MISSION STATEMENT
Navajo Ministries helps the people we serve through programs that instill hope, restoration and Christian values.

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ABOUT NAVAJO MINISTRIES
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 and 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.
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LETTER FROM THE Editor

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the Fall 2019 issue of Navajo Neighbors and hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. It is our prayer that you are inspired as you read about God’s work in Navajoland and at Navajo Ministries.

Within these pages you will read the incredible story of one of Farmington’s own. His story will take you from New Mexico to Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Wyoming and back. In our cover story you will meet this humble, soft-spoken, Navajo man who is a true leader among all peoples.

You will also read about:

- Navajo Ministries’ own “Person of Influence”
- Lessons learned down at the ranch
- Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer
- Our successful Bi-fly Tournament
- The state of the economy in the Four Corners region

These pages are full of encouraging stories and additional information about Navajo Ministries and our Four Corners area. You may just want to come by for a visit! You can find us at 2103 West Main Street in Farmington, New Mexico.

Blessings to you and thank you for continuing to support us,

ANNETTE REICH
Navajo Ministries Interim President
He has spoken in front of both houses of Congress. He attended Ronald Reagan’s Inauguration. He has been to the White House, stood in the Rose Garden with George W. Bush, and met with him in the Oval Office. Who is he? He is Arvin Trujillo and he is a peacemaker.

Arvin’s mother, Lillian Trujillo, was employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and living in Utah when she was expecting her first and only child. She and Arvin’s father decided to vacation in Farmington, New Mexico and it was during their vacation that Baby Arvin made his appearance in the world. This would be the first of many times in his life that Arvin would make an appearance in the Farmington area.

In 1961, Arvin’s family relocated to Fruitland, New Mexico where Lillian would work as a Boys’ Dorm Attendant at the Navahneezat Boarding School. Lillian and her son lived in an apartment there and although Arvin attended the schools in Kirtland, he felt very much at home with the boys at Navahneezat. Arvin came home from school each day, completed his chores at home then went straight to the boys’ dorm to hang out with his friends. They played together, he helped them with their chores and joined them for TV time. It was a community that Arvin was happy to be a part of. He made many good friends during that time and still has opportunities to see them today. Arvin fondly describes his mother as a strong disciplinarian and full of love for “her boys.” He proudly comments that, “My mom made boys into men.”

Arvin’s father was not part of his everyday life during this time period and that brought many challenges. He found himself taking on more responsibilities and helping his mother in whatever manner he could. Lillian was a strong Christian and Arvin saw her commitment to Christ and to hard work. Arvin counts those challenges as part of what molded him into the man he is today.

Arvin attended and graduated from Kirtland Central High School and became quite focused during his high school years. He continued feeling what he describes as a great sense of responsibility as well as a burden to do everything on his own. That led him to excel academically and in sports as well. He was extremely competitive in basketball and football, making All State one year. When asked what was behind his drive, Arvin makes the observation that due to his father’s absence and his mother pushing him, he always felt compelled, not just to do well, but to be the best.

Arvin describes an incident in grade school. “I was struggling in my math class and approached my teacher for help. Her response was a surprising and disappointing one. This teacher’s feedback to me was, ‘Arvin, don’t worry about it, you’re just going to end up in the mines.’ At that point I realized that I needed to become defiant, show ability to get things done, compete with Anglo students, and show that I was just as good. From that moment, there seemed to be a simmering anger attached to everything I did. I don’t believe I fully realized it at the time, but looking back, I see it clearly. Again, there was always an underlying belief that I could not rely on anyone, I was alone, I had to do it, I had to make it happen. I was always contemplating what I could do to achieve.”

And achieve he did. He moved forward and focused on what he needed to do to advance in life. He was on the State Championship football team, was involved in Student Government and was Student Body President his senior year. He was elected to Boys State then Boys Nation. He relished participating in solving things from a political aspect. “As these things were happening, many of my teachers began to notice me and encourage me. They instilled confidence in me and talked to me about what I could accomplish. Whatever I might want to be in life was attainable for me.” It is not surprising that Arvin Trujillo was Valedictorian of the Kirtland Central High School graduating class of 1975.

Race relations was a key issue in the Farmington area in the 1970’s. The American Indian Movement (AIM) brought protests to the Four Corners after the brutal Farmington murder of three Navajo men by Anglo teenagers in 1974. Arvin was still in high school but became a voice of reason and one of peace for both Anglos and Navajos. “I did not totally agree with the philosophy of AIM, but I also witnessed racism in our area first-hand so I understood where they were coming from. Even though I was a young man, I felt compelled to bring the two factions together where they were coming from. Even though I was a young man, I felt compelled to bring the two factions together and that was reflected in my Valedictorian speech.”

Val Cooper, a reporter for the Farmington Daily Times, heard about that speech, obtained a copy of it and printed it in the Daily Times. At this time, I remembered a conference I had attended in junior high school. I heard Southern Ute Indian Tribe Spiritual leader, Eddie Box, challenge all Native students in attendance to be ‘transitional people.’ He told us that the fight would take place in courtrooms and on the political field. He said that to effect change, we would need to be able to articulate well but also be prepared for opposition on all sides. He summed it up by using a phrase I’ve never forgotten. He said that we would most likely take bullets from the front and arrows from the back.”

Through an interesting chain of events, Arvin ended up at Oral Roberts University (ORU) in Tulsa, Oklahoma where the first order of business was to cut his hair. At the time, Arvin was sporting long hair worn with a red bandana. His fashion style was bell-bottom blue jeans and a plain shirt. ORU required students to have their hair off the ear and off the collar. Their uniform of choice was a dress shirt and tie. He admits to wondering what in the world he’d gotten into, thinking, “I have to cut my hair, I have to wear a tie to class, I have to go to chapel twice weekly and I have to attend Bible studies … what is this place and what have I done?”

He completed his undergraduate work in Bio-chemistry, but upon graduation redirected his original goal of entering the medical profession. Instead, Arvin took a couple of years off from school, worked at Navajo Mine as a lab technician and developed a strong interest in engineering. He applied to schools across the nation and decided on Penn State University. By now he had met and married Cynthia Brown, the love of his life. Cynthia is Arvin’s wife of 36 years and they have three beautiful, successful children.

After Penn State, Arvin returned to Farmington, having completed his Master’s studies. He took a position teaching Chemistry at Navajo Academy (now Navajo Prep) in 1986 before joining Mobil Coal in Gillette, Wyoming as a Mining Engineer at the Caballo Rojo Mine. He remained there for three years when, once again, he was called back to Farmington, this time by BHP Minerals,

"... I know God had His hand on me. Today I receive my strength through God’s Word ..."
New Mexico Operations. For the next nine years Arvin held engineering, supervisory and management positions in all three mining operations in the Four Corners region: the Navajo, San Juan and LaPlata Mines.

In 1998, Kelsey Begaye began to campaign for the office of Navajo Nation President and would at times stop at the Trujillo home to visit and talk politics. Kelsey Begaye won that election and chose Arvin Trujillo to be his Executive Director for the Navajo Division of Natural Resources. It would be a 25% pay cut and his initial response was to reject the offer. Arvin's wife, Cynthia assured him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

This was a totally new experience for Arvin, and with 11 departments and 450 people under his direction, he found himself using all of his skills and developing new ones. He was an asset to the Navajo Nation in this position, so much so that when Kelsey Begaye lost his bid for re-election four years later, President-elect Joe Shirley, Jr. kept him on for his entire 8-year tenure in office. During his time there, he was able to show his staff what they truly could accomplish. Long standing issues like the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, water rights between the Navajo Nation and New Mexico, and the expansion of US 550 and 491 were projects accomplished. Arvin's reliance on team effort and team focus brought people together and he was able to accomplish this in an effort to resolve complex issues. He is a true peacemaker. This was a totally new experience for Arvin, and with 11 departments and 450 people under his direction, he found himself using all of his skills and developing new ones. He was an asset to the Navajo Nation in this position, so much so that when Kelsey Begaye lost his bid for re-election four years later, President-elect Joe Shirley, Jr. kept him on for his entire 8-year tenure in office. During his time there, he was able to show his staff what they truly could accomplish. Long standing issues like the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, water rights between the Navajo Nation and New Mexico, and the expansion of US 550 and 491 were projects accomplished. Arvin's reliance on team effort and team focus brought people together and he was able to accomplish this in an effort to resolve complex issues. He is a true peacemaker. This was a totally new experience for Arvin, and with 11 departments and 450 people under his direction, he found himself using all of his skills and developing new ones.

Reflecting over his life, Arvin becomes contemplative. He realizes that he grew up believing he had to accomplish things on his own and could not rely on anyone else. Arvin admits that this mindset spilled out into his relationship with God. Arvin viewed God in the same way he viewed his father. He didn't believe he could count on God to be there for him. He didn't think God had an interest in the details of his life.

Now, Arvin relates to the example Paul gave Timothy, "I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." (I Timothy 1:5 NKJV). He goes on to explain, "This passage speaks directly to me. My mother, my wife and my mother-in-law have always been STRONG in the faith and they encourage me to be strong as well. As I reconnected with God, I began to see my life's shortcomings, areas where I made decisions apart from God. I regret some of those decisions, but yet I know God had His hand on me. Today, I receive my strength through God's Word."

Arvin's parting words are powerful ones: "Depend on God, He's there to help you, to be with you, guide you and give you strength, wisdom and knowledge. At the same time, do your part, God will direct you and open doors, but you must walk through them."

Arvin now works as the CEO for the Four Corners Economic Development, promoting the economic diversity of San Juan County and developing local and regional partnerships that will encourage the expansion of economic development, not only in San Juan County but in the Four Corners region as a whole.

The 26th San Juan River Bi-Fly Tournament was held on August 23rd and 24th. This fly fishing tournament is our major fundraiser for the Four Corners Home for Children.

"Great," you say, "but what is a Bi-Fly?" A short question with a long answer.

We in the Four Corners are greatly blessed with some of the top trout fishing waters in the country. Anglers come from all over the world (yes, the world) to fish the Quality Waters of the San Juan River below Navajo Dam. It is five miles of catch and release trout water that holds tens of thousands of fish.

The Bi-Fly Tournament is a two day guided fly fishing tournament in which the participants choose two flies (bi) at the beginning of each day that are given to their guide. Any fish caught with those flies earns the angler additional points in the scoring. The winners are presented with prizes at the awards banquet at the end of the tournament.

However, the Bi-Fly has become much more than just a fishing tournament. It is a community of anglers, professional guides, fly shops, Navajo Ministries' staff, and dozens of volunteers who come together each year for one purpose – to raise money for the Four Corners Home for Children. This year we netted (no pun intended) in excess of $71,000. Of course, the fishing is a huge factor for those people involved in this event. The largest fish caught this year was a 25-inch rainbow. A 24-inch German Brown was also caught, with numerous fish over 20 inches also being recorded. Thirty-six anglers caught and released 622 trout over twelve inches in length during the two day tournament. That is truly world class fishing.

However, it is the kids that motivate the anglers to seek per-inch sponsorships for the longest fish they catch. One angler lamented the 23-inch he lost not because it was perhaps the biggest fish he ever caught, but because of the additional donations it would have brought in. He did land a 20-inch that resulted in sponsorships totaling over $2000. We believe God honors this kind of commitment. It certainly is an encouragement to the staff of Navajo Ministries.

And then there was the angler who dove into the submerged brush before he lost his chosen fly. The quest for the wily trout knows no limit.
Letting Faith Grow

Sonny: "It wasn't that bad. At first, I would have rather just stayed in bed. I learned to hang doors and blinds. I really liked driving the tractor. It was good that I took responsibility for my fines. I figured out that work serves others and so when I'm bored, I can look for something to do to help out around here."

Taylor: "I was glad to get out of the house this summer and to be busy. I especially liked working on the water line. I wasn't bored, so I stayed out of trouble. I was really surprised because I started talking to people. I think I'm more confident."

Connor: "Work feels good. I discovered seven methods for mowing. I was proud I paid off my fines. I found out I like to finish something. It was good that I learned to do things for someone besides me."

Values: Through developing a strong work ethic, these three teens, Conner, Sonny, and Taylor, developed pride, responsibility, skills, confidence and a commitment to service. Not bad for a summer vacation!

Andy was in position to offer them leadership and time. Andy had the opportunity to work alongside the boys, hour after hour, sharing his values as well as teaching them practical life skills. Conner said, "He told us how, then showed us how, and then left us to do it. He came back to check on us but he trusted us to do it. He gave us responsibility."

In addition, Andy had the opportunity to share his personal values about serving others and carrying your own weight. Working together, Andy taught the boys about teamwork.

About himself, Andy expresses humility: "It isn't about me. It's about them. They're the next generation. I'm just teaching them what I was taught." Describing his typical day, Andy says, "We just do what needs to be done. I work alongside Rick Terpsma, who never complains and likes what he's doing, too. Rick and I are just the same – like peas and carrots."

When asked about how working at Navajo Ministries has impacted his faith, Andy replies, "First off, this is a great place. We are one whole big family and things have a way of falling into place. I used to go to church to pray. Now, I'm praying through the day and I'm always praying for the boys. You know, you cannot stop faith, you just let it grow."
Instilling Valuable Tools

BY: PAULA TERPSMA
Ranch Manager

It is chore time again on the Ranch, as evidenced by the children heading over to the barn to spend time there with the animals. A chore schedule helps the children and teens know what their responsibilities are. Throwing hay to the horses and cleaning the horse trough for fresh water are regular events. Moving bales of hay, taking out trash, cleaning a stall, bringing a 50-pound bag of chicken feed to the pen, and other necessary tasks, become good jobs for our teenagers. The elementary school age children often do chores requiring teamwork. We raise laying-hens who are providing many eggs. Following the feeding and watering of the chickens, gathering their eggs, watering the garden, and harvesting vegetables, we often hang around to see what else might be going on.

Watering the large sunflowers in front of the barn offers a great opportunity for the children to get their hands on a hose and spray water at will. We have all enjoyed that refreshing spray on a hot New Mexico afternoon!

Horses are a big part of our lives and we are always happy to see the children’s faces light up when they are on horseback. They learn to control the movement of the horse and enjoy being a part of them. We did experience the death of our beloved donkey, Spock, this summer. Spock was so gentle that new children to the barn learned how to brush and maneuver around a large animal by working with him. They would sit on his back and feel his movements as he fed. They will miss him. Working with our animals provides a valuable tool in showing our children how to be gentle, confident and firm when they need to be.

Two ducklings have grown up and are now big ducks with big duck quacks! The children are always amazed at the transformation of the chicks into chickens, the ducklings into ducks, and the small garden plants and seeds into a large patch of vibrant, green life. Harvesting is a rewarding time as the children get the opportunity to see the fruit of their labor. They are always eager to harvest the crops! My four-year-old granddaughter, Zoe, recently checked on a tomato, and commented, “No it is not ready to pick yet.” Then she walked away. It is exciting for me to see our children track and identify the growth and changes in the garden and know the right time to harvest.

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This spring we planted a garden together and harvested zucchini and yellow squash, tomatoes and green peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini leaves and did not do well so we planted some peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini and yellow squash, tomatoes and green peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini leaves and did not do well so we planted some peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini leaves and did not do well so we planted some peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini and yellow squash, tomatoes and green peppers. The green beans were buried under very large zucchini leaves and did not do well so we planted some peppers.

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As summer came to a close, we were honored to have the Vice President of the Navajo Nation come to Navajo Ministries for an appearance on my daily Four Corners Spotlight Show on Vertical Radio. Vice President Myron Lizer was accompanied by Adam Begaye, his Staff Assistant, who is one of our Board Members here at the Ministry. Both the President, Jonathan Nez, and Vice President are Christian men of faith who openly recognize the importance of Christ in their lives.

We talked about a wide range of issues that demand the attention of these leaders as they oversee departments and programs that are designed to serve the needs of the largest tribe of Native Americans in our country. The Navajo Nation consists of about 350,000 members living both on and off the 27,000 square miles that encompass Navajoland, which covers parts of three states. Myron has been a businessman for 48 years and when I asked what the greatest challenge was facing his people today, he said, “Economic development is vital, and we want to work to eliminate bureaucracy among those who wish to create business. As then-Vice President Nez developed his platform of God, family and work, my name came up as his running mate. I give God the glory, remembering that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and prayer has always been a part of my life.”

As we toured the campus with the Vice President, showing him the Four Corners Home for Children and the Education/Activity Center, we concluded our visit in one of our Prayer Rooms in the administration building where I was able to pray for him and his impact within the Navajo Nation. He then prayed for this ministry of hope which includes Vertical Radio, Four Corners Home for Children and Navajo Nation Outreach.

The Four Corners Spotlight show can be heard each weekday morning at 10 AM on Vertical Radio at 88.9 or listen live on VerticalRadio.org.
Unintended Consequences

We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. It is that part of the United States known as the Four Corners. It is blessed with blue skies, mountains, canyon lands, deserts, rivers and lakes. It is a showcase for the diversity of God’s creation. It is also an area blessed with natural gas, oil, and coal. These resources have been the economic base for the area, providing thousands of well-paying jobs and a solid tax base for the area’s counties and municipalities. This economic base has been severely fractured due to new government regulations and a move to renewable energy.

The questions concerning energy policies aside, the non-profits of the area, such as ourselves, have experienced the “Unintended Consequences” of these changes. Jobs have been lost, companies closed, and the unemployment rate is nearly 6%. A number of prominent oil and gas companies along with companies associated with the coal fired power plants are no longer in the area. These companies, as well as their employees, were generous to the local non-profits. We alone have experienced an annual decrease in donations of approximately $100,000 from these corporations. This represents 10% of our annual budget.

It is planned to shut down the remaining two power generating units owned by the Public Service Company of New Mexico by 2020. That would be a loss of an estimated 700 jobs and 50% of some school district’s tax base. These jobs belong to high paying welders, mechanics, electricians, etc. who undoubtedly will leave the area to find suitable employment.

Pray for us and our area as we seek to make up these much-needed funds. It is ironic that since the economic pressure on many families have become acute and more children needing our help, we have fewer resources to meet that need. However, we are blessed with a great many friends outside the Four Corners that provide 60% of our income. We need wisdom as to how to reach more people from around the country with the message of what the Lord is doing through the work of Navajo Ministries. If you can be a help in spreading that message we would welcome your input.

Perhaps you would like to remember a departed loved one with a Living Memorial gift that will benefit the boys and girls who call this place home. The heartbeat of brokenness in their young lives is replaced with memories of acceptance and love while they are with us. Or, maybe you would like to honor a friend who is still living.

After we receive your donation, an attractive remembrance card will be sent to the family of the one you are memorializing or honoring. No amounts are mentioned. Living Memorials ... another way to benefit the children living at Four Corners Home for Children here at Navajo Ministries.

Unintended Consequences

This past summer Kay and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends in our Pennsylvania homeland. One of the events included the annual Baker family reunion which we have often missed over the years. My three siblings and I sang an old time favorite, “Precious Memories” which blended well with stories and photos shared from days gone by.

We all have treasured memories of loved ones who have departed this life for their eternal home in heaven. For some their final days may have included pain and suffering. Others may have passed from us at an early age or suddenly through an accident. Regardless, it’s those precious memories with these loved ones that linger in our hearts when they are gone.

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IN MEMORY OF

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Anna Campbell
Jeff Moncrief
Mary Moncrief
Jannie Platero
Donald Tassie
John and Pamela Anderson
Agatha Ann Carlson
Stephanie S. Malley
Agatha Ann Carlson
Laurene Perkins
Ralph Brown
Sergio and Margaret Kalings
Lucille Langheith
Michael and LaDonna Davis
Dorothy Cowan
Kely Kraft
Dorothy Cowan
Kevin and Rosemarie Murphy
Dorothy Cowan
Patricia C. Curry
Dorothy Cowan
Don and Darlene Ruff
Dorothy Cowan
Franklin and Marjorie Gaasder
Dorothy Cowan
Rick and Connie Krome
Dorothy Cowan
Frank and Brenda Buckler
Dorothy Cowan
Latham Baptist Church
Dorothy Cowan
Deborah Isham
J. Nelson Hopkin
John and Gracie Johnson
James and Laura Byrd
Barbara Strickland Family
Troy Strickland
Barbara Strickland Family
Dick and Arlene Thurstonson
Stephanie Weller
Rich Mulkins
Michael Janotka
Dawn Child
Wallace and Kathleen Kazee
Sister Mildred
Wallace and Kathleen Kazee
Aunt Rita Jackson
William and Sally Koons
Christian Zamudio
William and Sally Koons
Brennan Chavez
FROM

IN HONOR OF

Colin and Sh带给 Stewart
Our Grandchildren
James and Linda Beck
Emerson
James and Linda Beck
John M. Rice
Don and Beverly Waltrip
Rick and Paula Terpman
Virginia C. Irwin
Sonia Rodriguez
Randall and Henrietta Krag
Rick and Paula Terpman
Julie D. Diven
Cathy Halls 40th
Joyce Chambers
My Indian Ancestors
Mike and Sharon Mathews
Our 55th Wedding Anniversary
Bruce Baker
Eugene Baker
Georgann Huber
Greg Fields

Precious Memories

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Dick and Arlene Thurstonson
Stephanie Weller
Rich Mulkins
Michael Janotka
Dawn Child
Wallace and Kathleen Kazee
Sister Mildred
Wallace and Kathleen Kazee
Aunt Rita Jackson
William and Sally Koons
Christian Zamudio
William and Sally Koons
Brennan Chavez
FROM

IN HONOR OF

Colin and Sh带给 Stewart
Our Grandchildren
James and Linda Beck
Emerson
James and Linda Beck
John M. Rice
Don and Beverly Waltrip
Rick and Paula Terpman
Virginia C. Irwin
Sonia Rodriguez
Randall and Henrietta Krag
Rick and Paula Terpman
Julie D. Diven
Cathy Halls 40th
Joyce Chambers
My Indian Ancestors
Mike and Sharon Mathews
Our 55th Wedding Anniversary
Bruce Baker
Eugene Baker
Georgann Huber
Greg Fields
Christmas Connections
Providing for Needs in the Navajo Nation

Each Christmas Navajo Ministries partners with Navajo Pastors to help collect and deliver food, toys, Bibles, blankets and other items to needy families in the remote parts of the Navajo Nation.

You Can Help

Some of the items we need include:

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

For more information on Christmas Connections contact:

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