

What's Is God Doing On Manitoulin Island?

To confine my ministry in the second quarter of 2023 to one page is difficult as there is a story behind each of the occurrences and connections. Covid has taken its toll on relationships by restrictive rules, fear, and shutdowns. Thus, now, it is a joy to have the freedom of personal visits and community engagement, to again be able to relate and respond to people and demands.

Where is Manitoulin Island?

It is on the northern tip of Lake Huron in Ontario. What does Manitoulin mean? It is Ojibwe for 'Land of the Great Spirit'. It can be accessed by a bridge on the north, and in the spring/summer season by the Chee Chemaun (in Ojibwe, Chi-Jiimaun meaning the big canoe or boat) ferry from the Bruce Peninsula. This is where God has planted me for twenty-five years fulltime, working with Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatami people. My main focus is the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, while ministering also to other reserves in the mid-north of Ontario.

After founding DayStar Native Outreach and serving as Director for many years, I have moved from that position to another within DayStar with the title of *Spiritual Leader / Outreach, and Frontline Worker*. In this arena of great need on Manitoulin Island, each day is filled with demands, challenges, and opportunities.

God moments are many, and unexpected each day.

Most of my connections are with young adults. In spite of all the concerning issues, addictions, deaths, and violence, some are beating their addictions, becoming good parents, and finding hope. Several men and women are remembering the Biblical teachings I gave them in the DayStar programs when they were kids, reconnecting with me, to ask me to journey with them in life. Recently, a God moment happened with two severely addicted young moms who are sisters. The son of one was murdered in Wiky 2 or 3 months ago. When I pulled up to a housing complex, there they were. Putting my hand on the hand of one, I said, "I think you need a turn-around in your life. If you want help, I will help you." Both expressed their desperation. We're meeting this week to begin what hopefully will be a journey to freedom in Christ. Please pray for Deanna and Lorilee.

A lady who has lost two young adult daughters and a grandson has accepted Christ and is experiencing a radical transformation in her life. She has as a healthy hunger for God's Word, doing Bible Study and attending the Wiky Fellowship. Her recent phone call was: "I found something that I never thought I could have... happiness and contentment.



Day camps are back!!! After a four-year lapse, kids are overwhelmingly happy to see their camp leaders and teams back on their Native territories. Adults too are welcoming the return of DayStar. As this is a new start after covid, the teams are experiencing some difficulties of various types: staffing, equipment, scheduling and others. Please remember the teams from southern Ontario, Michigan, and Illinois in their outreaches.

For His Kingdom,

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