

APRIL 2025

THE INDIAN VISION

Official Newsletter of Society of Indian Missions

Over the past five years, SIM has undergone a remarkable transformation, sparked by a wave of renewed passion for greater impact among the Native communities that we serve.

Through divine guidance, President Lavery, alongside a seasoned and dynamic board, has embarked on the challenging journey of conducting an unflinching assessment of SIM's organizational vitality. With steadfast determination, they have methodically implemented crucial and foundational reforms that have fortified the bedrock of this ministry. The outcomes have been nothing short of extraordinary.

People all over the United States are interested and excited as they witness God's powerful rejuvenation of His work. The impact is tangible and inspiring. In a historic milestone, 2024 shattered all previous fundraising records, with donation levels soaring to unprecedented heights. While faithful long-term supporters have maintained their steadfast commitment, an inspiring group of younger, passionate people have caused donation levels to soar. New missionaries are coming on board and others are in the pipeline!

Have we encountered obstacles and temporary setbacks during these five years? Undoubtedly. Yet SIM's overall vigor remains unshakeable. With unwavering confidence, we anticipate that our most impactful and transformative chapter lies just ahead.

We invite you to join us for the journey!



Marc Sankey
Staff Pastor
(Interim editor)



Top News:

Remembering Jeremiah
PAGE 02

Smith Family Transition
PAGE 02

Spring 2025 Report
PAGE 03

Montour Memorial
Retirement Fund
PAGE 04

Building Hope Enterprise
PAGE 05

Coming Alive in 2025
PAGE 06

Remembering Jeremiah & Smith Family Transition

BY KEITH LAVERY, PRESIDENT



Photo taken at Jeremiah's graduation ceremony

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Jeremiah Smith, son of Dan and LaDawn Smith. Jeremiah, a 20-year-old Bible college student, tragically went missing in a kayaking accident. Despite extensive search efforts, his body has not been recovered as of this time. Through this unimaginable loss, the Smith family has felt the nearness of God and the overwhelming support of prayers from many.

Dan and LaDawn have faithfully served with Society of Indian Missions for the last 20 years, dedicating their lives to ministry among Native communities. Just prior to this tragedy, they had made the difficult decision to resign from their ministry role, sensing God's leading in a new direction. Their time with SIM has been marked by deep commitment and compassion, and we honor their faithful service. They have expressed gratitude for the outpouring of love and support they have received.

As they walk through this season of grief and transition, we ask for continued prayers for their family. May God's presence bring them comfort and strength in the days ahead.

At the time of Jeremiah's memorial in PA, over \$17,000 has been raised to help with expenses!

THANK EACH OF YOU WHO HAVE HELPED. YOUR GENEROSITY HAS BEEN A GREAT BLESSING.



Spring 2025 Report

BY KEITH LAVERY, PRESIDENT

BRINGING HOPE THROUGH
BUILDING HOPE ENTERPRISE



Society of Indian Missions (SIM) is dedicated to strengthening and growing the Native American community of believers by equipping them to lead in faith, discipleship, and service. A key initiative in this mission is Building Hope Enterprise (BHE)—a SIM-owned, non-profit construction company designed to mentor through employment and disciple Native men into a life of faith.

This effort stems from the vision God has given me to work with men in our communities, fostering their transformation in Christ to impact their families. Unemployment on many western reservations leaves men without direction or opportunity. BHE offers meaningful work alongside Christian managers and co-workers who model integrity, discipline, and faith. As men gain skills and stability, they experience the life-changing power of Christ in their daily work. Since early 2024, BHE has provided local men with 3,570 hours of work.

SIM officially closed on the business on December 1st of last year and is actively raising funds while also working to make a profit to pay for the business within 12 months. The success of BHE depends on dedicated believers who are willing to step into the mission field, not just with their words, but with their hands. We are urgently seeking vocational missionaries—those with construction skills who can work alongside Native men, mentoring and discipling them in faith and leadership.

BHE is rapidly developing, and this effort is not just about building structures; it's about restoring lives, building hope, and strengthening Native communities through faith and work. If you have skills in construction and a heart for discipleship, we invite you to join us in this transformative mission.

To learn more or explore ways to get involved, visit www.societyofindianmissions.org and www.buildinghopeenterprise.org.

2024

SIM Total Giving: \$491,100

347 Total Donors

75 New Donors



BUILDING
HOPE
ENTERPRISE

**BHE has provided local
men with 3,570 hours of
work.**

Honoring a Legacy - Building a Future for Missionary Retirement

BY RUTH HOOPER

For over 70 years, Society of Indian Missions has faithfully served Native American communities, bringing the hope of the Gospel and providing essential support through missions, churches, and outreach programs. Many dedicated missionaries have given their lives to this work, often serving well beyond retirement age with little financial security.

To honor their legacy, the Montour family is stepping forward to establish the MONTOUR MEMORIAL RETIREMENT FUND—a long-term investment fund designed to support missionaries as they prepare for retirement. This fund will be invested, with the interest used to match contributions to staff retirement funds, ensuring that those who have devoted their lives to this calling receive the support they deserve.

The initial amount required to establish this as a sustainable investment account is \$75,000. James and Louva Montour have led the way with an initial contribution of \$10,000 in honor of Rebecca Ann Wakeman and Elizabeth Sue Montour.

The Montour family is committed to growing this fund into a sustainable resource that will bless missionaries for generations to come.

Join the Montour family in building a lasting financial safety net for lifelong missionaries. All administrative fees have been waived, ensuring that 100% of your gift goes directly to building this investment fund. Every dollar contributed helps in building a lasting source of security and blessing for the missionaries who have sacrificed so much in service to others.

Be Part of This Legacy—Give Today

- Make a one-time donation or set up a monthly contribution.
- Give in honor or memory of a loved one.



Check

You can make your check out to Society of Indian Missions and mail it to PO Box 1348, Mission, SD 57555



Online

You can make a tax deductible donation today using our secure online platform



Specify
“Montour Memorial Retirement Fund”

Building Hope Enterprise

BY JONATHAN & ANNA LUCAS FAMILY

Building Hope Enterprise is making an impact on the reservations. Not only is the work crew remodeling vacant homes on the reservation, but the workers are also coming to the rescue in emergency construction needs. When a vehicle crashed into the Rosebud BIA Fire Department building leaving a gaping hole on a windy, snowy day, Building Hope Enterprise team arrived to erect a temporary wall and seal the weather outside. The station was extremely grateful! When another vehicle wrecked into Family Dollar, Hope Enterprise again dispatched a worker to put up plywood to keep out both weather and burglars until the damage could be repaired. City hall, police station, and other facilities are using BHE for construction needs. Praise God for the men who are being faithful to come to work and learn skills! One comes from the city shelter, another from TECRO, the tribal employment agency. Pray for wisdom for Jonathan as he oversees projects. Also, praise God that Anna's cancer is responding well to treatments at this time.



Anna Lucas is offering her newest book, *Under His Wings in China*, as a thank-you for gifts of \$20 or more to the Benevolence & Care Fund here at SIM. The book is a riveting account of her team taking the gospel to China in June 1989, during the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The fair market value of the book is \$10. As a result, the amount of your contribution over \$10 is considered tax-deductible under IRS guidelines. Please let her know by email at prairielucas@gmail.com or call (719) 332-6336 if you would like one of her books after making your contribution.

2025 Financial Focus:

- 1) Pay Off Building Hope Enterprise; Create Reserve Fund (\$135,000)
- 2) Complete Martin Building Project (\$100,000)
- 3) Fund and House New Staff Families (\$250,00)
- 4) Montour Memorial Retirement Fund (\$75,000)
- 5) Create a SIM Reserve Fund (\$200,000)

*PAYPAL.ME/SIMMISSIONS

*CASH APP - \$SIMMISSIONS

*SOCIETYOFINDIANMISSIONS.ORG

CHECKS MAY BE MAILED TO
PO BOX 1348 MISSION, SD 57555



“Coming Alive in 2025”

BY TONWEYA AND JUDY SHERMAN FAMILY

God has given our family a good first year here in Winner! We have focused on building relationships among the community and immersing ourselves in the culture of those around us. There have also been many new experiences for the children and me! From the first wakes and funerals and navigating a family dispute over dividing human ashes, to the first time to enjoy wojapi (a Native American fruit dip served with fry bread). We are excited about what God wants to do this year among the people!

God gave Tonweya the theme of “Coming Alive in 2025.” God has been working powerfully among our congregation. There have been questions about salvation and sanctification. Some are beginning to recognize their need for Christ’s help and deliverance. We are excited to see people respond to the Holy Spirit!

Thank you for your prayers and support for our family and for being a part of the incredible work God is doing in Winner!



Society of Indian Missions
Box 1348
Mission, SD 57555

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Our first baptism service here in Winner!

As we continue ensuring compliance with IRS regulations, we have been working closely with a tax-enrolled agent. We recently learned that gifts designated for a specific fund do not qualify as tax-deductible donations under IRS guidelines. To maintain the tax-deductible status of your contributions, you may notice changes in the names of our funds. We now have a Benevolence & Care Fund, which will support various benevolent needs for families in our communities. This new structure allows us to ensure your gifts reach those in need while also covering necessary fees, operational costs, and travel expenses for benevolent events.