Praising the Lord

Johnny B. Dennison

Also see Navajo Ministries School BUIDLING FOR THE FUTURE
WILL:
A will is a legal document by which you name a person (executor) to handle the distribution of your assets and provide instruction on who is to receive the assets. The assets that are transferred by will are owned in the name of the person who has passed on. A will needs to be probated for the transfers to be completed. A court will read the will to determine if it is valid, make sure all claims against the estate are settled and then allow the distribution of the estate to the correct beneficiaries. The probate process, in some cases, may be expensive and take a long time to settle. In the case of a will your executor can only take over after death, and has no authority to act on your behalf if you are incapacitated while living. A power of attorney document needs to be implemented to authorize someone to act on your behalf during your lifetime.

Whether you use a will or trust you need to spend time making wise choices as to whom, when and how your assets will be transferred. If you do not take the time to determine your desires and put them in writing there could be family disputes, a lengthy settlement period and high fees.

If you are considering Navajo Ministries as one of your charitable beneficiaries, we can provide any information regarding your estate planning. Please contact our financial planning professional Mark Johnson toll free at 800.950.2109 or at mdjohnson@fountainwealth.com for more information.

TRUST:
A living trust is a contract that is created by you, the grantor, during your lifetime that establishes the distribution of one’s estate. The big difference from the will is that the assets are transferred out of your name and into the trust during your lifetime rather than transferring assets after your death. You are the creator (grantor) and the manager (trustee) of the trust during your lifetime. So you lose no control or use of your assets. At your death there is a successor manager (trustee) that either manages the assets in the trust according to your wishes or distributes immediately to your beneficiaries. If you become incapacitated during lifetime your successor trustee can also step in and manage your assets for you. If all your assets are in the trust and not in your name at death there is no lengthy or expensive probate process for your heirs to go through.

WILL or a TRUST: Getting Your Wishes Down on Paper
There are many different ways to pass on one’s estate, but the most important factor is to get your official wishes written down on paper. In this brief article we cannot address all the different estate planning options, so we will focus on the two most common estate plans – the will and trust.

A Great Way to Help Navajo Ministries School
Our On-Site School at Navajo Ministries has benefited greatly from two programs in recent years: General Mills’ Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Labels for Education.

Last year, the Navajo Ministries School received its largest amount ever for one year from Box Tops for Education. How much? How about $2,842.60! Each Box Top is worth 10 cents, so that money really stacks up! The school has also used UPCs from the Campbell’s labels program to purchase needed equipment, such as computers.

For a total list of participating products, visit boxtops4education.com and labelsforeducation.com. Please continue looking for these familiar items and send them to us for this school year. Thanks!

Mail Box Tops and Labels to: Kay Baker
Navajo Ministries, PO Box 1230
Farmington, NM, 87499

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Jim and Kay Baker recently traveled to Seattle, Washington to attend a National Niemann Pick Disease Conference. While in Washington, they visited with several friends and donors of Navajo Ministries. One of those visits was with Ken and Janet Spellman. Ken has collected Labels for Education and Box Tops for our school since May 2002. Since then, he has sent us more than 10,000 labels and more than 20,000 Box Tops. What a joy it was for Jim and Kay to visit with Ken and Janet and thank them personally for the wonderful contribution they have made to our On-Site School.

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CHILD Care PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP
The economic downturn that has hit many in the United States is having an impact on Navajo Ministries. Our programs receive no state, federal or tribal funding and rely solely on resourceful financial partners throughout the country to continue operations. This year, the Four Corners Home for Children at Navajo Ministries has experienced a 13 percent shortfall, or about $3,700 each month.

Your financial gift of at least $25 a month to the childcare program will help make up for this financial shortfall. To become a sponsor of the Four Corners Home for Children, simply fill out the response envelope in the center of this magazine. By checking the childcare box and sending in your monthly support you are truly making a difference in a child’s life.

As a sponsor, we will send you monthly updates on how your gifts and prayers are changing lives of young children. The need is great for these services, especially in difficult economic times. Since 1953, the Four Corners Home for Children has provided a safe, loving home environment for more than 700 children.

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US IN BRINGING GOD’S LOVE TO THESE PRECIOUS CHILDREN!
Two Amazing Young Men

Determined and Committed to Excellence

One of the joys of my daily work is to host each day the Four Corners Spotlight show on our radio station, KNMI, known as Vertical Radio to area listeners. This show features local guests from all walks of life, including elected officials, educators, directors of non-profit organizations and even national Christian authors who share insights and inspiration from their newly released books. Two of these guests included a couple of young men who definitely inspired our listeners.

Brad DeWees was just a little guy when I first met him in our local church. He was home-schooled, with his mom, Christie, being his primary teacher. After completing 8th grade he enrolled in a local high school, graduating with good grades. Brad applied to attend the prestigious Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He says he will always remember the phone call from U.S. Representative Tom Udall’s office saying he was accepted. But there was even better news to come four years later as he graduated Number 1 in his class of 1,000 cadets. He was ranked Top Overall Graduate!

Brad shared with our listeners that day the importance of his home-schooling and his parents’ Godly influence in his life. He said, “I couldn’t have made it through without faith in Christ.” His advice to youngsters listening: “There is no secret to success, just work hard, even when you grow up in a small town like Farmington.”

Corbin Carpenter did something miraculous! He walked up the stairs and into the studio in July for the interview. One year earlier on July 25, 2008, Corbin was thrown from the bull he was riding at the National High School Finals Rodeo taking place in Farmington. The kick from the bull broke two vertebrae and severely injured his spinal cord. He was conscious but had no feeling in his legs.

“Hospital personnel feared he would never walk again,” his mother Theresa said. She was video taping the ride when the accident happened. Corbin says, “As I lay in the dirt a peace came over me and I knew it was God speaking to me.” Within the first two weeks of “the wreck” Corbin began to move his leg. Before long he was on his way to Dallas for rehabilitation.

After a year of many prayers, intensive rehabilitation and fierce determination, Corbin fulfilled a promise he made before leaving Farmington. “I’m going to walk into that arena at the 2009 Finals in Farmington and tip my hat to the crowd.” He not only walked in but rode in on his horse!

What a joy it was to spend some time with these two young men determined to achieve excellence. And, I get to have a front row seat watching God also work miracles in the lives of the children in our care. In addition, our cover story with Johnny B. Dennison is another example of God’s miracle-working power. God is good. His mercies endure forever.

James D. Baker, President

Theresa Carpenter has written a book about their experiences, “Spurs, Chaps and Faith, The Corbin Carpenter Story.” For more information you can e-mail her at carpenterbarcc@aol.com.
Pennsylvania Volunteer Helps With Needed Projects

Tommy Kopp visited Navajo Ministries for two weeks this summer to volunteer his time to help with many needed maintenance and landscaping projects. We were pleased to welcome this terrific young man from the First Church of God in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Tommy also sent us a heartfelt thank you card following his two weeks on the ministry campus. Here are some excerpts: “Thank you so much for allowing me to spend two weeks with you all in New Mexico. I took many stories home to tell … Besides all of the great stories, the best two parts were how welcome you all made me feel and realizing God was at work in my visit.” Our prayers are with Tommy and his family as he continues to serve God where He leads.

Eagle Scout Completes Project For Our Campus

Travis Dockter, a local Eagle Scout, volunteered for two straight weekends this summer to construct a drainage system with beautiful rock landscaping near the Four Corners Home for Children. Travis did a wonderful job in building this needed drainage system that will help move water away from the driveway areas near the two long-term children’s homes.

Target Continues Support of Navajo Ministries

Navajo Ministries would like to offer its sincere thanks to Target for being a longtime corporate supporter of the ministry’s programs. Since 1996, Target Stores have donated nearly $50,000 to Navajo Ministries! This year, Target is continuing its support of the Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries with a $5,000 grant. Target donates 5 percent of its income to communities across the United States. Again, we say “ thanks!” For more on the Counseling Center, see page 12.

Notes from Neighbors Readers

As long as there are precious little Navajo children being born, there will be a need for Navajo Ministries … I enjoy reading about your heroes, like the ones mentioned in Navajo Neighbors. Sometimes, I feel like the magazine is like a jewelry box that I get to enjoy and savor each gemstone that adds meaning to my life. - L.M. – Kentucky

I cannot adequately express my appreciation for being such a part of the mission trip to Navajo Ministries and Victory Life Church. It was a life-changing experience … Please convey my sincerest love and gratitude to your whole team. May God richly bless you all. - C.T. – Texas

I really liked your new magazine and your group was one of Alma’s favorites. I sent the contribution in Alma’s memory as she passed away in March ’07… keep up the excellent work. - J.L. – Delaware

I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for being part of our missions trip to Navajo Ministries. It was a life-changing event for me personally, and I will be forever grateful. Again, my sincerest thanks for a wonderful week, meeting your terrific team, learning about the history of the area, and having a chance to be a part of the Navajo Ministries. God bless you all! - T.M. – Ohio
Johnny B. Dennison sings Bible in Navajo language

By Eric Fisher

Johnny B. Dennison often wakes up well before dawn to visit with his newest and dearest friend. This friend has always been with Johnny B., although it wasn’t until about five years ago that he truly invited this wonderful new presence into his life.

A resident of a Navajo community in Nageezi, New Mexico, Johnny B. Dennison today talks about firmly believing the life-changing words found in the pages of the Bible. He even has a small, decorative sign inside his living room with the word “Believe” inscribed on it. He often refers to that special sign when talking to people in his home.

“I want people to believe what I’m believing,” he says with a peaceful smile.

Johnny B. spends hours each day in the Holy Word, thirsting to learn more and reading to “believe.” His gifts of praise are often returned through songs – songs performed in the Navajo language, with his drum providing a consistent background beat. People throughout parts of the world, including the Holy Land in Israel, have now heard Johnny’s praise songs that he composed directly from biblical passages. He even recorded a CD recently titled “In the Beginning: The Bible Sung in Navajo.”

“The Bible always wants to come to me. I cannot draw it back and have to keep it with me. The Bible is like my mother, father or best friend … It’s a miracle food that makes you strong,” he said during a recent interview at his home in Nageezi.

Johnny B. Dennison, who is now retired, lives with his wife Nellie in Nageezi, which is located 25 miles east of the famous Chaco Canyon National Historical Park. Johnny actually worked at Chaco Canyon at one time, helping to repair the ruins at the ancient homes the Pueblo Indians lived in from 850 to 1250 A.D.

People have called Johnny B. a “jack of all trades” because of the many jobs he performed admirably earlier in his life. His past work includes being a bus driver, a mechanic, a sheep herder, a medical assistant and an educator, to just name a few. Today, he said he’s doing the most important work of his life.

“I’m doing God’s business, Jesus’ business and the Holy Ghost’s business. I thank God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost that I can be their witness. I think that’s my purpose today,” Johnny B. said.

The Road to Finding a Calling

Johnny B. and Nellie Dennison
always look forward to Tuesdays at their home. That’s the day their good friends Ben and Eunice Stoner come over for lunch and Bible study. The Stoners, longtime friends of Navajo Ministries and full-time church planters to the Navajo people, first met the Dennison family more than five years ago when their son, Hendrix Dennison, asked them to come pray for Nellie, who was very ill and struggling with diabetes. Hendrix, who is a Christian, was desperately trying to find his mother some help.

“Nellie had been quite sick and it wasn’t looking very good,” Eunice Stoner said. “Hendrix came to us and asked us to pray for Nellie. God really touched Nellie and today she is so much better. She still takes some medicine, but not as much.”

The reality that these prayers to God seemed to help heal his wife captured Johnny’s curiosity. Nellie had even become a believer while she recovered from her illness. “I thought maybe there’s something good that I’m missing. The prayers helped my wife. We almost lost her, but right now she looks younger and healthy. Back then, I didn’t know what happened, but I wanted to know more,” Johnny B. said.

Ben Stoner suggested doing a Bible study and Johnny B. quickly agreed. More than a year later, Johnny B. said “I believe it, too!”

“You really believed in January of 2004, sitting right here,” Ben said as he looked in Johnny’s eyes following a recent lunch at his home. “I remember that day so well. I didn’t know Johnny much before he was saved, but so many people have come up to me and said that he is so different, in a very good way.”

Johnny B. and Nellie Dennison have been married for 55 years. Today, each Tuesday is a special time of fellowship and friendship for the Dennison and Stoner couples. “Every time they come I know some good things will happen. Their motivation is always on the right path, going in the right direction,” Johnny B. said.

Johnny B. and Nellie Dennison have also traveled cross-country and to Israel to help spread the Good News. Several years ago, they attended the Cornerstone Music Festival in Illinois and last September they joined more than 400 others from around the globe in Israel at the World Christian Gathering of Indigenous People semi-annual conference. Johnny B. said walking in the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land was an experience he’ll never forget.

“Everywhere we went I wanted to stay there longer to praise the Lord. Yes, I want to go back, one more time or two more times,” he said.

“The Bible is like my mother, father or best friend … It’s a miracle food that makes you strong.”

Praising God with Navajo Songs

Johnny B. Dennison started composing songs in the Navajo language from the Bible in September 2004 and sang his first song.
Revelation 4: 8-11—to Ben and Eunice Stoner in November of that same year.

“I cried because I had prayed for such singing in the Navajo style since 1970! It was wonderful,” Ben said. “Sometimes he gets so emotional singing some of the Scripture songs that he mixes up his words. And once when he was singing the Creation story, he said, “It seems like God is standing beside me doing it as I sing.”

Johnny B. finds himself singing the Bible in Navajo “wherever God has put it on my heart to sing.” He usually sings each week for senior citizens in Bloomfield and at large group gatherings both locally and other parts of the country.

“In Israel and all over the place, they want me to sing my songs. Sometimes I say ‘I don’t have a drum with me.’ They then will give me one … I’ll keep singing until I don’t know when.

My songs are my testimony about God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost.”

Ben said he asked Johnny B. several months ago to make up a short, one-verse song so everybody could learn it in Navajo. The next week, Johnny B. told him he was working on Psalm 119, the longest chapter in Psalms. “He sang a whole bunch of that song to us one Saturday for about a half hour,” Ben said with a laugh and a smile.

Johnny B. Dennison said he praises the Lord each and every day for the blessings He has bestowed upon himself and his family. He also would like many more Navajo people to become followers of Jesus Christ, but adds “I don’t want to force them. That doesn’t work. I’ll tell them what I believe, and they might want to know more. That’s what happened with me a few years ago.”

Johnny B. also has a favorite number – and it’s 13. “I live in house number 13, I have 13 children and there are 13 people in that picture above your head,” he said as he referred to an attractive painting of the Last Supper. Yes, 12 disciples and Jesus – 13.

Today, life is fresh and new each day for Johnny B. and Nellie Dennison. They both realize the gift they’ve been freely given.

“I didn’t used to know where I was going. I would just go about my business and that was it. I may not be that perfect today, but I know I’m depending on the Lord for everything,” Johnny B. added.

To purchase a copy of Johnny B. Dennison’s CD
“In the Beginning: The Bible Sung in Navajo”
Send inquiries to:
37 Road 5297
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
Phone: 505-632-3820
E-mail: yunusben@aol.com
Bisti Badlands: A Hidden Place of Adventure, Solitude

By Eric Fisher

Tucked away in the remote high desert of northwest New Mexico is a land of mystery, solitude and adventure. Visitors to the Bisti Badlands, officially known as the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, will quickly find themselves getting away from the normal hustle and bustle of life.

Located about 30 miles south of Farmington, New Mexico, along Highway 371, the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness is 45,000 acres of some of the most unusual and unique scenery anywhere in the United States. Time and natural elements have etched a fantasy world of strange rock formations and fossils.

About 10,000 people visit the Bisti area each year, although it remains a primitive recreation experience where a day hike often means quality time alone or with a small group of fellow hikers. Christian visitors especially like their quiet time exploring the Bisti Badlands as a chance to be closer to God in one of His many wonderful creations.

Considering the hot daytime temperatures in the summer months, the Bisti Badlands are often a popular spring and fall trip for visitors. Some hikers backpack into the wilderness overnight, while others enjoy a full-moon hike that accents formations that seem to come to life. Bringing plenty of water is always recommended for anyone who comes to discover the Bisti, even for just a one-hour hike.

The federal Bureau of Land Management manages the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness to protect the area’s natural features and overall primitive experience. Translated from the Navajo language, “Bisti” means a “large area of shale hills,” while “De-Na-Zin” takes it name from the Navajo words for “cranes.” For more information on the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, call the Farmington Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1.800.448.1240.

Visitors to the Bisti Badlands in northwestern New Mexico marvel at the unique scenery and challenging hiking trails.
By Annette Hall

With the summer behind us and a new school year beginning, it is a good time to reflect on how we spent our summer. I remember as a little girl, being so excited about summer break. No more school, no teachers, no instruction, no homework and most importantly – no learning.

Our houseparents enjoy their summer break, but even while they are taking advantage of no school, teachers, instruction or homework, the learning never stops.

I recently chatted with housemom Shelia Owens about her summer. We discussed some difficulty she had recently experienced with the arrival of new children. We talked for awhile and then I asked if she had learned anything through her recent experiences. Her words were touching.

The Owens had some summer challenges with more than one unexpected event, but they have weathered it and made it through. Three new children were recently placed in their home and these particular children had a very hard time adjusting.

Marvin and Shelia Owens’ home is organized and provides structure to the many children who live there and when new ones arrive, that structure can all but disappear. The new children are in an unknown environment and it can be frightening to them. Marvin and Shelia were tasked with the challenge of ministering to the new children as they dealt with being separated from their mother, while also maintaining order with the other kids.

During our conversation, Shelia talked about the need to be aware of and even acknowledge the “baggage” that children bring with them. They can feel abandoned and unloved, they might wonder if they will ever see their parents again. There will definitely be confusion and fear and, of course, they will be dealing emotionally with the issues that led to them being placed here.

As she talked, I thought of the “baggage” in a more literal sense, like a suitcase. What if we could take all of those things our children deal with and put them in a suitcase? And if we could, what would we do with it? We might be tempted to stash it in a closet or under the bed, out of sight. We might hope that by doing that, the issues might never come to light, they might “go away” and we wouldn’t have to ever face them.

Sometimes people do try to ignore or hide their emotional issues but it isn’t a productive, healthy way to live and we are responsible to God and to the children He places here to take their emotional suitcase, their baggage, and welcome it into our homes. We need to make room for it, find a place for it, just like we do for the child. And we need to be willing and able to open it up when the child is ready to go through the things inside.

Our dedicated houseparents do just that on a daily basis. We are so blessed to have staff members who care for the children. It is not just a job to them; it is a calling.

Oh, and by the way, when I asked Shelia what she learned in “Summer School,” she said that she learned to be more gracious, letting the needs of the children come before the rules. And most importantly, she learned to see the children through God’s eyes, which is the most rewarding lesson of all.

Annette Hall is Director of Children and Family Services at Navajo Ministries.
Navajo Ministries School Looks to Future

For more than a decade, the Navajo Ministries On-Site School has seen great successes in helping to create a stable, comfortable learning environment for the at-risk children we serve. Many of the students who attend the school struggle with attention deficit disorder (ADD) problems and other issues resulting from difficult family backgrounds.

The students also are often well behind their peers in math and reading when they enter the On-Site School. However, due to the unique structure and small class sizes, these children can advance up to two grade levels in just one school year. In 2008-2009, more than 20 students were taught at the Navajo Ministries School, some for just a few weeks and others for the entire school year.

The Navajo Ministries School is now into its 11th year in partnership with the Farmington Municipal Schools system. An aging facility, however, is the biggest challenge facing the school today. Currently housed in the former bookstore location at Navajo Ministries, the school is too small and has a roof that leaks when it rains or snows. A temporary metal covering was placed over the roof last fall, but it is not a permanent solution.

The school is also located right next to a busy, five-lane highway and was not originally designed to accommodate a classroom setting. The need for a new facility is great, and with the help of faithful financial supporters throughout the country, Navajo Ministries is beginning initial design and construction on a new Education and Activity Center. The center will be located just to the north of the newer long-term children’s homes that were built in 2001-2002.

The 8,000-square-foot Education and Activity Center will include new classroom space, an art room and gallery, a small library, a conference room and separate boys and girls restrooms. This wonderful new building will also include a new kitchen and cafeteria area to serve the entire 17-acre campus and a games and activity area for the children. The activity area will include table tennis, a pool table and other games in a warm, comfortable setting.

A ground-breaking event for the new facility was held in September as a kickoff to phase one of our Navajo Heritage Center project. You’ll read more about this amazing campus “make-over” in an upcoming issue of Navajo Neighbors.

Diane Hebbard, our full-time teacher at the On-Site School, said a new facility will bring “so many blessings to look forward to.” Here are some of her thoughts:

“We will have new places to store things, along with an art room and windows that will bring in natural lighting for our ADD kids. We’ll have a recreation room where the students can have room to exercise during cold weather, and a library area that the houseparents can also use when the kids are at home. Another big benefit is no more street noise next to the busy highway, along with the separate restrooms for the boys and girls. It’s going to be wonderful!”

More information on the future Education and Activity Center at Navajo Ministries is available by contacting Director of Development Eric Fisher at 505.324.5260 or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org
How to Handle Things That ‘Bug’ You

By Bill and Linda Eubank

Many of you may not know that before earning his second master’s degree in counseling and becoming a mental health counselor, Bill worked as a landscape consultant utilizing his first master’s degree in Entomology (the study of insects). He says back then he was helping to get the “bugs” out of the landscape. Now, he says, he’s helping to get the “bugs” out of people!

We have heard it said that “It’s not the ‘elephants’ in life that create the most problems, it’s the ‘ants.’” If you think about it, it is often the little things that friends, family and acquaintances do that “bug” us. This can lead to unkind things being said, a divorce, changing friends, changing jobs, etc.

These “ants” are inevitable, so how are we supposed to handle them? Well, let’s discuss some healthy and common sense ways to cope with these “bugging” little stressors:

**Focus on the positive:** We all know people who focus on the negative of any situation. We really don’t like being around them. Don’t be one of those! If you find others avoiding you, maybe you should look at whether you are more negative in your responses than you are positive.

**Be thankful for those imperfect people in your life:** It may sound a little morbid, but we can always find someone who has a worse marriage, worse job, worse physical condition, etc. than we do. So, try and be thankful you are not dealing with what they are dealing with! This does not mean that we want to gloat about our problems being less severe but this may help us put things into perspective.

**Try and understand:** What has hurt them in the past, causing them to act the way they do or say the things they do? Try to walk in their shoes to see things from their perspective. We can sometimes get so selfish that we are only willing to see how things affect us.

**Remember their value:** Not only are others created in the image of God, but He also created them with their personality, their outward appearance and their body build all for a purpose. View them as God views them and help them become all that God has for them to be!

**Learn how to express your feelings without damaging the relationship:** Many of us were never taught how to express ourselves in a way that does not hurt or damage the other person. This could be either with hurtful words or damaging physical touch. It is never too late to learn! Guess what - you will never find the perfect friend, mate, or child this side of heaven. Be thankful with whom God has put in your life and see it as a challenge to become more like Christ and love one another. Marriage is especially a challenge to learn how to serve instead of being served.

**Talk it out:** Find a quiet and safe time to express your concern. Don’t criticize. Tell them you want to understand and be there for them. Perhaps they can think of a better way to express themselves.

**Set appropriate boundaries:** Even though we are commanded to love another does not mean we cannot set boundaries. If talking it out doesn’t work, let them know that if they continue to act like that or talk to you like that, there will be consequences. Let them know what the consequences will be and follow through. Often we must distance ourselves from relationships that are damaging to us, our children and our mission in life. But don’t threaten them and don’t use this stressful situation as an excuse to not grow in Christ-likeness!

Bill and Linda Eubank are licensed professional clinical counselors at the Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.
VBS Teams Help Bring God’s Love to Navajoland

Each summer Navajo Ministries welcomes Vacation Bible School teams from across the United States. These wonderful groups receive lodging at our campus, perform work projects for Navajo Ministries and lead a four-day VBS program in one of the communities throughout the Navajo Nation. They also spend time learning about Navajo culture during their stays. We sincerely appreciate their dedicated work in helping to bring God’s love to young Navajo children.

This past summer we welcomed Second Baptist Church from Houston, Texas, Boulder Street Church from Colorado Springs, Colorado, The Vineyard Church of Knox County, Ohio, and Brazos Christian Church of Burleson, Texas. Thanks to each of these special groups for making this a memorable summer. Below are some comments from some of the VBS team members:

“My goal is to make it an annual event. I am touched at a deep emotional level. The Holy Spirit is powerful in this ministry.”

“It has demonstrated how God can use me to do His work! I’m not a ‘kid person,’ but for this week, he changed me into one for His good purpose.”

“This was a life-changing experience ... I would like to do it again.”

“Thank you for this opportunity. I hope we can return next year and have a VBS at the same church so we can further build on the relationships we made there. I will really miss these kids.” ♦
By Wendy Curtin

I have taken several road trips this year with my family. We always try to tune in to any Christian radio stations we can find along the way. Most of the stations we found were nationally syndicated, meaning there were no local DJs. That is fine for the music and news. However, there seemed to be “something” missing.

KNMI Vertical Radio is the Four Corners first Christian station, and we are the only one in the area that is completely local and non-profit. Our DJs work right here in Farmington, New Mexico, and we pride ourselves on being involved with our community.

In June, we set up a mini radio booth at KidFest. There were more than 10,000 people at the event, and approximately 50 children were able to record their own voices. We gave them each a CD of their recording. Throughout the summer, listeners heard these kids and their “sweepers” between songs. They went something like this: “Hi, this is Jennie! I listen to Vertical Radio. More than Music!”

We have also been very involved in promoting concerts this summer. Fourth of July weekend brought a concert to the mountains of Colorado called “Night Vision.” The organization that planned the event called us for our support. Our general manager, Darren, is extremely talented with production, and he created an amazing radio spot to promote this event, which featured over 20 Christian artists.

Shortly after, it was time to help promote the “Welcome to the Family Tour,” featuring Kutless, Disciple, Stellar Kart, Esterlyn and Chasen. Kutless took time out to do a live interview on my show, “The Lunch Crunch.” They were amazingly talented, yet what struck me was how genuine and friendly they were. They even remembered my children at the concert that night, after meeting them at the studio. They asked me to emcee the Q&A session for VIP ticket holders, as well as welcome the crowd to the concert that night. It was a balmy 86 degrees inside Word of Life Church that night, but the show and the witness of the artists was even hotter.

In early August, we were busy broadcasting the 45th annual Connie Mack World Series at Ricketts Park. Tens of thousands of people listened to the broadcasts on our station or through our Internet streaming. We all pitched in to make this week a successful and smooth tournament broadcast. As always, the Vertical Sports team was at the top of their game as they painted word pictures for our listeners.

This fall will bring another concert in October, featuring Skillet, Hawk Nelson and Decyfer Down. Before we know it, we will be meeting with the Blue Star Mothers to coordinate the collection of gifts for our troops on Veteran’s Day for Christmas care packages. At Vertical Radio, we point our listeners to our Heavenly Father, giving glory to our Savior, Jesus Christ. We strive to be His hands and feet in the Four Corners by being involved in our community.

Wendy Curtin is host of the “Lunch Crunch” show on KNMI Vertical Radio.
Lifetime Memories

This past year has proven to be one for the history books. We have seen our country go through an economic downturn that hasn’t been seen since the Great Depression of 1929. Some parts of our country have seen record low temperatures with unprecedented rainfall while other areas have seen record high temperatures. It will definitely be a year that will be remembered for years to come.

It’s those special or sometimes unusual experiences that we tend to remember. Like the time you ran out of gas on the freeway. Or perhaps it was the birth of your children or grandchildren. Maybe it was the time your favorite team won the national championship. Graduation from school is certainly a special day. Perhaps the day you walked down the aisle to give your hand in marriage to the one you loved holds a treasured memory in your mind. Of course, that day when you committed your life to Christ is a day that you’ll never forget.

A few months ago one of our teenagers was preparing to return to her natural family. Things at home had drastically improved and she had already loaded her things in the car. One of our staff members saw her standing in the middle of the driveway just looking over the lower level of the campus where the children’s homes are located. When asked what she was doing, she answered, “I just don’t want to forget this place.”

Through your Living Memorial gift you will not only remember your departed loved one or honor a friend still living, but you will also make it possible for Navajo boys and girls to have lasting memories of their time spent at Navajo Ministries.

Please fill out the form on the enclosed envelope. We will then send a beautiful card to the family member you designate, notifying them of your gift. No amounts are mentioned. Listed on this page is a partial listing of recent gifts received as Living Memorials.

Living Memorials as of July 2009

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<th>FROM</th>
<th>IN MEMORY OF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allan and Babette Bassing</td>
<td>Breann Chavez</td>
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<td>April Maria Lian</td>
<td>William “Pug” Lewis</td>
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<td>Breann Chavez</td>
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<td>Dick and Helen Carter</td>
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<td>Jake Rogers</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. G.R. Brown</td>
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<td>P. Kenneth and Carolyn Rohrer</td>
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Thank You for Your Support in a Time of Need!

Navajo Ministries would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given an extra financial gift to help make up for revenue shortfalls this year. The current economic downturn has affected many throughout the country, including non-profit organizations such as Navajo Ministries. We continue to trust God to help get us through a challenging time. We have truly been amazed by the support we’ve received from the friends of this ministry, and have again been reminded so clearly that God is our source and people are His resources.

Youth Fly Fishing Adventure Reels In Money for Children’s Home

The ninth annual 7-2-11 Youth Fly Fishing Adventure raised about $3,800 for the Four Corners Home for Children at Navajo Ministries. The fishing event took place July 25 on the Quality Waters of the San Juan River and included 15 young anglers and six adult “fishing buddies.”

The Youth Fly Fishing Adventure started on July 24 at Civitan Park with a three-hour workshop facilitated by the San Juan Fly Fishing Federation. The young anglers, who ranged in age from 10 to 16, learned about bugs, safety, good manners on the river, tying knots and even got a hands-on lesson on fly casting.

During the actual fishing on Saturday, the 21 fishermen involved in the Fly Fishing Adventure caught and released 22 fish. The young anglers in each division received first, second and third place awards and gift certificates to Zia Sporting Goods based on the highest total inches of fish caught by each angler.

Thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers and participants for making this another terrific event!

Thanks to our Connie Mack World Series Sponsors!

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The Oasis
San Juan Regional Medical Center • Sussex Chiropractic
Advertising Ideas • Williams Field Services
Pinon Hills Community Church • La Mesa Chiropractic Center
San Juan County Partnership • San Juan College • Alltel
CBF Services, Credit Bureau of Farmington • Resource Production

KNM! Vertical Radio, FM 88.9, is the official station of the Connie Mack World Series, held each August in Farmington at Ricketts Park.