

Statistics on Montana and Indians

960,000 population (Major industries: farming, ranching and mining)

Billings largest city – 130,000 (80+ casinos)

Hardin, Montana (our home) – 3,500 population, more than half Indian, one red light, 10 casinos!

Seven Reservations in Montana (63,000 Indians)

Seven Indian SBC churches (400-500 members total)

History:

Estimated 5 million Native Americans lived in the continental United States when Columbus first arrived here in 1492.

Four hundred years later, in 1900, the Indian population had been reduced to 237,000.

Today there are approximately 2 million Native Americans.

Less than 10 percent claim to be born-again Christians.

The suicide rate among Native Americans is 5 times higher than any other ethnic group.

Native Americans have the lowest income level in the United States.

75% of Native American homes are affected by alcoholism.

Rates of sexual abuse are among the highest in Native American children.

There are currently about 515 Tribes in the U.S.

200 Tribes have not been reached with the Gospel.

Local History:

Crow Tribe population – 7,900 on the Reservation (3,000 off Reservation)

Crow Indians fought with the army against hostile Sioux and Cheyenne.

Government “gave” them 38 million acres of their own traditional lands including the Big Horn and Pryor Mountains by treaty in 1851.

Government renegotiated treaty in 1868 taking 30 million acres back.

Today they have less than 1 million acres, the rest being taken from them one way or the other.

Government attempted to turn the Crows into farmers and took their children to boarding schools where they were forbidden to speak their native language, cut their hair, and made them wear white man’s clothes.

Crow love horses—became cowboys and ranch hands.

1920 Government said Crow had too many horses – killed 40,000 + Crow horses. Gave Crow \$2 per horse if they could *prove* ownership (Crow looked at horses as their brothers). Joe Medicine Crow said the land stunk for months.