

Dunamis Working



God's Power at Work

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dunamisaz.org

State of ministry WMACC Greg Smith

God blesses a dream. It was just over four years ago that we were convicted to establish Dunamis Ministries and minister with the White Mountain Apache Tribe. During these past four years literally thousands of Apaches have heard the Gospel (jail, church, bus ministry, and Rainbow Treatment Center) with conservatively over 100 individuals being baptized. In addition to this, God has:

- Grown the White Mountain Apache Christian Church beyond our dreams. Not only in numerical growth, but individual growth as well. Now, more than ever, we see Apache members willing to learn and demonstrate responsibility towards the function of the body of believers.
- Allowed this ministry to develop an incredible working relationship with the White Mountain Apache Jail. The jail's administration is willing and open, to not only our continued involvement, but suggestions for program development into the future.
- Developed a trust between this ministry and the Rainbow Treatment Center. Even though the Tribe's drug and alcohol program is not faith-based, Rainbow allows us complete discretion over what is taught during our time there and also includes us in joint community activities.



Greg and Beth Smith

- Continued to build contacts on the Reservation. Through serving in many areas, we have worked with, become acquainted with, or developed relationships with Child Protective Services, Prosecution, several Tribal Counsel Members, Adult Education, Whiteriver Unified Schools, employees, administrators, and officers of the Police Department, Behavioral Health Services, Fatco Lumber Company (supplied the lumber for the Worship Center), and not to mention Odette's (Greg's favorite lunch stop).

God is not done. While we do not know what God has in store for the future, we know that "He who has

begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6 NKJV).

- As we write this newsletter, White Mountain Apache Christian Church (WMACC) is, in Christ, courageously facing its next obstacle. After Dr. Mattingly's visit (please see the enclosed highlights of his report to our Board) we began pursuing a new location.
- During the month of November two of our board members came to Arizona to meet with the owner of a potential facility—the H Furniture Store. During these meetings we began the negotiation process.
- In the middle of our negotiations, we learned (November 20) that Pregnancy Center (where the church presently meets) will not be available after the first of the year! God knew what was coming and prepared the way!
- The potential new location of WMACC is incredible! It is located on 1.5 acres, on the main highway, across from the high school, next to Northern Pioneer College, and a half mile from the Bashas' grocery store. *Continued page 2*



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- The current owner is willing to lease this building to Dunamis Ministries with an option to purchase it in the next seven years. It is our desire (Dunamis Ministries), that as soon as WMACC is in a leadership (Biblical Apache leadership) and financial position to take over the new location, that Dunamis Ministries then exercise the purchase option and turn over the facilities to

WMACC debt free!

- God willing, WMACC could be on the path to having a permanent location in the heart of White Mountain!
- Combining the ministry facilities at Dunamis Ranch with a permanent location for WMACC in the heart of downtown White Mountain, one can only imagine what God will do!

God uses everyone. Just as in the past, we cannot do this without the help of our supporters. Specifically, here is what we need help with:

- Continued and increased support of our general fund. Our general fund has absorbed a lot over the
- Establishment of a WMACC building fund. This new facility will need some improvements. With the establishment of the WMACC Building Fund, we desire to accomplish two things. First, challenge the local Apache

last year. In addition to supporting the finances of WMACC, jail ministry, and the bus ministry, it has also absorbed operational and construction expenses of the Worship Center (see summary of Worship Center article).

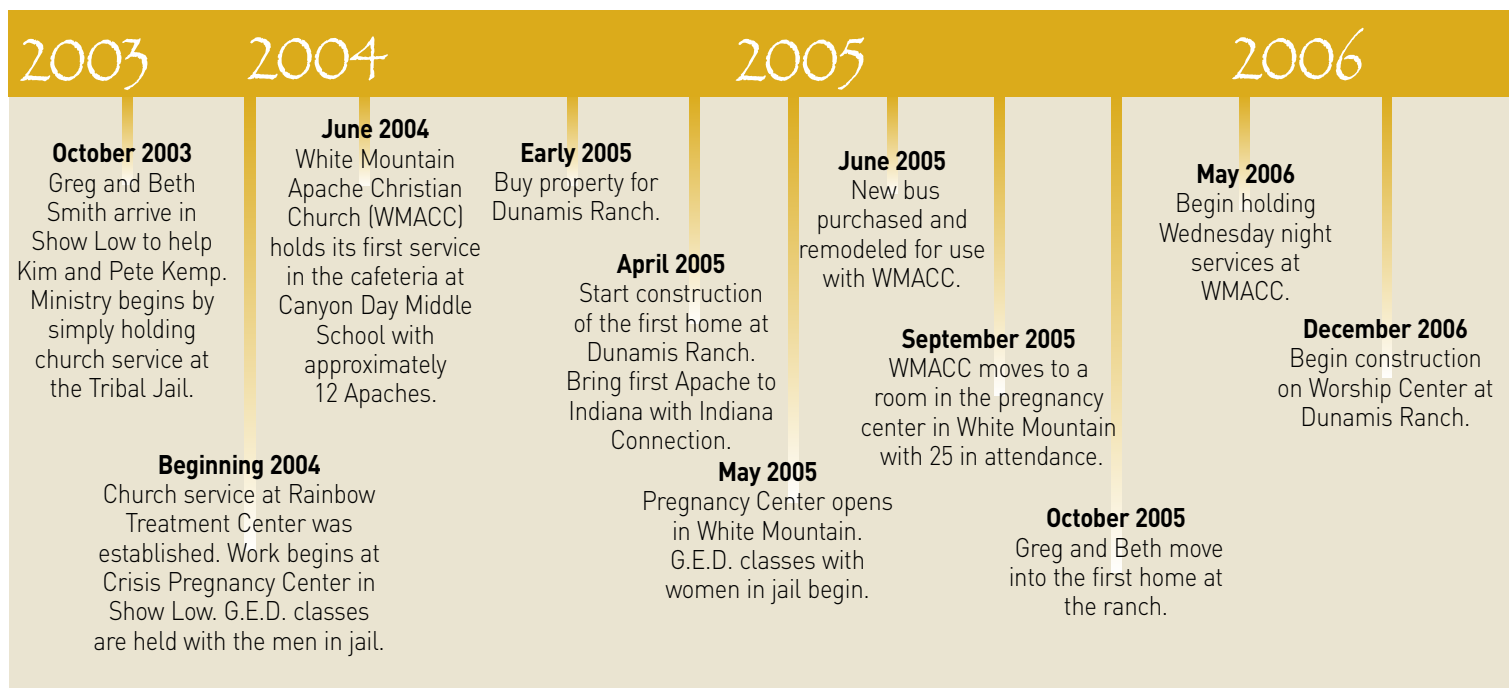
• We need help funding the lease of WMACC's new facility. There is not money in our budget to absorb this lease. We need individuals willing to commit a \$100 a month over periods of one to three years (certainly annual and one-time gifts are appreciated and needed). Monthly commitments will help our cash flow and will go through Dunamis Ministries directly to the lease of this property.



Mt. Olivet Christian Churches work team paints a house.

Timeline of Dunamis Ministries

Over the past four years, only God could have brought about the accomplishments He has in such a short period of time. Currently Dunamis Ministries continues to reach the Apache people through various programs and building projects. The following is a timeline of the amazing opportunities God has opened up for ministry.





Work team around the campfire at the Ranch.

congregation to a matching dollar program. For each dollar raised by our Apache congregation, matching dollars will be provided to help them renovate—demonstrating their commitment. Second, the goal is to provide future resources to exercise the option to purchase this building at the end of the seven year lease—debt free.

- Come to or sponsor an informational dinner-gathering.

In the month of January, we will be scheduling regional dinners where Greg will come to describe what is happening at WMACC and the opportunity for this new location.

I wish you could have been there. If there was ever an example of how God has been working through this ministry at White Mountain Apache Christian Church, it was at our congregational meeting on December 4th. At this meeting Greg presented to the congregation the fact that we would soon need to leave our present location and what God has done to provide for a new location. This included issues of the congregation's financial commitment as well as time and service commitment. As Earnest summarized, "We can do this. We are ready for this—it is time for us to step-up for this church." The culmination of the meeting was when other congregational members asked to speak in Apache to those in attendance (30+) so they

could describe in their native tongue what God had done through this congregation and their appreciation for this church. Even though we could not understand the words they were speaking we could hear the heart from which they spoke, see the heads nodding in the room and the tears flowing down their cheeks. Your support is touching these Apache lives in ways we can't even imagine. Please pray about how God would direct you to participate!



Greg Smith baptizes Elvis.

2007

June 2007
Character classes begin for men in jail.

October 2007
Character classes for women in jail begin.

September 2007
Vanessa Hammond arrives in AZ to join the Dunamis team in ministry.

November 2007
Nearly complete construction of Worship Center at ranch.

Present Day WMACC averages over 80 Apaches each Sunday with the highest attendance being 130 people. Wednesday night services now average over 50 individuals.

Over 75 inmates hear the Word of God weekly through Christ-centered character building classes dealing with addiction, relationships, anger, and personal life change.

Each week clients at Rainbow Treatment Center are taught Christ-centered recovery.

Dunamis Ranch is being designed to function in the future as a Christian church camp. This church camp will enable Dunamis Ministries to provide programming off-reservation for a variety of members at WMACC. This outreach will be directed toward Apache youth, singles, and marrieds. Spiritual growth retreats such as the Great Banquet will also be a goal of the ranch.

Groups who have come

2004 – 5 Mission Teams
2005 – 9 Mission Teams
2006 – 11 Mission Teams
2007 – 15 Mission Teams
2008 – 13 Mission Teams scheduled

Through hosting the mission teams, Dunamis Ministries will minister to over 200 individuals each year from various states across the country. To date we have hosted or scheduled teams from Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Kansas, and Hawaii.

Apaches in Indiana Connection

2005 – 4 Individuals
2006 – 6 Individuals
2007 – 3 Individuals
14 Apaches currently live in Indiana.

Number of Apaches Baptisms

2004 - 12
2005 - 20
2006 - 30
2007 - 40+

Welcome Vanessa Hammond!

Dunamis Ministries is please to welcome Vanessa Hammond to our ministry team. Vanessa is a native of Seymour, Tennessee (just south of Knoxville). She is a graduate of University of Chattanooga of the Honors program in Psychology.

Although a native of Tennessee she is very familiar with our work in Arizona. Prior to coming fulltime this past September, Vanessa had spent the past three summers working with our ministry in a variety of roles.

Vanessa not only brings her education and experience, but a willing and tender heart for the Lord. We can think of one word to describe Vanessa—servant. Already in her short tenure on the

Reservation, we see her willingness to serve and be used by God. Vanessa has helped expand the jail ministry, adding a character class for the women—complementing what is already provided for the



Vanessa Hammond holding baby Alvarez.

men. In addition she is already loved by the WMACC members and their children.

Vanessa's attitude, work-ethic, and servant's heart was also demonstrated in her home congregation back in Tennessee, Seymour Heights Christian Church. Vanessa came with the support of her congregation and the endorsement of the Eldership. We are thankful to the Seymour Heights Congregation—not only for sending Vanessa out, but for their support of Dunamis Ministries and the way the Seymour Heights Eldership biblically handled Vanessa's endorsement.

Praise God for the way He works through the ENTIRE body of believers.

White Mountain Apache Christian Church continues to grow.

Over the past two and a half years, the White Mountain Apache Christian Church has dealt with a variety of changes, but God has continued to build His church here in White Mountain both in spiritual growth and increasing attendance. Greg recalls, "When we first started the church and it was just Pete, Kim, Beth and me, each Sunday we hoped there would be more Apaches than white people, especially when we had a group in town." Today, however, the church has grown to have a regular Sunday attendance of approximately 80 Apaches: 40 adults and 40 kids.

While the church first began holding meetings at Canyon Day Middle School, we were soon asked to look for a new location. We were blessed to be given access to an



Kids leading songs at the WMACC.

extra room at the Crisis Pregnancy Center. While the room seemed large for our small congregation. We are now past maximum capacity as we currently utilize many other areas of the building in order to hold junior church for the children from birth to junior high.

Many of the members of the congregation crave to learn more about God and Christianity. Through personal devotion and discipleship

training, many members are becoming increasingly stronger spiritually. We are hoping to begin building a core group of members who will become involved in decision making and begin to take leadership roles in the church. Please pray that God guides this group of individuals to help White Mountain Apache Christian Church serve and glorify Him.

Dunamis Worship Center



Dunamis Ranch Worship Center from the south.

Over the past year, expansion of Dunamis Ranch has begun with the building of the Worship Center. This building will provide housing for short term mission teams, allow for spiritual retreats for Apache individuals, couples, and families, and create many other opportunities to help the staff of Dunamis Ministries in disciplining Apaches. With the help of over 20 short term mission work teams, the building has almost reached completion. God provided all the finances for the building as it was needed. A special thank you goes out to all the many individuals who helped to build this extraordinary tool for ministry through prayer, financial support, and physical labor.



DJ Healy (grey shirt in center) and the young Amish men from Odon, Indiana finish Worship Center in November.



The Amish working on the siding.



Dameon teaches Greg the proper way to paint ceiling.

Dr. Mattingly's report on Dunamis



Gerald Mattingly, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.

At the beginning of October, we were delighted to be visited by Dr. Jerry Mattingly from Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, TN. His insights into this ministry were both beneficial and enlightening. We feel that as supporters of this ministry, Dr. Mattingly's observations would be of great interest to you. Please enjoy the following thoughts:

- This is a very important and impressive ministry, perhaps unique in its design and potential long-term impact, certainly in this particular place and people-group.

- "The staff lives in a rural/semi-isolated area, but work with a people who display numerous characteristics of the inner-city; therefore this is a strange combination of cross-cultural ministry in an urban setting in the "Great Out of Doors!"
- Visitors will come away with a clear impression that this is a ministry that calls for patience and sacrifice.
- I suggest that the ministry has already established enough of a base and strong enough rapport in White Mountain to grow in a significant way in the near future – in terms of numbers of people, expansion of programs, and the stress and strain associated with such growth.
- Help is clearly needed in administration, facilities, and program management, counseling, youth ministry, education, and evangelism. The experienced Dunamis veterans are ready to oversee other beginning staff members while this more experienced group reaches out to a larger slice of the Apache population.
- Everywhere I went, I saw indications that the ministry could break out of its present routine and do many other things, whenever the hours (time to do the work) became available.
- Every kind of outreach is valuable – from treatment center to detention center to pregnancy crisis center to bus ministry to discipleship groups to White Mountain Apache Christian Church. All of these angles are valuable – no diminishing returns, since each contact holds potential that might never have occasion to develop otherwise – so doughnut ministry and pickles and Kool-aid are effective means to significant ends.
- Move as quickly as possible to locate a building or site that would place White Mountain Apache Christian Church on a main road, right in the middle of the community. You need a higher profile and must project the image of a positive, "successful," wholesome, and healthy group of people.

Thank you to Dr. Mattingly for his visit and his critiques. As a staff, we feel encouraged that others see the amazing plans God has for the Apaches and will continue to work hard in strengthening all areas of our ministry.



Bus run with Virginia group

God continues to work in the Tribal Jail.

The jail ministry continues to flourish as we minister to the inmates several times a week. On Tuesdays, we have added character classes for the men and women. These classes have given us an opportunity to really teach practical ways to follow God in both personal relationships with Him and in improving relationships with other people. The inmates have really responded well to these sessions. One inmate named Marco describes the most important thing he has

learned from these classes. "I didn't know anything about Christianity until Greg helped me with verses. I learned to have respect for myself, others, and authority. Also, that there is a God. It helped me see a way out of my sin and that God is the only way for me."

Please continue to pray that the inmates have open hearts and minds to learn more from these classes, and that they will begin to seek God on their own.

Greg baptizes Clint in the Jail parking lot.



Misha's Article

Misha and her family started attending White Mountain Apache Christian Church about one year ago. After reaching a critically low point in her life, she found her way back to Christ and has been striving to lead her family in following God. Despite Misha attending a church as a child, her teenage and early adulthood years were filled by drugs and alcohol. After being in jail and going to Rainbow Treatment Center, Misha began to put her life back together and returned to church.

"WMACC pretty much changed me and my sisters' lives. We go as a family now, and every Sunday after church we try to get together and have a little dinner or a lunch together. The ministry team really taught me about the way God wants us to live our lives, and we see it now. Before we never really thought about what we were doing in front of our kids or to our kids or around our kids, but now we have been going to church and we have



Misha and her family

been thinking we shouldn't be doing this in front of our kids. Even though I've done a lot of things I shouldn't have done since I got baptized, I apologized and asked God for forgiveness. Everyday I think about it, and if it wasn't for that church I don't think any of my family would be going to church. It is our family church now. Everyone is welcome, but that is our family church, and we will always be going. They are really loving and caring people. They make you feel like family and welcome."

Misha really reminds me of the Samaritan woman at the well

(John 4). Even though that woman's life was full of sin, Jesus took the time to work in her life and help her to believe and trust in Him, and then the scriptures say, "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony" (vs 39a). Although Misha has dealt with much sin and sorrow, God has a plan for her as can be seen in her words,

"The White Mountain Apache Christian Church has really done a lot for us Natives down here. I think a lot of us Natives need to start helping and reacting to what we want to be done on the reservation. Just because we think the white people are going to come and change everything. You guys are here to help us and I think we should be able to stand up and try to help you guys."

Please pray that God continues to empower Misha to become a leader among the women of White Mountain Apache Christian Church and a shining example of God's power to change lives to other struggling Apaches.



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ministries

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Lesson Time at WMACC Junior Church. Steve of The River Church, of Louisville, Kentucky is teaching the kids.