



# RCA Missionary Update

## from the De Boers

Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church is located on an Indian reservation in Dulce, New Mexico. Bill and Peg DeBoer have been ministering on the reservation since 1994, and they have a long history of working with Native Americans. Bill's work in Dulce includes community involvement, especially with alcohol and drug abuse programs. Peg's primary responsibilities are in the Sunday school, youth group, and women's ministries. The couple also provides emergency care for foster children.

### *New Mexico facts:*

- Population: 1,819,000
- Size: 121,600 square miles



#### MINISTRY

Pastoral

#### LOCATION

Dulce, New Mexico

#### PARTNER

Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church

#### CONTACT

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Dear friends,

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The community of Dulce had a rough time this past spring. The period from March through



Group from Central Reformed

May was marked by tragic death. It started with a thirteen-year-old boy who hung himself at the local Bureau of Indian Affairs' dormitory. (At the time, the boy's mother was undergoing treatment for alcohol abuse in Texas, and his father was in the Dulce jail.) Bill has done quite a few funerals for suicides, but not for one so young.

This tragedy was followed by several copy-cat suicides by other young men. With the addition of some other alcohol-related deaths, everyone in town was affected. It was truly a gloomy time, and for those of us who know Jesus, it was a frustrating time because the tragic deaths didn't

seem to have people searching in the right place for meaning and hope—in the gospel. Even though things seem to be on an even keel once again, we know that without a change of people's hearts, this kind of tragedy is likely to be repeated over and over again. Pray that more people here come to know Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

On a more pleasant note, it has been our joy to host two work groups so far this summer, a youth group from Central Reformed in Grand Rapids, and a group from Adventure Life Reformed Church in Altoona, Iowa. The



Adventure Life group doing a cookout behind church in nearby mountains

amount of work they got done was breathtaking, and we were glad to share with them some of the rich Jicarilla Apache culture.

Our family continues to do well. Our son, John, and his wife, Beth, are planning a move from San Diego to Spokane in August. Our grandson, Elijah, is now with us for a two-week visit and we plan on taking him to Mesa Verde National Park, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Dinosaur National Monument, and for a ride on the Durango to Silverton narrow gauge train. Bill will then fly back to Ohio with him and take time to visit his mother in Grand Rapids.

Every year that goes by sees us more dependent on the prayers of our friends and supporters. We thank the Lord constantly for you.

With thanksgiving and love,

*Bill and Peg*  
Bill & Peg De Boer