Special "Flashback" Post: Richard Twiss recording

Check out this audio recording of **Richard Twiss** on challenges in North American native contextualization. Richard was a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate and was the Co-Founder and President of Wiconi International (which works towards reconciliation between Native Americans and other Americans).

This audio recording by the late Richard Twiss (author of ***Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys***: **A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way** (2015) and ***One Church Many Tribes*** (2000) was shared at the US Center for World Mission offices (2010-ish), just before one of the powwows hosted on the WCIU campus.

Richard asks questions like: How do we walk in the native way, which he sees as parallel with the Hebrew idea of Shalom?

He shares some of the historic challenges reflected in the work of good-hearted people who desired to serve and spread the gospel to native populations — yet, rarely did it come across well. What the natives heard, was that God loved them, he died for them, but he didn't like them…He didn't like their music, rituals, ceremonies, dance, language, feathers, names for God. To follow Jesus, they felt forced to accept the white cultural package.

Before his death at 58 years old in 2013, he finished a dissertation at Asbury titled *Native led Contextualizatio n efforts in N.A. 1999-2009*.

(Note: From 28:14 to 31:47, Richard plays a video example of the use of drums with some commentary. The quality and audio levels make it difficult to understand.)

Richard was the lead for producing the September 2000 *Mission Frontiers* magazine – which you can find here: https://bit.ly/3LFYl09

Richard mentions that he met with Dr. Ralph Winter back around the year 2000. They talked about the negative reaction Richard received to the idea of contextualizing from the *evangelical* native leaders. Richard quoted Winter as saying: "…if this is the kind of entrepreneurship it's going to take for your people to know Jesus, you have my full support."