



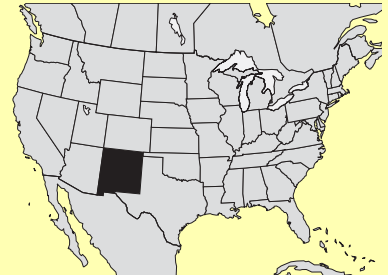
RCA Missionary Update

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,

December 2007

The past few weeks have brought a lot of sadness to the Jicarilla Apache reservation. There have been so many deaths that I could have had three multiple funeral days. Funerals are not usually easy for me, especially because about ninety five percent of them are for people who are not church attenders.

One of the funerals was for a twenty-year-old man who was probably murdered. When the eulogy was read, it was clear that his life centered on his car. He was especially attached to the sound system it had, and could think of nothing better to do than drive around town, making everything shake within half a mile. In other words, he did not have a life filled with meaning and purpose. The Apaches have the practice of burying the personal possessions with the body or in a nearby hole dug for that purpose. I noticed that the second hole at the burial site was really big, large enough—you guessed it—for the man's car. I have seen many interesting things buried, but that was a new experience for me.

A day last week was particularly tragic as four young men were drinking and driving south of Dulce when they crashed. Three of them died at the scene, and the fourth was helicoptered to the nearest hospital. The survivor was the driver of the vehicle, and after being released from the hospital, he hung himself. When a member of our church called me to tell me this sad news, she said, "People need to have the Lord in their lives, and too many don't." Please pray that more people here find joy and meaning in the Lord.



The surf-boarding trio

It has been an eventful year for our family. Our son John's marriage in February in San Diego was like a family reunion. (John and Beth have since moved to Spokane, Washington, and we look forward to visiting them next summer.) The family gathered again in March in Michigan, but that was a somber occasion, the death of Bill's father. Peg and I were able to spend a week in July with our daughter Susan's family in Ohio, enjoying our grandchildren very much. A real bonus was having our eight-year-old

grandson, Elijah, come to our home and go camping with us. We visited national parks and monuments, such as Mesa Verde, the Grand Canyon, Arches, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison. We also stayed at Monument Valley, one of John Wayne's favorite hangouts.

We cannot let the rest of the year slip by without thanking you for your faithfulness. Our church is an essential light in the midst of a lot of



Elijah

darkness, and your prayers and financial support are so helpful in our ministry.

May you have a really meaningful Christmas, and may the Lord come to you in new and exciting ways in the New Year.

With Christian love and gratitude,

Bill and Peg

Bill & Peg De Boer