

THE RUNNER

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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Native American Ministries Leadership is comprised of native Christian leaders from various parts of our state. This team exists to assist the Native American Specialist (BGCO) in the development of a comprehensive strategy to meet the needs of our Indian churches and help them to fulfill the great commission in their communities.

The team met on May 19-20 at the BGCO building. Dr. Emerson Falls emphasized to the group that the work of ministry is accomplished by the local church. The role of the BGCO, through the Leadership Team, is to assist local Indian churches to fulfill the great commission. To better accomplish this task, they organized themselves into four advisory groups:

- 1.** The Leadership Development Group will serve in an advisory capacity to the Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry. They will review the work of the Native American Track and offer suggestions to make this track more effective. In addition, they will look at other ways to encourage and assist leaders.
- 2.** The Church Planting Group will assist the Native American Specialist in developing a strategic plan for planting native churches, and promote the need for church planters and partner churches.
- 3.** The Evangelism and Revitalization Group will assist the Native American specialist in the equipping and training of pastors and members of local churches in personal evangelism. This group will assist in planning of an annual evangelism conference, and in helping to revitalize declining churches.
- 4.** The Church and Association Group will seek to develop partnerships between the BGCO and associations, camps, and other native Christian organizations. The goal is to strengthen the work of these organizations.

Each of these groups will be led by a chairperson who will receive guidance and direction from the Native American Specialist. Through delegation of these responsibilities, the work of Native American Ministries will be more effective. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Emerson Falls at (405) 942-3800, ext. 4306.



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SUMMER CAMPS

The dates for Indian Falls Creek are July 30 - August 3, 2017. This year will be the 70th Anniversary of IFC.

Mike Keahbone will serve as our camp preacher. Mike is the senior pastor of Cherokee Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. He is an engaging and powerful speaker. We look forward to hearing him bring us God's Word.

If you have never been to IFC, contact Victor Cope at (405) 395-4226 or (405) 388-1568 for additional information. You can send an email to Victor at ndnrev@aol.com. If you need information about renting a cabin, you can contact Pat Brown at (405) 585-8809 or ptthor@sbcglobal.net.

The Choctaw-Chickasaw Family Camp will be held at Kiamichi Baptist Assembly, July 3-7, 2017.

The emphasis will be on evangelism. Dwight Teehee and Richard Pickup will be the speakers.

There will be classes for all ages, special activities, recreation and worship. The registration fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 1-10). The Choctaw Nation will pay the registration fee for enrolled members of the Choctaw Nation. For additional information, contact Wayne Bailey, Camp Director at 405-592-9623.

Although the details have not been provided, here are some other assembly opportunities:

MSW Association RA/GA Camp, Henryetta, OK - June 5-9, 2017

Cherokee Baptist Association Family Camp, Tahlequah, OK - June 19-23, 2017

Western Oklahoma Indian Family Camp, Binger, OK - July 3-7, 2017

MSW Family Camp, Henryetta, OK - July 10-14, 2017

WELCOME BEN LITTLE

Ben Little is now a part of the BGC0 staff. He will serve as a Native American Strategist. In this capacity, he will serve native churches in such things as church planting, church evangelism, and leadership development. He looks forward to assisting churches and associations in any way that he can.

Ben was the bi-vocational pastor of Disciples Way Baptist Church in Stroud, Oklahoma. He was also employed by Shawnee Public Schools as an Indian Education Advisor. He assisted the students in the areas of tutoring, mentoring, behavior issues, and cultural enrichment activities. Ben previously served Salleteska Baptist Church as their pastor. In coming to the BGC0, Ben is returning to his ministry calling.





ROBERT HASKINS SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

In order to reach the unchurched Native Americans in our communities, we need strong churches that have a sense of their mission and a passion to achieve it. Such churches require godly leaders who are called to equip God's people for the work of the Kingdom.

How do we discover God's call? God speaks to us as we read the Bible, pray, meditate, talk with godly friends, and seek his will. We may not recognize our calling overnight. Sometimes, God reveals it to us gradually over the years. As we use our talents and gifts to serve others, we discover certain types of works that bring us a deep sense of fulfillment and happiness. They feel so natural and good that we know this is what we were meant to do.

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to Christian ministry, feel free to contact a Native American counselor at the Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry. We will be glad to pray with you and offer guidance.

After accepting your call, the next step is training. The Lord called twelve men to be his apostles. However, before he sent them out he spent three years preparing them for service. Some people may choose to go to college and/or seminary for training. This is a good option.

However, for many bi-vocational ministers, college and seminary is not an option. This is why the Robert Haskins School of Ministry exists. We offer practical ministry training at an affordable cost. The courses are offered on-line, so you can take them in your home on your own schedule. In addition, a mentor is available to guide and encourage you in your studies. The training is contextual. For native ministers, we have a Native American Track in the Haskins School.

Dr. Emerson Falls is the Program Leader for the Native American Track. In this capacity, Dr. Falls will work with the Dean in course curriculum development and implementation, enlistment and training of instructors, and training of students. The Native American Track will have an Advisory Board of Native American leaders.

The following programs are currently available:

- Pastoral Ministry Track
- Church Ministry Track
- Church Planting

If you are interested or if you desire additional information, contact Emerson Falls, Native American Specialist, at 405-942-3800, extension 4306.

PASTORS AND WIVES CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar! A pastors and wives conference will be held October 13-14, 2017. The purpose will be to encourage pastors to make disciples in their respective congregations.



Join the Indian Falls Creek group on Facebook!





CHURCH PLANTING

There are several areas in our state where we have a significant population of Native Americans, but we do not have a church to reach them. In the New Testament, evangelism and church planting went hand in hand. In Acts 2, three thousand people turned to Christ. In that same chapter, they began to meet in homes to learn from the teaching of the apostles. We need to emulate that New Testament model.

In Sallisaw, Oklahoma the town is growing due to development by the Cherokee Nation. In response to this growing need, James Pathkiller has felt God's call to plant a church in Sallisaw. With the support of a Partner Church, Boudinot Baptist Church, the work is beginning.

Durant, Oklahoma is the home of the Choctaw Nation. It is also the home of many Native Americans. There is a need to plant a church there to reach this growing community. Jesse Pacheco, who lives in Durant, has felt the need to start a church. Some wondered if a new church was needed, but there are so many unchurched native people in Durant that several churches are needed. Ardmore Indian Baptist Church is the Partner Church for this new plant.

Please pray about the need to reach the unchurched and under-churched communities in our state. God may be calling you to be the next church planter. He may call your church to be a partner church. You will not be alone in this endeavor. The BGCO, as well as other churches and associations, will partner with you. The BGCO will provide training and start-up resources.

Calendar of Events

July 30-August 1, 2017 • Indian Falls Creek, Davis, OK
September 29-30, 2017 • Native American Leadership Team
October 13-14, 2017 • Native American Pastor's Conference
November 13-14, 2017 • BGCO Annual Meeting
(Native American Ministries Dinner)

Native American Ministries

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For the latest information about Native American Ministries, go to www.bgco.org and click on Native American Ministries.



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