
- Emmet Fowler, who served as KNMI’s General Manager more than 10 years ago, has returned to lead Vertical Radio.

And, there’s much more in the following pages. Thanks for reading, and thank you for your prayers and support of Navajo Ministries.

God Bless,

Eric Fisher
Editor and Vice President
We have featured many great Navajo neighbors over the years through the cover story of this publication. It has been a joy to introduce our readers and supporters to Navajo men and women who have accomplished much in their lives through their service, talents and love for their fellow Navajo brothers and sisters. Some of these included a Navajo Nation President, artists, educators, a princess, police captain, revered Navajo Code Talker and many others.

In this particular issue of Navajo Neighbors, it is our distinct pleasure and honor to share the gripping story of Joe and Gerri Begay. I first met them in the early 1980s. They were relatively new Christians, but they had a story to tell that brought tears to my eyes. It was a story of God’s grace in the midst of unbelievable trauma brought on by their lives that were bound by alcoholism.

They were filled with the joy of the Lord. And, they wanted to serve Him by sharing their story with anyone who would listen. And, wow, did people listen! Our founder Jack Drake planned a speaking trip to the east coast to raise new support and give a report of the work to those who were already supporting the ministry. Some of those they visited were our family and friends in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

By the early 1990s Kay and I began doing some of these speaking trips. By then, Joe and Gerri were on our staff so we took them with us. Their sweet spirit and compelling story touched everyone who heard them. From visits in homes to churches to radio and TV stations (even The 700 Club) they shared their amazing story of repentance, salvation and restoration. Some who are reading these words today have had the privilege of hearing their story first hand, sometimes more than once.

Today, they live about three hours from Farmington in Chinle, Arizona, where they have pastored Grace Fellowship Community Church for nearly 10 years. In addition, they conduct many marriage seminars in Navajo churches across the Navajo Nation. They continue to assist us with our VBS locations each summer and our Christmas Connections each December. They are truly two of our best friends.

I encourage you to read their story, even if you heard it in person in the past. I know I never get tired of hearing this amazing story of grace. Lord willing they will join Kay and me this fall as we speak in New England and share at two banquets on October 23rd in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. If you would like us to share with your church please contact me at 505-324-5230 or email me at Baker@NavajoMinistries.org.

James D. Baker, President
BHP Billiton, Friends Help Buy New Van

Thanks to a $15,000 gift from BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal and more than $6,000 raised from other friends of Navajo Ministries, the Four Corners Home for Children was able to purchase a 2012 15-passenger, low-mileage Ford van. The newer van replaces a 1999 model that had well over 100,000 miles on it.

This van, which has just over 30,000 miles, will provide reliable transportation for one of our children’s homes and will also be used for longer trips requiring more space for children and luggage. The other two children’s homes have newer 12-passenger vans that were purchased several years ago.

We gratefully thank BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal for its continued support of Navajo Ministries. We also thank everyone who provided a financial gift to help purchase this van.

Groups from England, Sweden Visit Campus

Navajo Ministries welcomed two teams of international visitors in September and October as groups from England and Sweden visited us.

First, in early September, the Members of the Thundersley Congregational Church from England lead the children in a song.

Then, in late October, about 15 visitors from Sweden came to learn about Navajo Ministries during a stop on a Rotary Friendship Exchange tour of New Mexico. Navajo Culture teacher Pat Moone taught them about the tribe’s history, traditions and language. The Swedes also toured the facilities and ate their first-ever Navajo tacos!

Live Nativity Celebrates ‘Reason for the Season’

For the 29th consecutive year, the children from the Four Corners Home for Children portrayed the characters of Christ’s birth during the Live Navajo Nativity on December 23rd at Navajo Ministries. This is always such a special time, and something that has become a community tradition in the Four Corners region as visitors drive through the 16-acre, decorated campus to celebrate the Christmas season.

This year’s event is again on December 23rd, marking three decades of the Live Navajo Nativity.
Divorced twice from each other and trapped in alcoholism, Joe and Gerri Begay have spent 40 years following God

By Eric Fisher


Joe and Gerri Begay had been married, and divorced, twice to each other. They had five young children, and were both entrapped in alcoholism. Neither had steady jobs and they both were lost in what seemed to be a spiraling downward trend.

Their story, however, changed immensely that year. Within the same week while living apart, they both awoke with bad hangovers, feeling emotionally and physically sick. They had hit “rock bottom” with nowhere to turn but up.

God got hold of Joe and Gerri Begay just days apart in the summer of 1973. Joe was in Chinle, Arizona, and Gerri was in Gallup, New Mexico. To call it a “miracle” wouldn’t be an understatement.

They stopped drinking, found each other again, forgave one another and began building a life together on the solid rock of their Christian faith. Today, Joe and Gerri Begay have been missionaries doing God’s work for nearly 40 years. Joe is the lead pastor of Grace Fellowship Community Church in Chinle, with Gerri serving right beside him in ministry.

Their story is one of incredible redemption and what can happen when a couple truly places their lives in God’s loving hands. Their story is what modern-day miracles are made of – two lives transformed.

The Early Days

When Joe and Gerri met in 1959 in Chinle, Joe was 20 and Gerri was 16.

“I was riding my bike with my girlfriend and these guys drove up in a pick-up truck. They wanted to pick us up and go for a ride. The driver was my girlfriend’s boyfriend, so off we went. Four of us, including Joe and myself, were all riding in the front seat of the truck,” Gerri recalled.

About two weeks later, they met again at the Chinle Chapter House, where they attended a dance. After that “record hop” dance, they would see each other off and on.

Gerri’s mother, Myrtle, especially didn’t like the fact that these two were seeing each other.

“I didn’t know about Joe’s drinking habit then, but I think my mom knew … She was very much opposed to our friendship. I was raised Presbyterian and he was Catholic. For about a year and a half people tried to keep us apart, but I guess out of rebellion we decided to get married,” Gerri said.

Joe and Gerri first got married in 1961 at the local Tribal Census Office.
Gerri remembers a strong upbringing and a good early church experience – her mom and seven siblings would ride their wagon to church each Sunday and they would all sit on the front row. During her childhood years, Gerri’s father was absent most of the time to work off the reservation.

Meanwhile, Joe was carrying a lot of emotional baggage, and a dependence on alcohol. His father died when he was just 6 years old.

“I spent five years in a boarding school in Utah, about 500 miles away. I would be gone each year from August to May and spent a lot of time away from my family,” Joe said. “That’s how you feel abandoned and rejected. It was not a good experience. I was only 13 when I had my first drink, and later became an alcoholic.”

Their first marriage lasted until 1967, the year Gerri said she finally had to leave because of the “nightmare of Joe’s drinking.”

“We had our first child in 1962 and had four children in five years. But, the marriage was bad. I wanted to get out and get away,” Gerri said.

Gerri and the children actually moved to Cleveland, Ohio, for several years when she was accepted as part of a federal job training program. Living in a big city was a struggle for the young family. After completing her training, she decided to move back to Navajoland in 1970. Gerri also wanted to “give it another try” with Joe.

“I got a good job … and we remarried in 1970. We thought maybe if we had another baby everything would be OK. We had our fifth child that same year, but found out our marriage was worse off than before. Joe was still drinking and there was a lot of jealousy after being separated for three years … a lot of bitterness and hatred.”

That same year, they divorced for a second time. Some relatives and community leaders tried to help, but there seemed to be no hope for reconciliation. Gerri then started to drink alcohol, neglecting her children in the process.

“I was hurt and angry and didn’t like that he was out there free, while I was left with all the kids. I said I’ll just do what he’s doing and see how he likes it,” Gerri said. “Things soon began to fall apart for me.”

Meanwhile, Joe was drinking anything containing alcohol – beer, wine, whiskey. His addiction to alcohol took him to different towns, and as far away as Oregon and Idaho. On occasion, though, he would still remember the Bible teachings from his youth. However, the drinking would continue.

### The Turning Point

The events that unfolded between 1971 and the summer of 1973 may not have initially seemed like a “turning point,” but when Joe and Gerri look back today they realize God was leading them back to Him during those dark days.

Following their second divorce, Gerri wanted to have a nice Christmas with her children. She took time off from work and went shopping in Albuquerque with her sister.

“On our way home we stopped in Gallup for just one drink. That trip eventually turned into well over a month of drinking in Gallup,” she said.

She soon lost her good job and later had her car repossessed in front of a bar. She was able to get the gifts out of the car before she returned home.

“I returned home and realized I had been gone too long and nobody was in the house,” Gerri said. “My mother and mother-in-law had taken the children. It was very cold and the water pipes had frozen. There was no water and the electricity had been turned off.

“As I entered the living room, I noticed the Christmas tree was still standing in the corner with no decorations other than a card that my children had made for me for Christmas. They had drawn on it and signed it with these words: ‘We Love You, Mom.’ It was the saddest moment of my life,” she recalled as tears rolled down her cheek. “I had no kids, everything was shut off, and this was not a home anymore.”

Gerri continued to drink, though, and would often leave her children...
alone, many times during weekends. Everything changed for Gerri in July 1973 when she hitchhiked to Gallup for what she thought would be just another drinking weekend.

“I stayed there four or five days, just hanging around. One morning, I woke up in an alley somewhere, and it hit me. I remembered that I came from a decent family and I never thought I would end up down where I was. I started walking down that alley, and I thought about my kids, the Lord opened a screen to me. God showed me how I was raised, going to church, and I began to weep. I started singing the song ’Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior.’

… Not knowing where to go, I went back to the bar and started drinking again. I had more than I could take, and when I suddenly awoke, I started thinking about my life and Jesus. I remembered what my mother had taught me about Jesus helping in times of need … At that moment, what seemed to be like a spotlight came upon me in that dark dance hall. The woman I saw made me sick. It was a life not pleasing to God. As I sat there, I wanted to give Him my life and follow Him. He worked a miracle for me, took the desire to drink from me and all I wanted was to get home to my children.”

She still was more than 90 miles away from home, and needed to find a ride home to Chinle. A person Gerri now calls an “angel” rescued her from that life and drove her home, picking up groceries for her children at a trading post along the way. She said she never saw that person again.

Gerri’s mother immediately forgave her daughter, who said she was finished with that dark lifestyle. It took a little longer for some of the children to welcome her home, but they soon realized something had certainly changed. She had put her faith where it belongs – with God.

Just about the same time Gerri was returning to a Christian life in the summer of 1973, Joe was walking up to a hill not far from his home in Chinle. Following days of drinking, he had a bad hangover and was looking for help. He thought, “If He created man in his own image, what’s wrong with me? I was sick and going blind.”

A short time later, Joe and Gerri again tried to make it work. They soon decided to get the entire family into a church and begin walking with God. They said they gave their lives to the Lord in August 1973 at a church service.

“The night I got saved I felt a light and my eyes opened to new things. When God said, ‘behold, everything becomes new, and you’re a new creation,’ that’s how I felt,” Joe said.

This time, with God in their lives, everything made sense, and the alcohol was gone. They forgave each other, and the bitterness and hatred disappeared.

A New Calling

In 1975, the Begays attended a seminar in Farmington about husbands and wives working together in ministry. After the session was over, the man leading the seminar asked if Joe and Gerri were legally married.

“We were so happy that we had gotten saved and things were going so well that we had forgotten we were still divorced. He said if we wanted to work as husband and wife together that we needed to remarry, the right way. We wound up having a little ceremony in a friend’s living room and God came between us and got a hold of our arms that day in 1975. He’s still walking with us,” Gerri said.

Following about 10 years of faithfully listening to God’s call in their lives, Joe and Gerri got connected with what was then Navajo Missions, now Navajo Ministries. Navajo Missions Founder Jack Drake offered Joe a job as a full-time missionary. Jack and Joe ventured to other parts of the United States to tell the stories of Navajo Missions and the plight of the Navajo people. Joe also worked to maintain ministry vehicles and routinely spread the Gospel within a 50-mile radius of Farmington to anyone who would listen.

In 1987, Gerri also joined the staff as a missionary and they began to
visit and share the Good News to
many in the region. A year later,
they started traveling each year with
Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker
and his wife, Kay, as guides on the
Navajoland tours, which take visitors
throughout unforgettable attractions
in and around the Navajo Nation, and
culminating with a final day trip to
Navajo Ministries.

Joe also served as a pastor at a
church in Upper Fruitland, New
Mexico, and years later in Hardrock,
Arizona. Perhaps their biggest legacy
is all of the churches they helped start
all over the Navajo Nation. They have
always had a call to provide marriage
seminars to help strengthen families,
something they are still doing today.

“Today, when we look back, it’s
amazing to see a lot of churches that
we helped establish … Many of those
couples are now serving together in
their own churches,” Gerri said.

Joe also was moved when he recalls
how God used two broken people for
His greater good.

“Looking back to the time we got
saved to this day, there is a real
purpose to why God called us. There’s
a need in the family. Families are
dysfunctional because of abuse and
alcohol. Using what we went through,

Grace Fellowship also gave the
Begays a gift of a lifetime when they
sent Joe and Gerri to Israel to tour the
Holy Land last fall.

“We always thought we would go
to the Holy Land, starting from when
we first got saved. In God’s timing,
it only took 40 years,” Joe said with
a smile. “It was a great experience,
walking where Jesus walked and
getting baptized in the Jordan River.”

Joe and Gerri remain very connected
to Navajo Ministries. They help
coordinate the annual Christmas
Connections to needy people in the
Navajo Nation each December (see
story on page 13), provide Navajo
culture training to visiting Vacation
Bible School groups and often
travel with Jim and Kay Baker on
development trips throughout the
country.

“Since 1988 we’ve been all over the
United States – everywhere but North
Dakota, Alaska and Hawaii,” Gerri
said.

They have also appeared on the
popular show “The 700 Club,” and
been on other television and radio
programs throughout the U.S. Both
Joe and Gerri consider the Bakers
wonderful mentors during their
Christian walk.

“Jim and Kay are the ones who
mentored us, and that’s what’s making
our church successful. They were a
good example for us,” Gerri said.

And, Joe and Gerri Begay are
certainly the best of examples of what
God can do in the darkest of times.
Four decades after being embraced
by His loving arms, they continue to
follow his leading.

“God has a purpose for everything.
And, what we went through years ago
was part of our journey. God took us
out of that life and gave us a new life
– and he’s still blessing us every day,”
Joe added. ☺
Navajo Ministries and the Four Corners Home for Children welcomed new houseparents to the House of Faith last August as Cliff and Kristine Young joined the childcare team, along with their 3-year-old son Max.

The Youngs came here from Waco, Texas, where they worked as houseparents to nine teenage boys at the Methodist Children’s Home. Kristine was actually raised in a Christian children’s home from the ages of 13 to 17 and said it is her pleasure to “give back the love that I received at such a critical time in my young life.”

Cliff and Kristine were married in the fall of 2008 and initially enjoyed living and working in Yellowstone National Park and Sun Valley, Idaho, along the Sawtooth Mountain Range. Following the birth of Max on September 3, 2010, a cancer diagnosis for Kristine’s mother brought them to Texas to be closer to her. It was in Waco where they started working with children in need. And, Kristine said her mom is now “cancer free.”

“Although we enjoyed our work in Texas at Methodist Children’s Home, we felt the pull elsewhere and desired to work with young children since Max is 3,” Kristine said. “The quote, ‘The Mountains are calling and I must go,’ by John Muir, was ringing loud in our ears. So here we are.

“We couldn’t have chosen a better location. We have enjoyed New Mexico and Colorado and are excited about taking our summer trip with the kids to Zion National Park in Utah.”

As of February, the Youngs were caring for five girls and three boys ages 7 to 15 in the House of Faith.

“What a blessing it is to be doing God’s work with the beautiful children here at Navajo Ministries. We also found our home church here at Pinon Hills Community Church … It truly is a joy and an honor to be a part of these children’s growth and development in Christian love and faith.”

Cliff enjoys being outdoors with the children, going on hikes, taking them to the park and having “epic” snowball fights. Kristine’s favorite thing to do with the kids is “singing and dancing every chance we get.”

“I also love our time of devotion each night with the children as we cozy up in the hogan part of our house with the fireplace on and express gratitude to God for our day, share praises with each other and have prayer. Our faith and family time is important to us in providing a structured, fun, loving environment,” Kristine said.

“We know without a doubt that God has called us here to serve. Our hearts are filled with so much love for these children. We feel dedicated here to the children and this ministry. This is much more than just a job,” she added.

Navajo Ministries is pleased to have Cliff, Kristine and Max Young serving with us! You are all such a blessing.
New Teacher Reflects on First Year

Cheryl Sanders started as the new teacher at the Navajo Ministries On-Site School in August, and has been a great addition to the team. What follows is a brief report from Cheryl on her first several months in the classroom:

The school year of 2013 came with many blessings. I began my teaching position at Navajo Ministries with great excitement and a heart full of gratitude that I would have this wonderful opportunity to challenge myself as a teacher and educate the youth at the ministry.

This experience has been quite a change of pace for me, going from being responsible for one grade level to now five grades. I find myself going from one child to the next, always teaching something new. This has been a great blessing that every challenge that my students face, we can overcome the obstacles together. It has been very rewarding to watch the students learn new concepts and grow in maturity.

We started the school year with 12 students, two of which returned home early in the semester. The other 10 students have remained at the school and continue to thrive in their education, and we actually added two more students in late winter to return to 12 overall. The dozen student number is ideal for the Navajo Ministries School.

In November the students performed “Stone Soup” for the staff and guests at a special Thanksgiving luncheon. They also helped serve more than 60 guests! It was a lot of fun and the students enjoyed the opportunity to share their talents with others.

Mrs. Pat Moone continues to teach the students about their culture, traditions and Navajo history. They also get to learn some of the Navajo language during this class.

Now that we are fully into 2014, the students are working hard to prepare for the state testing, which began the first part of March. As a class we are learning that the more we learn, the more there is to learn. I tell my students in the words of Dr. Seuss, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn the more places you’ll go.” How true this is – knowledge is the key to success.
Children Enjoy Trip on Colorado Train

Financial support from Trinity Bible Church in Sun City West, Arizona, brought smiles to our children’s faces in early February when they took a beautiful trip on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Children ages 1 to 15 had a great time, along with houseparents and other staff members. A special “thank you” to our friends at Trinity Bible Church.

NOTES FROM THE EUBANK COUNSELING CENTER

Adult Decisions Can Have Profound Affect on Children

By Linda Eubank

I was recently asked about current trends in counseling children. My immediate response? “I wish I could help parents understand how their personal decisions are affecting their children.”

My parents’ generation had two philosophies concerning children. One was that “children should be seen and not heard” and the other was “children are resilient; they bounce back from any circumstance.” Actually, neither statement is true. But let me concentrate on the second one.

We now know that children are not as resilient as we initially thought. All we have to do is look at the statistics to see what the break up of the family is doing to the emotional and mental well being of our children. They are confused, angry, rejected and abandoned. Some are becoming violent with each other, and even establishing surrogate family structures in gangs.

Children in the church are not immune. The divorce rates are sometimes just as high in the church setting. Even adults claiming faith in Christ are living together and changing partners as often as is required for them to be happy. Our children are becoming the victims of the decisions made by adults.

Sorry, I don’t mean to sound so negative. Sometimes it just gets to me. We, as Christians, should be making a greater impact on our society. We should be showing the world how different things can be. Our children should be free to make an impact in their schools and in their neighborhoods because our families follow the one true God who makes all things possible (Philippians 4:13)

We can’t go back in time and change the decisions we have made in the past. I am no exception. But we can move forward, revealing a life of trust and confidence in the Lord. We can model for our children a life making the best of less than desirable circumstances. We can put our relationship with God, spouse and children first in our lives. We can begin to make an impact in our neighborhoods, schools and workplace. People will know what we stand for because we choose to “love one another.”

Our children need to see us standing for Godly principles, putting relationships before material possessions, and seeing value in each of the individuals that He has created.

Linda Eubank is a licensed professional clinical counselor with the Eubank Counseling Center, located on the campus of Navajo Ministries. Two-thirds of her clients are children ranging in age from 3 to 17.
Hundreds of Families Receive Help at Christmas

Each year, Navajo Ministries takes part in the Christmas Connections outreach program, which helps more than 300 families in remote areas of the Navajo Nation with food, blankets, toys, Bibles, health and hygiene items and more. About a dozen pastors from churches in the Navajo Nation pick up the items at Navajo Ministries, which serves as a collection point in the weeks preceding the deliveries.

Probably nothing speaks to the importance of this wonderful program more than the reports we receive each year from the pastors. Below are just a few examples of this amazing event:

- **The expression on the faces tells the whole story, especially the children as they received the toys. Some families expressed that they were barely making it by. All families that we met were in dire need of food and supplies.**

- **One family had three children with no decent clothes or jackets, and they were playing outside with sticks and cans. Each of them got toys, caps and mittens. Their mom just cried and said, “thank you.”**

- **One family we visited lost their mother to a drunk driver, leaving four young children under the age of 8. The family was so appreciative of the gifts we provided. We prayed for many people who needed salvation.**

- **One of the couples who visited some of the homes in our area went to the home of a relative with whom they had a broken relationship. Forgiveness was given for some wrongdoing. They made peace with each other just by bringing the gifts. There was joy in their hearts as they left.**

Thank you to everyone who helped make this all possible.
Emmet Fowler Returns as General Manager

Emmet Fowler returns as General Manager

KNMI Vertical Radio, FM 88.9, welcomed Emmet Fowler back as General Manager of the station in November 2013. Fowler, a lifelong resident of San Juan County, has been an integral part of the station for years, including a successful stint as general manager from the mid-1990s to 2002.

Fowler, who has continued to be a consistent voice on Vertical Radio’s Game of the Week and Connie Mack World Series broadcasts, spent the past 11 years working as the worship arts pastor at the Oasis Church in Farmington. KNMI Vertical Radio is one of the programs of Navajo Ministries Inc., which also includes the Four Corners Home for Children, Navajo Ministries School and Navajo Nation Outreach.

“We are delighted to welcome Emmet back to Vertical Radio as General Manager,” Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker said. “He is no stranger to us having been involved with the station on and off since he was a teenager back in the early days of the station in the 1980s. His excitement and energy will continue to guide the ministry of Vertical Radio as we provide Christian Hit music, and more, to the Four Corners region.”

KNMI was the first Christian radio station in the Four Corners when it was founded in 1980. Today, the station plays a Christian Hit Music format, hosted by local on-air personalities. The station is also heavily involved in community events, and is home to the annual Connie Mack World Series each August, in addition to the Game of the Week high school sports broadcasts.

“I am excited to be back at Vertical Radio,” Emmet said. “I have always had a heart for this station and what it represents to this community – hope, encouragement and stability. My goal is to continue the vision of Vertical Radio as we reach a new generation of listeners with relevant music and programming.”

He is a 1983 graduate of Shiprock High School and is married to wife Debbie. They have four children. He can be reached at Emmet@VerticalRadio.org or (505) 324-5222.

Devin Neeley, Vertical Radio General Manager for the past three years, moved on in November to pursue other career opportunities in television.

“We really appreciate Devin’s leadership these past three years. He did a fine job and we wish him well in his future,” Navajo Ministries Vice President Eric Fisher said. “Emmet brings years of experience in radio and will continue to lead the station in a positive direction. He is also well known and well respected throughout the Four Corners community.”

KNMI Vertical Radio was selected as runner-up as Best Radio Station in The Farmington Daily Times Readers’ Choice Awards in 2013. For more information on the station, go to www.VerticalRadio.org or follow Vertical Radio on Facebook.
Remembering our Loved Ones

Just before Christmas, 2013, our country lost another of our treasured Navajo Code Talkers. Wilfred Billey lived a fulfilled life in service to our country and was a leader of young people in our region. One of those young people was our own Emmet Fowler, General Manager of Vertical Radio, who first got to know him as a student in Shiprock, New Mexico, where Wilfred was principal.

I joined more than 400 other citizens who packed the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church on December 21 for his memorial service. I first got to know Wilfred through our founder, Jack Drake, who was an instructor working with Wilfred at the Navajo Methodist Mission School in Farmington back in the 1950s. Emmet had the honor of being asked by the family to deliver their eulogy in his memory. (To read the entire eulogy go to www.NavajoMinistries.org and click on “News”).

Wilfred lived a long, full life surrounded by loving family and friends. His purpose in life came full circle, leaving with his family love, strength, integrity, and his strong sense of faith. Wilfred loved the Lord until his last breath. He left this world to celebrate the life he lived.

On this page you will find the names of others who have gone on to glory including our dear friend and long-time co-worker Art Hickmott. It’s a way to celebrate the lives that were lived and while doing so, provide funds to give Navajo boys and girls a safe place to call “home.” Some names are listed as ones to “Honor.” These folks are still here with us and daily live a life of service to others.

If you would like to remember your loved one through a Living Memorial or “In Honor Of,” please use the envelope attached to this magazine to indicate your request. A lovely card will be sent to the family. No amounts will ever be mentioned. And, boys and girls will benefit from your loving support.

Jim Baker, President

Living Memorials Through December 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richard and Yoli Rogers</td>
<td>Breann Chavez</td>
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<td>Malalynn Cooper</td>
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NAVAJOLAND FALL TOUR 2014

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