October 27, 2018

Dear Friend,

I was asked to give a 50-minute presentation at the 125th anniversary celebration of the Lutheran Apache Mission. Since Pastor Hartzell had agreed to focus on the history of the San Carlos Lutheran Apache Mission, I was asked to concentrate my efforts on the Fort Apache Lutheran Mission.

I chose not to deliver a standard history of the northern mission, however. Instead I wanted to let Apaches from the past illustrate how the Word of the Lord has grown and spread for over 10 decades. Thus, I provided a history in stories in which nine Apaches use their own words to share the goodness of the Lord. The speakers were from various locations: East Fork, Cibecue, North Fork, and Whiteriver. They included young and old, men and women. Both churches and schools were represented as well as the orphanage.

I know that the Apache way of learning includes pondering and discussing stories. To that end, I have also prepared 10 Bible Studies to accompany my paper. Perhaps this material can be put to good use in the congregations, in an ACTS class, or maybe even in the high school. The basic format I used follows the *New Life in Christ* Bible Information Class material produced by my cousin, Forrest Bivens, and my friend, David Valleskey. Actually, at their request I tested the usefulness of their material in a congregation I served before their book went to print.

In this envelope you will find the 10 Bible Studies as well as the Answer Key. I suspect that each week the Bible study leader will provide a blank copy of that week’s study, a pencil, and a Bible for each participant. The Answer Key is for the study leader. Feel free to photocopy the weekly study. If it would work better for you, I will be happy to email my materials to you.

Please accept these studies as a work in progress. You may wish to add your own questions and answers to the template I have provided. I apologize for any mistakes. If I had more time, I would have run this through the proofreading process several more times.

May God bless you as you speak His truth in love and share the Good News of salvation. And the Word of the Lord Grows.

In Christ,

William B. Kessel

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