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Butte Tribe members Pastor Tim and Tangie Stampley along with Jamie Hooks traveled to Butte Tribe tribal land to attend the first Butte Mission Celebrate Recovery (BMCR) Leadership meeting. The Stampley's own the nonprofit organization TNT Ministries under which BMCR will operate.

Those attending the first Butte Mission Celebrate Recovery Leadership meeting were Christian Harmony Baptist Church Pastor David Matlock and wife Shawnda, BMCR Leaders Maria and Eric Thompson, Jamie Hooks, Pastors Tangie and Tim Stampley, Council Chief Brad Desadier, BMCR Secretary Jamee Stampley and Sonia Sistrunk. Not pictured is vice chair Belinda Brooks

Butte Tribe program to help troubled Native Americans

Courtesy story by Belinda Brooks

Chief Rodger Colum has announced a new tribal initiative, Butte Mission Celebrate Recovery, to support troubled Native American and community people in Natchitoches Parish and surrounding areas.

Butte Tribe Indians met for the first Butte Mission Celebrate Recovery (BMCR) Leadership Meeting on Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Christian Harmony Baptist Church in the Pace Community. Pastor David and Shawanda Matlock were in attendance.

The meeting place is historically tied to the first family of the Butte Tribe, the Desadier family. In the early 1900s, a little brush arbor church was erected on Desadier land, resulting in the church that still stands today.

The 3rd & 4th tribal chiefs provided the donation of land:

Chief Adolph Felix (Chief Squarehead) &

Victoria "Fee" Flores Desadier and their son, Chief Clarence (Chief Parrain) and Louella Waters Desadier. All four ancestors previously mentioned had bloodline ties to the Butte Indians.

BMCR is in the beginning stages of production. The program will branch with Celebrate Recovery Native Nations®, the Native American initiative of Celebrate Recovery® to the Native American Nations.

Activation of this mission is in response to the issue of the Native American population within the Parish of Natchitoches, who are faced with staggering rates of alcoholism, illicit drug use, abuse, poverty, and suicide. BMCR will encourage fellowship, celebrate Christ's healing power in the lives of those with disabling addictions, and help those who choose to participate along the road to recovery.

The program aims for members to share

life-changing experiences, strengths, and hopes. BMCR will help individuals see themselves through God's grace and forgiveness as they learn to deal with life's problems positively.

Hundreds of years ago, at the time of America's invasion by European explorers, the destruction of Native Americans' lives began. Facing genocide by murder, execution, and disease; dislocation of entire nations; exploitation of innumerable forms of social, mental, and physical abuse; and the introduction of alcohol/drugs have all been acknowledged by the United States government as facts of history. The effects of historical indigenous abuse can still be seen in the lives of Native Americans today.

For the natives of Natchitoches Parish and Butte Tribe, alcohol abuse is rampant. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are five times more likely than other ethnicities

in the United States to die of alcohol-related causes. Although not scientifically proven, many believe that Native Americans are predisposed to alcoholism because of differences in the way they metabolize alcohol.

Nevertheless, according to Native Americans and Substance Abuse, an online article by The Recovery Village Ridgefield, many native people live with alcohol addiction. Statistics show that 14.4% of Native Americans need treatment for alcohol use, compared to only 7.6% of the general U.S. population. Native Americans are primarily impacted by substance use, as they are five times more likely than other groups to suffer alcohol-related deaths. Fetal alcohol syndrome is another issue plaguing native people, with rates as high as 1.5 to 2.5 per 1,000 live births.

The road to recovery is a rough road to travel. BMCR believes that



BMCR leaders Eric and Maria Thompson are excited about welcoming their family and friends to participate in Butte Tribe's new ministry of living the life of overcomers through their faith in Jesus Christ.

a faith-based approach with support from the surrounding communities. Updates to the program's opening, which will be open to the public in a non-discriminatory manner, will be made public. All who would like to attend will be welcome.

Go to ButteTribe.org to learn more about Butte Tribe. BMCR is a continuing effort of the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux to address serious issues that affect their people and