

## **The Creation of Friendship**

Rev. Jonathan Kwon, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Grenfell, Saskatchewan  
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This project, established in January 2007, has been successful. The committee of the project consists of the Tae-Kwon-Do club and the Mosaic Mission Team. This report is about the activities of the two groups and the development of relationship and friendship between members of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Grenfell and Aboriginal people.

### **I. Tae-Kwon-Do Club (TKD)**

This activity got underway to reach out to Aboriginal children and youth in the Sakimay First Nation through Tae-Kwon-Do, which is a martial art. The Sakimay First Nation is located 10 kilometres north of the town of Grenfell where Rev. Jonathan Kwon ministers. The club consists of Rev. Jonathan Kwon (TKD instructor), eight volunteers from the congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Grenfell and youth workers on the reserve.

Since January 2007, TKD classes have been held every Monday evening at the gym complex of the reserve with about 30 students of all ages (children, youth and adults) attending. The TKD club has been successful in terms of attendance and participation as opposed to last year. On special occasions such as Sakimay Treaty Day and events the TKD club was asked to do a demonstration for the whole community.

In their participation of TKD classes, children and youth have developed respect for others and the discipline required to control their emotions. I have witnessed a good relationship and friendship between Aboriginal people and TKD volunteers in the martial art program. As the TKD club is an ongoing program for Aboriginal people in the Sakimay Reserve, it is my hope to see a better relationship develop between our Aboriginal neighbours and people from the town of Grenfell, including members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Grenfell.



Members of the Tae-Kwon-Do martial arts club with instructor Rev. Jonathan Kwon.  
Photos: J. Kwon. Used with permission.



## 2. Mosaic Mission Team

This group consists of Trinity Presbyterian Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Grenfell. The purpose of this group is to build better relationships between Aboriginal people and church members and learn about each other.

On special occasions such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas we have visited people living in Sakimay First Nation, delivering small gifts. Many of our church members attend every year, an International Women's Day celebration, a Pow-Wow festival, and the Treaty Day event held in the Sakimay First Nation. In our participation of those events, we learned about Aboriginal cultures and spirituality.

The group participates regularly in the youth night events being held at Grenfell High School every six weeks. This event is for youth from Sakimay First Nations and the town of Grenfell to interact with each other and develop better relationships. In their participation of the youth night events, the mission team works as volunteers to provide snacks and games. They also spent time with the young people playing volleyball, table tennis and dodge ball. Supporting such programs gives us an opportunity to think about building bridges between the two different communities.