

Dakota Baptist Convention Native American Ministry Reading List

These books are good practical theology approaches to ministry to Native Americans. Craig Smith has the right approach to this kind of cross cultural ministry without falling in to syncretism. I usually suggest the first book as an introduction to Native ministry. The second is also available as a Bible study geared toward Native congregations to help guard them against syncretistic tendencies.

- *White Man's Gospel* by Craig Stephen Smith
- *Indigenous Faith* by Craig Stephen Smith

Some good books for historical perspective and understanding setting of Native ministry.

- *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown
 - This book was written to “balance” the historical record of the end of the Indian Wars and the beginning of the Reservation system. I disagree with that approach but most Native people you will meet have either read this book or been influenced by these ideas.
- *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* by David Treuer
 - A deliberate attempt to be a sequel to the previous book. Again I disagree with the worldview of the author but he fills in the historical gap between the beginnings of the Reservation system and today.
- *The New Trail of Tears: How Washington Is Destroying American Indians* by Naomi Schaefer Riley
 - In my opinion this is a good, but simplistic, overview of the inherent problems that are currently plaguing the Reservation system.

Miscellaneous books that are particularly pertinent to ministry among the Native tribes in North and South Dakota.

- *The Way of the Sacred Tree* by Edna Hatlestad Hong
 - Fictionalized account of the 1862 Dakota War that covers some of the most important missionary work among the Dakota.
- *Out of Bondage* by Adolphus Kootenay
 - Spiritual biography of a Native man from Canada who was raised to be a medicine man and then became a Christian.
- *Dakota Martyrs: The story you never heard* by Wayne Vleck
 - Story of the first protestant missionaries in the Dakota Territory in the Pembina valley area.