

From *March 07 Red Mesa News*

Leading Worship in New Mexico

*young native american christians
bring home ideas & enthusiasm
from calvin worship symposium*

Two young people from local Red Mesa Classis churches were the youngest attendants at the January 2007 Calvin Worship Symposium in Grand Rapids, MI. Colby Touchine, a high school freshman who attends Rehoboth CRC, and Hannah Chee, a junior from Church Rock CRC, both help with worship at their churches. They were two of fifteen members of Red Mesa Churches to participate in the three-day worship conference. The Worship Symposium provides many opportunities to explore a whole range of topics and to worship with 1600 other Christians from around the world.



Colby and Hannah were the youngest attendees of the Worship Symposium this past January

“I went to Michigan kind of intimidated,” Touchine admitted, “but when I got there, I was so warmly accepted there that people were asking me if I was coming to Calvin [College] next year [as if I were a high school senior]. I thought it was really cool!”

Chee and Touchine attended a variety of breakout sessions filled with adults—ministers, choir directors, worship leaders, as well as a handful of lay people. Yet they also found the conference beneficial, despite their young age.

“Even though it was specifically designed for adults and pastors, I actually learned quite a bit and got ideas that are realistic for around here—even though some sessions were really in-depth,” Touchine said.

The two were especially struck by sessions on using drama and mime in worship services, and would love to see some of the things they learned brought into their chapels at Rehoboth Christian School, where both hope to unify and spice up weekly chapels.

“It was amazingly helpful,” enthused Chee. “I help out at my church and it gave me a bunch of stuff to help out at church and chapel.”

The two enjoyed the hospitality of the host family that they stayed with, and even got in a little sledding while they were there. Chee would highly recommend it for fellow high school students. “As long as they are willing to be the only high school students there and not be too scared,” she said. Touchine seconds Chee’s enthusiasm. “I thought I would go intimidated, but I was really warmly accepted and that helped me to learn a lot,” he added. The TEAMS (Theological Education and Ministry Support) Committee of Classis provided the scholarships that enabled members from several Red Mesa Churches to participate in the Worship Symposium this year. The TEAMS Committee is also eager to support Native Americans who wish to pursue higher education with a ministry focus with scholarships and internships. Funding for these programs has been provided by the Southwest Bible and Missionary Conference through the Red Mesa Foundation.

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