

## Spur Ministries

September 2011 Newsletter

Many dogs on the Navajo reservation in northern Arizona are fed table scraps from the owner's plate or table.



While working on the foundation for a hogan for the Begay family, one of the volunteers from Lake City, Colorado noticed a skinny black and white female dog limping on three legs. The Begays told me she had puppies and they didn't have any dog food to feed them. The work group called and asked me to pick up a bag of dog food and deliver it to the Begay's home.

My first thought was, "What are they thinking? We are here to build a hogan for a family, not to feed the dogs on the reservation. How dare they stop the production line and waste time on a reservation dog!"

But then a Bible verse came to me, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table." In Matthew 15:21-28, Jesus talked to a Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter who was suffering terribly from demon possession. Jesus told her He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. But the woman kept begging and knelt before him and asked him to help her. Jesus' response was that it was not right to take bread from the children and toss it to their dogs. Her response was, "Yes Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed that very hour.

My initial reaction was wrong and selfish. I asked God to forgive me and bought a large bag of dog food. The work team was delighted to see the dog food delivered to the Begay's hogan.

That day, I thought about how God's grace is unlimited, and how He shows His love not only to us, but overflows it into other cultures, and that even the crumbs fall into the dogs' mouths.

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Spur Ministries is constantly looking to see where God is working. We ask to be sent to the lost sheep and to those that surround the Master's table. We recently met an elderly couple, Raymond and Elta Begay. The Begays live in a house that looks like an old shack, pieced together with whatever material they could find. Raymond and Elta have been asking for a new house for more than 27 years!



Raymond and Elta Begay

Raymond and Elta were married in 1962 at Keams Canyon Baptist church in Arizona. Three boys and one girl later they found themselves living in California. Raymond was working for Dad's Donuts at Balboa Beach Peninsula, and Elta took care of the children while working odd jobs. The boys learned how to surf near Huntington Beach, while Elta was attending church.

Life was good for the Begays, but then they had to return to the Navajo reservation to take care of their parents. Raymond built their current home in 1989 and his family settled in while asking the Navajo tribe for housing. They have been on the tribal list for housing for more than 10 years. They asked the tribe for help many times, but the tribe has yet to contact them.

Their current home has a dirt floor, and a pot belly stove for cooking and heating. However, when the winds howl in the winter, the cardboard and plywood walls provide no insulation from the cold. When it rains, the roof leaks, and the pots and pans come out to capture the precious resource of water. They do have a plastic ice chest which keeps food cold for three days, if they have ice. In the summer time, it is too hot to cook inside so they cook outside. Their biggest expenses are fire wood and water for their cows. Despite building their home in 1989, they had electric power put in only a year and a half ago!

Raymond and Elta grow a garden in the high mesa desert sand, and each day Raymond goes out with a coffee can to water the corn, squash, watermelon, and cantaloupe. He hopes to yield a bigger crop this year. Mr. Begay told me the ears of corn only

grow to be about 5 to 6 inches long.

Marty Etsitty, a local Navajo pastor, told me about this family. We went to visit them and saw the need and began to pray for them and their future home. At first we thought the tribe was going to build a home for them, but they are yet to do so.

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We believe that God will provide the crumbs from His table to show His love for Raymond and Elta. We are walking in faith and have poured the foundation for their new hogan on September 8 through 11. A group of folks from Lake City, Colorado, paid for and built the foundation. We are so grateful for their sacrifice in this wonderful endeavor! Next week, we have a group coming from Illinois and Missouri to build the walls and trusses.



Gravel for the pre-slab is delivered.



Preparing for rebar to be laid.



Leveling and screeding the concrete.



Power troweling the slab.

However, despite the progress on the Begay's hogan, we still need two more groups to volunteer, plus funding of \$10,000 to finish the hogan for this sweet couple. We would like to have the hogan completed by late October, when the first snow arrives. We are hoping to see the crumbs fall from the Master's table, and to hear Jesus say, "You have great faith! Your request is granted!"

If you are unable be a part of a work group, you can help with prayer, or by donating needed money by tossing a few crumbs from your table to help spread God's love over the Navajo reservation.

Thanks Partner!  
Under the Master's table,

Steve Thompson

- Kindly forward this e-mail on to your friends and family.
- [Click here to donate online to Spur Ministries' Navajo Hogan Project.](#)
- You may send a check to: Spur Ministries, 3453 Spur Lane; Show Low, AZ 85901.
- Be sure to visit us online at: <http://www.spurministries.com>
- To UNSUBSCRIBE, reply to this e-mail with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line, and you will be removed from the Spur Ministries e-mail list.

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