



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

BROTHER JAMES LOCKLEAR & FAMILY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- On paper we are at app. 92% of our monthly support., but can see as little as 80% come in on any given month
- Rev. Gilbert Walker resigned as president of NABC at the end of the fall term. The school has begun a presidential search. Rev. James Kelly, former president of 15 yrs., has been appointed interim president

PRAYER POINTS

- Theresa's father and step-father.
- Theresa's physical healing.
- NABC—Presidential search & enrollment.

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We have made many dear friends here in North Carolina, but none are so dear to us as our adoptive family.



Brother James Locklear is a traveling sales manager

at a local NAPA, a first class body-man and painter of motor vehicles, an elder at our church and board member at NABC. Shortly after we arrived in NC, Bro. James began to take us under his wing and invited us home one Sunday afternoon for dinner. We received a second invitation shortly afterward. When we did not come a third week for Sunday dinner, his wife, Sister Gennette, wanted to know where we had been. We explained that in New England, if you are not invited you don't go. Sis. Gennette informed us that we were suppose to just come now.

In Robeson County there is an age-old tradition of the extended families gathering Sunday afternoons after church for a meal and to spend time together. Many of the people here work two jobs and are extremely busy, many will not eat dinner until 9 PM, but Sunday afternoon is family time.

Our ignorance of the ways down here often brings a laugh from our friends. When we first arrived we noticed signs on

the side of the road advertising "plate sales." Theresa and I speculated as to what these were. One day a local pastor invited us to his church's plate sale. When he did we took the time to ask what a plate sale was. He told us that a plate sale is a fund-raiser and that churches and other organizations sell plates of food and drink. When we told Bro. James, Sis. Gennette and the rest of the family about what we had learned they just laughed at us; then asked us to repeat the story



several times for their further amusement!

The Locklear's grandson Corey and Caleb became quick friends. Corey refers to Caleb as his White brother and Caleb to Corey as his Lumbee brother. We hide Corey for playing with Caleb around the vat of bleach and bleaching him out; Caleb apologizes for pushing Corey into the fire and burning him.

Bro. James and his family are very close and live in a typical Lumbee fashion with much of the family next door to one another. Two of Bro. James and Sis. Gen-

nette's grown children live just across the road from them, Holden and his wife Christina and their kids and Leslie and her husband Jerrall, Bro. James' brother (Earl) and mother (Sis. Louise) also live just across the road, and he has a sister (Sis. Shirley) that lives just a few doors down. Their remaining daughter (Sis. Maria) and husband (Bro. Craig) live nearby as do Sis. Gennette's siblings. On Sunday afternoons their house is overflowing with family, children running underfoot, the teens playing and the adults chatting. Fried chicken is the standard meal, and Bro. Holden is officially in charge of the deep-fryer out back. Collards, fatback, field peas, rice and mashed potatoes are all normally a part of the Sunday fare.

A year after we arrived here, Bro. James celebrated his 60th birthday



and we were invited to the party (about 100 people attended). Sis. Gennette asked me to say grace, but introduced us to all gathered as "their family." They ARE our family and we love them dearly.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

John has developed a new hobby at the promptings of Theresa and Levi — motorcycling!

Theresa continues to enjoy teaching her kindergarteners. The humid weather of North Carolina is quite tough on her fibromyalgia though.

Caleb has become quite the social butterfly and is often off with friends on the weekends.

Levi has received his third promotion in four years and is now an E-6; Petty Officer First Class. This most recent promotion comes a full year ahead of schedule. Way to go Levi!

Alicia became a licensed nurse practitioner and should receive her RN sometime this month.

As always, thank you all for your prayers support and correspondence! We really could not do it without you!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



What midlife crisis?