



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

MAXTON 1ST ASSEMBLY YOUTH GROUP



I thought I would introduce you to another side of our ministry here in North Carolina.

Besides teaching at Native American Bible College I also lead the youth group at our church. A few months after settling in at the church I volunteered to help out with the youth group which was then known as the "CA's." The ministry age was from 14-35 years of age, and about 4-5 teens and 2-3 young adults attended regularly. Many transitions have occurred in our church since that time as a result of the former pastor's retiring and the installment of the new pastor. During that time of transition I became the leader of the youth group.

Since then we have changed the age range for the youth expanding it down to the 6th grade (11 yrs.) and limiting to 12th graders (17-18 yrs.). With this change we had about 6-7 youth in the youth group 2 years ago, today we are running an average of 20-25 youth every Wednesday night and a few more who rotate in and out.

Its been a lot of fun working with the youth and especially exciting to watch them growing in the Lord. Many do not know the Bible stories as I might hope, so one of the primary things I have worked on with them is to help them learn the Bible stories and teachings.

Caleb has entered the early enlistment program with the Marines and will be going off to boot camp in August. He is excited about this and is now doing physical training with his recruiter and a number of other "poolies" (those who are enlisted, but not yet in) twice a week and is becoming quite buff (which he is well aware of and very proud of!).

Theresa's school has been struggling financially and her promised full-time aid has turned out to be only part-time and she has discovered that she actually has 4 students with special needs. She is hanging in there, but definitely stressed by the challenges that have come her way this year.

Another area that we are working on is worship. We do not have musicians in the youth group, so we play music pumped through a computer over the sound system. Bro. Braxton, a student from the college (Chris), and I have been working on teaching the youth different worship songs and how to get into God's presence. In our little group this is a slow go, but when we



Part of the Youth Group

took the youth to the annual district Youth Convention this fall many went forward to worship with the other youth who crowded the auditorium. It was exciting to see.

Part of helping the youth to grow in the Lord has been to provide Bibles for them. Initially I purchased ten NIV student Bibles and gave them to any youth that I led to the Lord and to any youth who did not

have a Bible of their own or was struggling to read the King James translation. The church now provides NIV Bibles for new youth and those that give their hearts to the Lord through this ministry.

At this time we have led 20 youth to the Lord in the youth group (Yes, that's most of them that are coming now, but some have since left the group and there are some "newbies"). The most exciting thing is to watch the youth growing spiritually. We regularly challenge them to greater commitment to the Lord and are thrilled to see many responding to these challenges and stand before the others as they do so. Two of our current youth also have a call to ministry on their lives, and one (top left picture) has already preached in a small group setting and received very positive feedback.

I recently challenged the youth to develop a vision for themselves as a group and to choose a name which would communicate this vision. They chose the "Unstoppable Courageous Warriors" and so I am beginning to speak into that name to help them to understand better what they what to become in Christ.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I have begun to accept invitations to preach from other churches. I have waited until now to do this, believing that I needed to learn about the area and the culture before accepting such requests. The first such request came from Brother Danny (last newsletter). He asked me to come and minister to a combined children's and youth group at his church. I went as the aged Apostle John and told the story of Jesus from his perspective. To the right you can see a picture of what I looked like.

We will soon be leaving to spend Christmas with Levi and Alicia in Washington. We have not seen them in a year, so we are looking forward to it! I will also be visiting my brother Mick, who I have not

seen in four years, so we are very much looking forward to the vacation and



Ministry will age a person!

time with family.
Have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year!

PRAYER POINTS

- Levi and Alicia as they prepare for parenthood.
- NABC – enrollment & accreditation.

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