

**Serving With Our Hands – Sharing the Love of Jesus
Tovi Black Calf- SIM Vice President**



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One of the greatest blessings in my life has been the opportunity to be involved with the Society of Indian Missions. As a Native American, this ministry means much more to me than simply volunteering or helping with projects. It represents people who have invested their lives in reaching Native communities with the hope of Jesus Christ. It reminds me that God has not forgotten Native people and that He continues to call men and women to share His love on reservations and in tribal communities across our country.

Growing up as a Native American, I understand many of the struggles our people face. There are challenges that are unique to reservation life—broken homes, addiction, hopelessness, poverty, and many people searching for purpose. While these issues are real, I also know that the Gospel is greater than any obstacle. Jesus Christ is still changing lives, restoring families, and giving hope where hope has often been lost.

That is why the Society of Indian Missions is so important. This ministry doesn't simply meet physical needs; it faithfully shares the truth of God's Word while building relationships with Native people. It reminds our communities that they are loved by God and that there is a future found in Christ. Seeing missionaries dedicate themselves to this work has encouraged me and strengthened my own desire to serve.

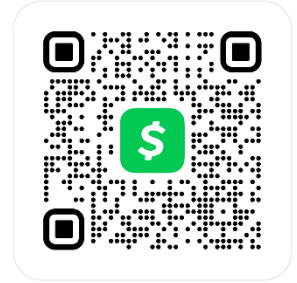


Recently, I had the privilege of helping with several hands-on projects that reminded me how ministry often begins by serving others. One of those opportunities was teaching knife-making classes. These classes became much more than learning how to shape steel or handle tools. They provided time to mentor, encourage, and build friendships. Working side by side created conversations that might never have happened otherwise. It was exciting to watch participants learn new skills, gain confidence, and experience the satisfaction of creating something with their own hands.





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The knife-making classes also reminded me that God often uses practical skills to open doors for spiritual conversations. As sparks flew from the grinders and the steel slowly took shape, it was a picture of how God patiently shapes our lives. Just as a blade must be heated, ground, and refined before it becomes useful, God molds each of us through life's experiences to make us useful for His kingdom.

Another opportunity was helping build a new deck onto one of the missionaries' homes. While it may seem like an ordinary construction project, it was another way to support those who faithfully serve Native communities every day. By helping with the deck, we were able to lighten the workload of missionaries so they could continue focusing on the ministry God has called them to.

Working together on that project reminded me that every person has a role in God's work. Some preach, some teach, some give financially, and others serve with their hands. Every nail driven, every board cut, and every hour spent working became an act of service for the Lord. Ministry isn't always behind a pulpit; sometimes it's found on a construction site with a saw, a drill, and willing hands.





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These experiences have reminded me that missions is about relationships. It is about showing Christ's love in practical ways while pointing people to the Savior. Whether through teaching a class, helping with construction, or simply spending time with someone, every act of kindness can become an opportunity to share the Gospel.

I am thankful for the Society of Indian Missions and for everyone who prays, gives, and serves to make this ministry possible. Your support reaches far beyond buildings and projects—it reaches hearts. Together, we are helping bring the hope of Jesus Christ to Native communities and encouraging the next generation to know Him.

Please continue praying for the missionaries, the Native churches, and the many people who are hearing the Gospel. Pray that God will continue opening doors, raising up workers, and transforming lives throughout Indian Country. It is a privilege to be part of this ministry, and I am grateful to serve alongside people who love both God and Native people so deeply.

As Scripture reminds us, “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Colossians 3:23). Whether we are teaching, building, encouraging, or simply lending a helping hand, every act of service can bring glory to God and point someone closer to Christ.

Thank you,

Tovie Black Calf
Vice President, Society of Indian Missions