

## NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

As we began preparing this book for publication, we realized the sensitive nature of publishing a book like this. First, we ourselves are not Native American or First Nations, so some may ask, what gives us the right to publish a book about Native Spirituality? As white Americans and born-again Christians, we are very aware of and absolutely against the prejudices and the injustices that the U.S. Native American and Canadian First Nations people have experienced. While reading this new edition of *Muddy Waters*, we learned of the residential schools in Canada and the boarding schools in the U.S. We were appalled to learn how the young Native children were taken from their parents' homes then placed in these schools and subjected to physical, sexual, and/or mental abuse.

When we traveled across Montana and Alberta in 1997, it was the first time we had seen any of the reservations. From what we saw, it was obvious the Native people had been short-changed in the land they were given by the U.S. and Canadian governments. It became clear to us the reservations weren't faring too well. We later learned of the high suicide, alcoholism, drug, and other abuse rates found on the reservations. Our hearts went out to the Native American people whom we saw as the forgotten people of North America. Yet, we didn't know how we could possibly help. Little did we know back in 1997 that we would start a Christian publishing house in 2002; little did we know that we would later publish our chief editor David Dombrowski's favorite book (next to the Bible)—Egerton Ryerson Young's book from the late 1800s, *Stories From Indian Wigwams and Northern Campfires*; and little did we know that we would stumble across Nanci Des Gerlaise.

We offer this book with the utmost humility and gratefulness to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to publish a book by a Cree First Nations Canadian woman. We pray the message in this book will be received by both Native and non-Native people and that it will cause many to be set free by the only One who can set man free.