



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

REV. MITCHEL OXENDINE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lumbees enjoy a special treat called snow ice-cream made by placing shallow trays out when it snows and then adding condensed milk, sugar, and a little vanilla flavor.
- We now have SKYPE for those that are interested in Skype-conferencing as a way of "visiting" without actually being there. Our account is: john.flood501

PRAYER POINTS

- More ministry partners: our budget has been falling short by app. \$1000 per month.
- Levi & Alicia as Levi is on his 8-month deployment.
- NABC—Students & finances

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"Everyone knew it, but I had to admit it" Bro. Mitchel Oxendine was talking about his call to ministry. "That night when I went to church I could smell the wreaths of a funeral home and God spoke to me, 'Accept your call or die.'" He had asked the Lord into his life just 3 years earlier. He was an usher, played music, taught children and youth, and was a deacon, he states, "I did everything I could, I just did not want to preach! I had read the Bible and knew the passages that spoke of 'Woe to the shepherd/preacher that does not feed the flock.'" He used many excuses with the Lord for why he should not enter ministry, because he was aware of the seriousness of his call, but when we fight God, we generally do not win!

Bro. Oxendine is deeply respected in this area for his faithfulness and Godly wisdom. He has been involved with NABC from the time he accepted his call to ministry back in 1976 just after turning 30. He completed a 3-year diploma in 2 years with more courses than needed. He helped clear ground and construct the first building which is now the Administrative building at NABC. He has taught part-time at the school, served as a vice-president, interim president, and remains a member of the school's board of directors.

Before entering the pastorate, Bro. Oxendine saw his youth group grow from 8-10 teens to over 60, at which point it needed to be divided because of space issues. He took his first pastorate at Pembroke AG after graduating from NABC and saw it grow from 18 people to over 60 in



three years. He then accepted a call to Shannon AG where he pastored until 2001, when he retired for health reasons. Children he ministered to years ago, tell today the difference he made in their lives. When I asked about his experience as a student at NABC he stated, "The most

important thing I learned at NABC was that I did not know anything to start with. To get in and be taught and to hear the Word made a drastic difference and taught me the value of study and getting into the Word. The Holiness and Pentecostal churches of this area are often resistant to the idea of receiving Biblical training for fear that the preacher will lean on their education rather than trusting in the anointing of God. Brother Oxendine's ministry serves as an example that this is not necessarily so. As he puts it, "There is no shame in getting equipped."

The Lord has raised up 10-15 ministers in this area through Bro. Oxendine's ministry over the years. He is a well known and highly respected leader throughout the county. He is currently assisting at a church in Lumberton which had been praying that God would send them someone to help. He left his nearby local home church to go there. He says, "It would have been easier to stay, but its more fulfilling to go."

When I asked him what he might want to say to our supporters he said, "Tell them it is an investment which helps people brought up in this culture, the value of which will never be realized until eternity.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Another semester is now over here at NABC and I am trying to get things ready for a visit north for Christmas (including getting this newsletter out!). Although the students have scattered I am plugging away at my Spring courses and working on accreditation projects with the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Theresa is busy with end of semester projects at her school as well. Caleb's artillery school has been postponed and he will come home for 2 weeks around Christmas to work as a recruiters assistant, before shipping back out to Oklahoma.

Levi remains on his 8-month deployment and we are all eager for him to return home. His ship is one of the two aircraft carriers that was in the gulf of Iran recently. Alicia and Dillon will be heading to MA when

we travel north at Christmas. After a couple of weeks with her family they will head back to WA to prepare for Levi's return. Theresa is getting misty already at the thought of their leaving and we have thoroughly enjoyed having them with us.

We left the Lumbee church which we had been members of since our arrival here towards the end of summer. It had grown from 50-60 people to over 150! We feel the Lord wants us to help where it is needed and so had been looking for a smaller Lumbee church. We feel we have found one that is a good fit for us and are starting to settle in and develop a new community. We are warmly accepted, but miss seeing those from our previous church.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

*Have a Merry Christmas and
Wonderful New Year!*



**Dillon, Santa's little helper &
Rogue the Reindog**