

Spur Ministries Newsletter January 2014

Innocent Navajo men and women, widows, children, veterans, and the elderly are being deprived of affordable and quality homes because of corruption within the tribe and some of the construction firms that work for them. Spur Ministries, Inc. is working with Navajo families on changing the need of housing. We are teaching the Navajo families how to build their own quality house with the help of charitable donations, plus donated material and volunteers.

According to the Washington Times, The Navajo Nation Department of Work force development was given the Golden Hammer award, after it has mishandled \$16.5 million in an egregious example of government waste, fraud or abuse. The Navajo Housing Authority was asked to return \$11 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Shiprock housing development of 91 houses that was never occupied.

Spur Ministries has received many phone calls, visitations and letters from Navajo families, asking for housing assistance. "Can you build us a house? We have gone to the Navajo Tribal government, the Navajo Housing Authority, and local chapter houses asking for a new home but each time they tell us that they don't have any money." Each time, I reply with the same answer: "I'm sorry but we don't have any funding right now for the Navajo Hogan Project plus we are still finishing up the current Hogan, and there is a waiting list after you fill out the application. At this point, I cannot even promise to build you a house." As the applicants turn, I feel sad, heart-broken, frustrated and even angry because of the lack of resources to fit their needs. All we can do is pray for them and say God bless you and send them on their way.

A 2011 report commissioned by the NHA, (Navajo Housing Authority) and put together by RPI Consulting details the dire housing situation on the Navajo Nation. The assessment found that nearly 60 percent of the Nation's residents live in houses that are considered dilapidated or in need of major repair. Only 5 percent of Americans, as a whole, live in such conditions. Approximately 55 percent of Navajo Nation homes are considered overcrowded and at least 30 percent have incomplete bathroom or kitchen facilities. To transform "the Navajo housing stock from its current condition to an overall satisfactory level for every citizen living on the Navajo Reservation will cost between \$7.9 and \$8.9 billion dollars," the report concludes.

What are we doing? This past year Spur Ministries has attended meetings and conferences with other non-profit organizations about the need of housing on the Navajo Nation. The good news is that other Navajo groups are forming and are starting their 501-c-3 non-profit organizations on meeting the needs of housing for Navajo families. We have been assisting and advising these groups on what is needed for future building. There are other Navajo non-profit organizations and ministries that are also building hogans and houses. We are not the only ones building houses for the Lord. Praise God!

We have also participated on receiving some materials for our hogan projects from other non-profit organizations. This networking and assisting other groups seems to be working. We know that God has a plan. We are building relationships with Navajo churches and non-profit organizations and often they ask me for advice or wisdom. Not only by our words but our love of action helps build the relationship, even Navajo hogan owners from the houses we have built in the past are now volunteering to go out and build with other Navajo hogan projects.

We are currently finishing up Tamara Nelson's hogan and we have an electrician, Keith Nuanez, helping us out by finishing the electrical work. Ray Johnson, (Navajo hogan owner is now a minister in White Cone church), volunteered and did the base boards last week. Tamara and Angel moved in last week and they have received a great gift, a purple hogan for Christmas! Thank you work teams and charitable gift donors!



Tamara and Angel Nelson's Hogan

What's in store for 2014? We are praying for the next hogan applicants and for the funding \$25,000 or more to be there. We would like to build two hogans (\$50,000) next year but it takes us a year just to raise enough funds for one house and to finish it. We are also praying for grant writers and certified licensed contractors.

We are praying for work teams to come out this 2014 to help build a hogan for a Navajo family. If you or your team is interested please give us a call at (928) 205-1279 or email us at azspur2002@yahoo.com.

Please give. We can't build without you partner!

May God bless you!

Steve Thompson

If you would like to donate to Spur Ministries, Inc., please send checks made out to Spur Ministries and in the memo put Navajo Hogan project or to general funding. Please mail it to:

Spur Ministries 3453 Spur Lane Show Low, AZ 85901

Spur Ministries, Inc. is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization.