helping Children Set Goals
Navajo Ministries lost a dear friend in late March when former Navajo Nation Vice President Marshall Plummer passed away following an illness. Marshall was considered by many to be a great leader who had the unique ability to bring people together for common and worthwhile causes.

Marshall served as the Navajo Nation's first Vice President from 1991-1995, following a term as a Navajo Nation Council delegate. He was 62 when he died at a Phoenix-area hospital on March 26.

In recent years, Marshall was the co-chairperson of the Navajo Heritage Center Task Force here at Navajo Ministries. Serving alongside fellow chairperson Joyce Donald, he helped set the tone and vision for the amazing Navajo Heritage Center project. He consistently talked about the project being a “monument of understanding” to help communicate the Navajo People's history, culture, heritage and faith.

Marshall will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He will still be with Navajo Ministries' staff, volunteers and friends in both spirit and memory as we continue to move the Navajo Heritage Center project forward.

Phase one, the Education and Activity Center, is already well under way. Marshall played a vital role in leading the ground-breaking celebration for the center on September 10, 2009. The center will include new classroom space for the on-site elementary students, a new kitchen/cafeteria for the 17-acre ministry campus, and a games and activity area. (See page 11 for more.)

Subsequent phases will include a museum-based Navajo Heritage Center that will be a true place of celebration for the Navajo People, bed-and-breakfast hogans, a Navajo Trading Post and Marketplace, and much more.

Marshall Plummer clearly knew the many positive benefits possible through the Navajo Heritage Center. We will carry on to fully realize the potential of this wonderful project.

Those who would like to make a donation toward the Navajo Heritage Center project in Marshall's memory can do so by filling out the envelope form in the center of this magazine. Marshall and his life will also be remembered in the Navajo Heritage Center in a special way.

We thank God we were able to share a small part of Marshall's life.
Navajo Ministries was established in 1953 for the purpose of caring for dependent children, regardless of race, religion or national origin, and for printing and distributing Navajo tracts and hymnals.

The ministry has expanded over the years to include: a non-commercial Christian radio station, KNMI Vertical Radio 88.9 FM; Counseling Center; Navajo Nation Outreach, providing spiritual, emotional and material encouragement to those living in Navajoland.

When a donor expresses a preference as to the use of donated funds, Navajo Ministries will make every effort to honor their request and in most cases this is done in exact compliance with the donor’s wishes. However, the Board of Directors, in ensuring that Navajo Ministries carries out its exempt purposes required by law and effectively uses available funds, accepts the responsibility of applying funds in accordance with objectives of the ministry.

Views and opinions expressed in Navajo Neighbors by those interviewed are not necessarily those of Navajo Ministries.

Navajo Ministries is a Charter Member in good standing with ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability).
Three Decades of Blessings

When Kay and I came to Navajo Missions for our interview in 1975 we were focused on the possibility of coming here to serve as houseparents. We spent most of a week in January of that year visiting with the children, houseparents and other staff members. We wanted to find a place that would provide the potential for a long-term investment of our lives as missionaries. We found much of what we were looking for, plus an added incentive that I wasn’t expecting.

When spending time with founder Jack Drake, he spoke of his hopes to one day begin a Christian radio station that would share the Gospel with many in Navajoland. Little did he know that I too had a similar desire in my heart while still living in Pennsylvania. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

In April of 1975 we arrived to begin what has now become a 35-year calling to our neighbors in Navajoland. During our 12 years of houseparenting we became “mom and dad” to 35 children who needed a place to call home. Two of those children who came into our home in that first year were 7-year-old Valerie and 23-day-old Byron.

When these two got into their teen years they showed an interest in radio broadcasting, too. They both were trained by Mark Frederick, also a houseparent and General Manager of KNMI. For a few years they were DJs during some of our evening and weekend hours. During our KNMI Vertical Radio 30th Birthday Party, we had several of our broadcasters from the past come by or call in for the celebrations. We were blessed to have Valerie and Byron show up for the festivities and reflect on those early days of the radio ministry.

Over the past 30 years we have seen God touch many lives through KNMI, the first Christian Radio station in the Four Corners region. We have included numerous stories and photos from the radio history in this issue of Navajo Neighbors. KNMI continues to be the only non-profit Christian station in our area that is supported entirely by listeners and friends like you. Thank you for making these days of celebration possible.

James D. Baker, President

Former Navajo Missions children and KNMI radio DJs Valerie Manning and Byron Yazzie remember their radio days during a visit with Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker.

Come Visit Us!
Our doors are always open to visitors.
2103 West Main Street, Farmington, New Mexico
www.NavajoMinistries.org
Roast Event Raises Funds for Children’s Home

The first-ever “Celebrity” Roast, benefiting The Four Corners Home for Children at Navajo Ministries, raised more than $10,000 for the childcare program as community members gathered to “roast” longtime Farmington community leader Joyce Donald.

Joyce, who runs the local Better Business Bureau office, has spent countless hours volunteering her time in helping to make San Juan County, New Mexico, a better place to live. She also serves as co-chairperson of the Navajo Heritage Center Task Force.

Joyce, pictured to the right, is seen sharing one of many laughs with event Master of Ceremonies Ron Price, Marj Black and Dr. James Henderson during the March 4 gala event that drew about 300 people to the Farmington Civic Center.

Navajo Ministries thanks Joyce Donald for all of her dedicated service to northwest New Mexico. And, thank you to everyone who made this such a special evening. Next year’s roast, with an as-yet-to-be-determined “roastee,” is tentatively set for early April 2011.

Students Send Money to Haiti Earthquake Victims

Ronna Jordan, with the National Day of Care organization, stopped by the Navajo Ministries On-Site School in February to share the tragic story of the January 12 Haiti earthquake, which killed more than 200,000 people and left 1 million children without parents.

The students chipped in their own money to raise more than $70 for the earthquake victims. Ronna’s National Day of Care group also partnered with two other organizations to raise more than $47,000 in pledges for the orphans in Haiti.

Our students learned a terrific lesson in how to give back to those with great needs. Thank you, Ronna, for sharing the message of God’s love for the Haitian people.

Navajo Ministries Child Gets To Be Ball Boy for Team

Connor, a 6-year-old boy entrusted in our care at the Four Corners Home for Children, shares a smile with Harlem Ambassadors player Jesse Whintly during a March 3 fund-raiser game for another local organization at Farmington High School.

Connor was selected to be a ball boy for the traveling team and took an immediate liking to Jesse, who graduated from Spring Arbor University in Michigan. Spring Arbor has sent numerous work teams to Navajo Ministries over the years to perform needed projects. Jesse says his favorite Bible verse is Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.”

Trail Christian Fellowship Completes Another Project

A youth team from Trail Christian Fellowship in Eagle Point, Oregon, visited the Navajo Ministries campus in late March to complete another in a long line of much-appreciated projects. Pictured, some of the Trail Christian Fellowship members put a new roof on a barn. Thanks again to this great group of teens and adults who consistently provide amazing ministry outreach!
By Jim Baker

It was Sunday, March 16, 1980 when a few dozen folks from the Farmington community gathered south of town overlooking the valley below and the mountains of the surrounding states for a very special occasion. It was the beginning of the first Christian radio station in the Four Corners region. Farmington Mayor Bob Culpepper assisted in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, surrounded by Mission staff and Board members. Shortly thereafter those in attendance arrived back at the station where the celebration continued live on the air.

The studios for the station were built into the corner of the mechanic shop at the Mission. This was the temporary location until the new studios could be constructed in the Communication Center, where they are still located today. Over 65 visitors streamed through the primitive studios that afternoon in March.

One Navajo gentleman who lived in Shiprock heard the dedication ceremonies over the air. Although he was sick in bed, he told his wife, “I’ve got to get up. We must go and help Jack Drake (founder) celebrate this special day.” When he arrived he gave his testimony over the air in his Navajo language.

**Unique Programming**

The next day brought the first regularly scheduled programming, which included a mixture of Bible teaching programs and inspirational Christian music. The broadcast day was just 12 hours at the beginning, followed by an increase to 18 hours and finally to the 24 hours a day that listeners enjoy today.

Each weekday, Mission founder Jack Drake presented a daily devotional program. Later he also was on the air on Sunday evenings sharing and praying with listeners. I recorded a program that was aired twice a day called Joyful Gems from Jim. It featured joyful thoughts, humorous anecdotes and catchy one-liners, all designed to brighten a person’s day and help the listener in their walk with God.

Before long I produced and co-hosted a show called “The Going Home Show.” It aired each weekday from 4 to 5 p.m. while people were headed home from work or school. It was quite a variety show with all kinds of Christian music, enlightening interviews and lots of fun. We even played Bible Baseball with the listeners on certain days of the week.
Our special hometown Birthday song was played for those with birthdays each day.

Whenever we would bring Christian artists to town for concerts, they would make a stop at the Going Home Show to share part of their story with the listeners. I still remember when Christian humorist Grady Nutt of the old Hee-Haw TV show came into the studio. Of course he had to walk through the mechanic shop to get to us and couldn’t help but pick up a broom and bring it with him saying, “What do you use this for?? … to clean the dust out of the record grooves?” What grand memories!

**Navajo Language Hours**

Our Navajo language programming aired from 1 to 3 p.m. each weekday afternoon. Andrew Begaye (brother to current board member Russell Begaye) ministered to our Navajo listeners in the Navajo language. Since we didn’t have music in Navajo, he played Southern Gospel music during that time – a favorite to many.

Andrew was very fluent in both Navajo and English. He had done interpreting for evangelists Bill Glass and Dr. Billy Graham, when he had a crusade in Albuquerque in the early ’70s. During his air shift, he also featured a 15-minute language program taught by David Tutt, one of the Navajo Bible translators. This program was designed to teach Navajos how to read and write their own language.

Andrew said, “I believe the media is one of the very best ways to share the Gospel with several hundred people at one time instead of just a handful!” Andy was doing a live TV program that first Sunday afternoon and while on the air called KNMI to greet the new listeners.

**Mark Frederick Puts It All Together**

Mark Frederick and his wife Karen joined the staff of Navajo Missions in the late 1970s. They were houseparents to a family of kids and Mark, who had a radio and TV background, was the one who helped us put the station together. He literally put up the boards and insulated the rooms in the garage. He designed the programming and taught the staff how to become quality broadcasters. Two weeks prior to signing on the air, he had all the DJs come in and do their shifts, spinning the records and recording the breaks, just like they were on the air.

In 1982 Mark and I went to the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Washington, D.C., where we received an honor citation from President of NRB, Ben Armstrong. We also got to see President Ronald Reagan when he addressed the Convention on the final evening.

Mark and Jack Drake received another award in 1984 … this time at the Wheatfields Bible Conference in the Navajo Nation. The plaque reads, “The 1984 Wheatfields Bible Conference gratefully recognizes the KNMI Radio Ministry as one of the most effective resources in the effort to win the Navajo Nation for Christ.” Seventeen years later in 2001, KNMI, under the direction of General Manager Emmet Fowler, won the Station of the Year Award from the New Mexico Broadcasters Association.

While these awards are wonderful, it’s not why the station was started 30 years ago, or why we’re still on the air to this day. It was a vision and call of God to reach people in the Four Corners region with the hope of Jesus Christ – one listener at a time. Over the years we have heard many testimonies of how a song or the spoken word literally saved lives when the listener was contemplating suicide and put down the gun, closed the lid on the bottle of pills or turned their car around while headed toward the bluffs to end it all.

**Game of the Week**

In 1998 one of the local high school coaches in the area approached Emmet Fowler, wanting us to broadcast their school’s athletic events. While we decided not to feature just one school we did begin broadcasting at least one ball game each week, rotating to all of the school districts in our county. We have done this throughout the school year for the past 12 years.

In 2000 we put in a bid to broadcast the prestigious Connie Mack World Series, which is held in Farmington each August. The teams come from all over the nation, including Puerto Rico, and spend a week in our town competing for the annual crown. Many Major League ballplayers came through this tournament on their way to stardom.

This summer will mark the seventh (continued)
year that we have served as exclusive broadcasters for the World Series. Because we are providing live streaming audio on the Internet, listeners from all over the world can go online at www.VerticalRadio.org to hear the games and the great Christian music that we offer. During the World Series, we have had over one million hits on our Web site during that week!

Because we are a locally owned and operated station, we have connected with many non-profit organizations and churches in the area, helping to promote their activities. In particular we have enjoyed a partnership with Blue Star Mothers as they gather gifts to send the troops at the holidays, Salvation Army with their collection of Back to School packs and Red Kettle campaigns, United Blood Services, the annual Cancer Walk-A-Thon and the Junior ROTC.

This is just a glimpse of the history and current ministry accomplished through KNMI Vertical Radio. None of this would be possible without the support of faithful supporters, both near and far. We are the only truly non-profit, listener-supported station in the Four Corners. Because we are non-commercial, we don’t have advertisements, but do acknowledge business and church supporters with grant announcements throughout the day. The majority of our funding comes from our faithful listeners who appreciate the programming and music played each day. Many provide $1 a day or $30 per month to keep the station on the air.

We praise the Lord for THREE DECADES of service through KNMI. With God’s continued blessings and provisions we now move into our 31st year. “To God be the Glory for the things He has done!”

Memories of KNMI Vertical Radio’s First 30 Years

Johnny Creason
“I turned the station on the day it went on the air, March 16, 1980. Mark Frederick asked me to fill in for him when he went on vacation in September. I continued till July of 1983. I co-hosted the Going Home Show with Jim, too.”

Mark Frederick
“We started the station in the mechanic shop, remaining there until the Communication Center was built about three years later. I trained all the on-air staff having them go through their shifts before we went on the air. We pioneered satellite with a big, nine-foot-wide dish to pull in the news and Christian programming. KNMI has been a precious part of my life.”

Andrew Begaye
“Everything I’ve done has been a group effort; helping to bring people together. I was glad to have the opportunity to reach the Navajo listener in the Navajo language each day from 1 to 3 p.m.”

Pat Wells
“I was with the station from 1986 to 1996. Moving in from Colorado, I was so happy to find a Christian station on the air. I told Mark I had some radio experience. The next day I was on the air doing the 5 to 7 shift in the evening. I became General Manager in 1991.

Working at KNMI was the desire of my heart!”

Patty Robertson
“I listened to your station from the beginning. In 1985, after three weeks of training, I took the air shift from 9 to 1 p.m. each day. This included an hour we called Prayer and Praise Time when many would call in for prayer. I remember the time 6’11” Richard Kiel (Jaws in James Bond movies) came for a visit to share his faith on the air. Lots of great memories.”

Johnny Johnson
“It was a wonderful time to be on the air with the listeners. I did the morning show time and I was never late. My deepest desire was to minister to the people. Got many kind letters saying we did just that! God impressed upon me that we were invading the air waves with the power of God through the Word and music. There was nothing like planting a seed in good soil, or air in this case, and watching God grow that seed.”

Darren Nez
“I remember the first time I came into the KNMI Studios to talk to then General Manager Pat Wells about a show I wanted to start to reach the hip hop listeners. Having never met me before, he listened intently as I told him of my plans and he proceeded to tell me that he’d been praying for me for the past year! That was my first experience with KNMI and I will never forget it.”
Navajo Nation Museum Provides Moving Experience

The Navajo Nation Museum, located in the scenic capital city of Window Rock, Arizona, gives visitors a detailed look into the culture and history of the Navajo people. Admission to the museum is free, although monetary donations are appreciated.

Exhibits during the spring months included nearly 100 handmade Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Navajo rugs, an exhibit portraying the historical Treaty of 1868 that gave the Navajo people their freedom, a cultural presentation titled “A Beautiful Life” and a popular Navajo photography exhibit. Museum guided tours, which can last up to 90 minutes, are available.

A special new exhibit, called Silver Stars, was unveiled in late May and was set to run through the end of October. The unique exhibit highlights Southwest silversmith traditional and contemporary jewelry.

The museum first opened to the public in 1961 and continues to expand with new exhibits and presentations each year. It is located just 26 miles from Gallup, New Mexico, off Interstate 40.

The Navajo Nation Museum is always one of the memorable stops on the annual Navajo Ministries Navajoland Fall Tour, set this year for September 12-18. Other highlights of the tour include the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly and much more. Information on the tour is available at www.NavajoMinistries.org under the “Events” link, or by calling (505) 325-0255.

**Navajo Nation Museum**

**Location:** Highway 264 and Post Office Loop Road, Window Rock, Arizona

**Hours of Operation:** Mon., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tue.-Fri., 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and holidays.

**Admission:** Free, with monetary donations accepted.

**Phone:** (928) 871-7941

**E-mail:** info@navajonationmuseum.org

**Web site:** www.navajonationmuseum.org
A Ride Well-Worth the Bumps

By Annette Hall

“If your oxygen mask should drop down, please take care of yourself and then help your child ...”

If you’ve ever been on an aircraft, awaiting takeoff, you’ve heard those words. I didn’t realize how applicable they are to all aspects of life until I came to work at Navajo Ministries.

How do you handle a situation where a child easily forms bonds with strangers? What do you do when you suspect a child is hurting himself? How do you prepare a child for the possibility that they won’t get to go home for Christmas because there is no home? And how do you comfort a child when she misses her mother but also resents you because you’re the one caring for her?

These scenarios aren’t ones we often deal with as natural parents but they are more than simply commonplace for our houseparents. They can be everyday occurrences. Couples coming to work at Navajo Ministries are most likely parents already. They have parented or are still parenting children of their own and we all know what a rewarding but tough venture that can be!

Parenting our own children comes with its own set of challenges, but when you take on the responsibility of living with and parenting others’ children, there are many more challenges that come with that.

We are blessed to be a member of a statewide organization called New Mexico Christian Child Care Association (NMCCCA). We are a group of private children’s homes throughout the state who strive to provide and maintain the best facilities and programs available to disadvantaged children. We have an impressive set of policies and procedures that govern all of our homes and that we all abide by. We also have peer-review teams that travel to each home every two years to help us all stay in compliance.

Another advantage of being a part of NMCCCA is the level of training that houseparents are able to receive. Navajo Ministries has its own licensed therapist on staff, Linda Eubank, and she provides an hourly training twice each month on topics such as Anxiety Disorders, Control Issues, Depression in Children, Domestic Violence and Abuse, Reactive Attachment Disorder, Early Childhood Trauma and a host of other things that can plague our young ones. In addition to the much-needed training that Linda gives, NMCCCA brings in local and nationally recognized therapists who provide an intense, annual training on these and other issues.

In March of this year our childcare team traveled to Albuquerque for one of these three-day training sessions. The theme of our training wasn’t even about children. It was about us. It was entitled, “Working From Your Most Effective Skill Set.” We were given tools that will help us develop our own strengths and keep ourselves better regulated, both physically and emotionally, so we can better help our children. Remember the words of the flight attendant: take care of yourself first.

It’s very good advice and it benefits everyone.

If you are a parent or a childcare worker, I would just like to encourage you by saying, “Buckle up and hold on, it’s going to be a bumpy ride ....!”

But it’s a ride that is well worth the bumps.

Annette Hall is Director of Children and Family Services at Navajo Ministries.
Students Write Words of Hope at Future School

Students from the Navajo Ministries On-Site School visited their future building in April to take a tour and write messages of hope on the interior wooden studs and walls. Construction of the Education and Activity Center, which is phase one of the larger Navajo Heritage Center project, was in full swing from December through April. While the 8,000-square-foot structure is now fully up, more funding is needed to complete the facility. Heating, cooling, electrical, flooring and other necessary jobs are next on the construction schedule.

The current school for first through fifth-grade students was built in the 1950s and is in need of being replaced. The new center will provide adequate classroom space, a games and activity area, a new kitchen and cafeteria to serve the entire 17-acre campus, and more.

We thank God for His guidance in getting us where we are today with this terrific new building! Here are just a few of the touching Bible verses and blessing messages the students wrote this spring:

- Psalm 27:1: “The Lord is my place of safety. Why shall I be afraid?”
- Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- Psalm 119:105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

God’s got a plan for you! Don’t forget why you’re here!

Jesus – Thank You!

Send Us Your Own Message For The New School

Would you like to write something inspirational on the interior wooden studs of the Education and Activity Center? If so, please submit a short Bible verse or blessing message and return it in the enclosed envelope in the center of this magazine. We will be glad to place your words inside the building.

We continue to collect needed funds to complete the building. All financial gifts are appreciated as we move forward with this wonderful new facility for the children. More information is available by contacting Eric Fisher, Director of Development, at 505-324-5260 or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org. See more on the Navajo Heritage Center project at www.NavajoHeritageCenter.org
Counselors Bill and Linda Eubank started a weekly radio show on KNMI several years ago, and now join “Four Corners Spotlight” host Jim Baker once a month to discuss a variety of topics that often help listeners cope with life’s challenges. Those topics have included everything from depression during the holidays to Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR - a therapy used for phobias and anxiety issues).

What have been the highlights? There certainly have been many, but here are just a few:

• A school bus driver called in because she feared one of the children on her bus was being abused at home! She wanted to know what her responsibilities were and how she could proceed.

• Some Christian women called in to find out how they could help their husbands deal with anger? Our society finds it easier to allow men to express anger than to learn compassion and nurturing.

• Helping returning veterans get the care they need for real problems of PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), by getting them set up with the closest VA facility. Or, if they prefer to add the Christian perspective to trauma relief, they are seen here at The Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.

Another issue that has been talked about on air was the growing diagnoses of ADD/ADHD in children and adults. This leads to the question of whether or not to use medication and how we as Christian parents or teachers respond or react to that decision. We have also talked about holiday depression for those who have lost loved ones in the previous year, or for those adults who have experienced the failure of a marriage or the loss of a job.

As Christians, we often feel that “something is wrong with our walk” if we experience depression. Yet, the Psalms are full of the depression that King David battled — and there was no pharmaceutical help back then!

What Bill and Linda try to accomplish in that 30-minute radio show each month is to bring relevant topics to the audience so that the listeners realize there is hope and help for all of us, no matter what problems we face. Sometimes we need to understand that there is a problem before we ask for help. And we need to set aside our pride or our fears in order to ask. God, our Father, desires that we in the body of Christ help each other become healthy so that we can carry out “The Great Commission” and make a difference in the lives of those around us!

Please tune in to the “Four Corners Spotlight” on KNMI Vertical Radio, FM 88.9, and catch the variety of helpful topics for healthy Christian living! The show, which airs each weekday at 9:30 a.m. Mountain time, can also be heard online at www.VerticalRadio.org.

Bill and Linda Eubank are licensed professional clinical counselors at The Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.
VBS Teams Set for Summer in Navajoland

Four churches from locations throughout the United States are set to visit Navajo Ministries this summer, taking part in four separate Vacation Bible School programs in remote parts of the Navajo Nation.

Both Second Baptist Church, from Houston, Texas, and Vineyard Church of Knox County, Ohio, are making return visits after successful VBS trips in 2009. Central Presbyterian Church, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and Concordia Lutheran Church, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, also are scheduled for one-week visits this summer to bring God’s love and the hope of Jesus Christ to the Navajo youth.

All four church groups will receive lodging at the Navajo Ministries campus, and then head out for four days of VBS team work at Navajo churches. In addition to helping Navajo Ministries with work projects, the VBS groups also learn about the Navajo culture and history while making relationships that last a lifetime. “This was a life-changing experience … I would like to do it again,” one VBS member said last year.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who provide this valuable service in doing the work of the Lord.

2010 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

• June 15 - 18: Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, at Victory Life Church in Tokoi’, New Mexico.

• June 29 - July 2: Vineyard Church of Knox County, Ohio, at Cudei Full Gospel Church in Cudei, New Mexico.

• July 13 - 16: Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, at Kimbeto Valley Brethren in Christ Church, Nageezi, New Mexico.

• July 27 - 30: Central Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, at Desert View Church, Upper Fruitland, New Mexico.

Navajo Nation Outreach
Vertical Radio really knows how to throw a great party! It isn’t every day that you celebrate 30 years. If you live in the Four Corners or listen online at VerticalRadio.org, you most likely heard our promos, letting people know we were planning this birthday bash. We asked listeners to call or e-mail their favorite songs from the past 30 years.

The day finally arrived on March 16th! Balloons danced from the Vertical truck antenna while red, black and white streamers dressed up the foyer of the Communication Center. Visitors were greeted with a spread of party cuisine and the sounds of our live broadcast.

As the radio volume increased, so did the excitement. Listeners called in by the dozens, requesting their favorites and commenting on how much fun they were having as we shared a stroll down memory lane together. DJs played songs from Audio Adrenaline, Big Tent Revival, Petra, Rich Mullins, Steven Curtis Chapman, Mercy Me, DC Talk and Carmen. I hadn’t even heard some of the songs we played, but I loved hearing the stories behind the requests. One couple requested “Honestly” by Stryper to commemorate their 21st anniversary.

Former DJs Randy Joslin, Stan English, Selena Montoya, Valerie Manning and Byron Yazzie commented on the changes that the station has gone through over the past 30 years and shared memories of loading up tape carts. Valerie said she didn’t even have time to sit down, so she would work standing up. Selena’s analogy was that the technology in the ‘80s was like comparing an 8-track player to an iPod Nano. While the technology, the on-air voices, and even the music have changed, the mission remains the same – to impact this world for Jesus Christ through quality radio.

Some listener comments from the Big Party:

Frank, listener for 2 years – “The celebration was pretty cool! There were several songs I had never heard before. Some of them were even a little strange, but the message was there. I used to listen to secular music. Since I became saved, Vertical Radio is all I listen to.”

Lee, listener for 15 years – “I really enjoyed the day. I loved hearing from the former DJs. I remember being upset whenever there would be a change, like when the DJs I loved would leave, and someone new would start. Then I would get to know the new hosts and loved them, too! It didn’t matter who it was... it was always good. I love the music, and I love the station.”

Wendy Curtin is host of the “Lunch Crunch” show on Vertical Radio.
Loved Ones Live On Through Living Memorials

We all have loved ones who have passed on to their eternal reward. Even when they’re gone we have the pleasant memories of their time spent with us. Through our Living Memorials program, friends like the ones listed here, have provided a gift in memory of or in honor of their loved ones. Memorial gifts, unless designated otherwise, are used in our Childcare Ministry, helping provide for the needs of those in our care.

A beautiful card of remembrance will be sent to the family of the one you are designating. No amounts will be mentioned. Please use the attached envelope to indicate your wishes. All gifts are tax deductible and will be receipted.

### Living Memorials Through January 2010

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<td>Charles and Peggy Lynch</td>
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<td>William Vsetecka</td>
<td>My Lord and Savior</td>
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<td>Peace Makers Sunday School Class</td>
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<td>Rick and Paula Terpsma</td>
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<td>Pamela Berg</td>
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Help Us Complete the New Education and Activity Center!

Construction of the much-needed Education and Activity Center (pictured) is now under way, but funds are running short to complete the building by start of the next school year.

Those who give $500 or more will receive a special, hand-crafted “thank you” candle in the shape of a hogan.

We would be honored to have you partner with us in completing the Education and Activity Center, which is phase one of the larger 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 “Education and Activity Center” 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 Director of Development Eric Fisher at (505) 324-5260 or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org.