

Rising Above Counseling Agency and Upcoming June, 2012, Conference

As a result of repeatedly hearing people's stories of abuse and recognizing the deep negative impact abuse has had on their lives, communities and culture, a group of Native leaders were convinced they had to do something. Remaining silent was no longer an option. Further, they believed that as Native people they needed to be the ones to rise up and take responsibility to help their own people.

In 1992 they decided to organize a conference to talk candidly about sexual abuse and help restore hope to those who had been abused. They chose the name **Rising Above** because they believed that with God's help Native people could rise above the hurt and pain caused by abuse and experience life, identity and purpose as their Creator intended.

That vision has remained to this day. On June 13-16, 2012, the 19th Annual **Rising Above Conference** will be held at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA. The main sessions will address the impact and recovery of sexual abuse and boarding school experience. Other prevalent issues will be discussed in workshops. The conference features Native speakers who share their personal stories of abuse and healing. Sharing circles and individual professional counseling give attendees opportunity to share their story. Music throughout the conference is provided by The Rising Above band, featuring Native singer Howard Jolly.

Following each conference, Rising Above provides conference attendees several program opportunities to further their healing journey and equip them with skills to help others.

What makes Rising Above unique and effective is that it deals with underlying root issues that cause pain and dysfunction. Through stories of people who have risen above and through teaching and counseling by trained professionals from a biblical perspective, people connect with their pain at the level of the heart. This is where true and lasting healing begins.

Since the first Rising Above conference in 1992, Native people across the country have been given the resources to rise above the pain of their past and move forward in their healing journey through new life and hope in Jesus. Here are some comments from impacted people:

"This conference opened my eyes, opened my memories, gave me hope."

"...they're our people reaching our people... that's what makes it so effective, to see our own people presenting on issues of sexual abuse and their personal experience to relate to it, you know it's not just something that's head knowledge, it's a heart knowledge, it's personal stories that opens up our eyes and say hey if they can get that far in life then what's, what's stopping me from getting there..."

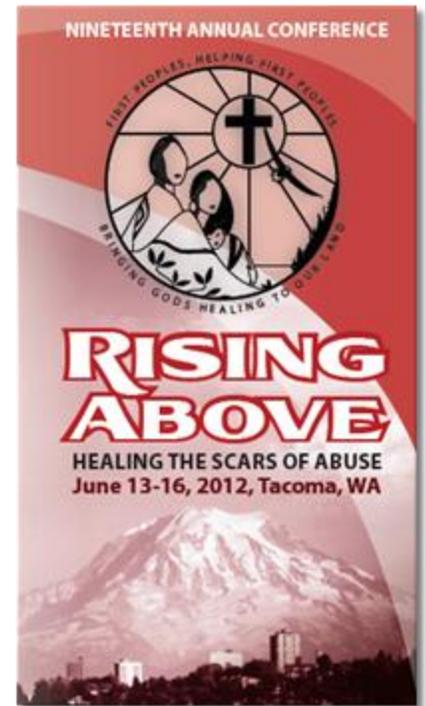
"I thought I would have to give up my (Native) identity if I wanted God in my life, but I know now I don't have to."

Success is measured not only in terms of the many individual stories of healing but also in ways that cannot be measured in this generation because when one individual is empowered to 'rise above,' succeeding generations in that person's family and community are helped.

For more information, visit www.risingabove.ca and view the short video on the homepage. Also, a copy of the current brochure for the Tacoma, WA, 19th Annual Rising Above conference is on the site and can be downloaded.

For more information on the 19th Annual Rising Above conference in Tacoma, WA, call: 1-888-777-1380 or 253-229-8773 (in WA). Registration costs, accommodations and costs, location, and registration directions are also available in the downloadable brochure.

Or email: registration@risingabove.ca



At the University of Puget Sound [UPS], 1500 North Warren St, Tacoma, Washington

In partnership with: *Eagle Wings Native American Ministries* & *Tacoma First Nations Gathering* (of NAIM)

First Nations People addressing the issue of recovery from abuse among Native People.

Christian Native professional ministers and counselors providing a safe place for addressing and healing from past abuse: domestic, sexual, boarding/residential school, and emotional abuse.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Email/Web: registration@risingabove.ca; www.risingabove.ca
- Call toll free: 1-888-777-1380; or local, in Tacoma, WA: 253-229-8773
- Fax: a registration form from the brochure to: 204-388-5365
- Mail a registration form to: In Canada: Rising Above Conference, Box 930, Niverville, MB R0A 1E0
In USA: Rising Above Conference, c/o Sandi Wright, 6521 Burning Tree Lane, Tacoma, WA 98406

ADULT REGISTRATION FEES:	Single	Couple
Walk up- after May 29	\$ 150	\$240
Previous Attendee	\$ 80	\$130
Full Time Student (16+)	\$ 50	

REGISTRATION POLICIES: Fees are refundable before May 29 with a \$25 administration fee. Fees are non-refundable after May 29. Refunds will only be made payable to the issuer of the registration payment. Partial Fees for attending only certain days are not offered. Due to the nature of the material in this conference, children are not permitted to attend. Childcare will not be provided. Mature teenagers who can handle the material may attend as fully registered students.