



# Native Sons

## Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

### OUTREACH TO THE GILA RIVER REZ

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Mary & Carl Hovel and crew for the wonderful dog show!
- Gerry Doty for writing the "Searching for Christmas" play!
- The almost Doctor Ron Clouse for stepping in and directing the play when Gerry could not in spite of being swamped by work!
- Rev. Fat Albert (not kidding!) Skinner and Phyllis Brighton for organizing the gift of 300 stockings!
- The many churches that gave funds to help run this outreach and provide dolls & balls for the kids!

The Gila River Indian Community is located just south of Phoenix and is one of the reservations that is home to the Pima & Maricopa Indian tribes.



#### Damsel in distress?

This year, for the first time in its history, we took the Christmas outreach off-campus to Native country. We held the outreach in the community of Sacaton in the Gila River Rez. I worked to coordinate with the Native pastors of the area so this would be "ministry with" rather than "ministry to" the people of the area. 35 of our students as well as a number of the faculty, staff, and their wives were involved in the outreach.

The name of this year's outreach was "The Celebration: Welcome to Bethlehem." It was a children's and family carnival. We ran 10 different craft and activity booths, all manned by our students. We did face-painting, had a live dog show, put on a play



#### Is Your Santa from LA?

that was specially written for this occasion called "Searching for Christmas", and gave out gift-filled stockings as well as dolls and soccer balls or footballs to every child that attended. We also had a literature table filled with donated Bibles, the Native Book of Hope, Christian children's books and



devotionals, Christian books, and other items.

We we all wore Biblical costumes and all the games and crafts were designed around Biblical themes. We had a "Bethlehem Census Registration" table and registered 91 children present, but we gave out stockings and other gifts to 212 children, so more people attended than we have record of. We also received



17 salvation commitment cards from the altar call, but know that more went forward to receive Christ. Both the registration and salvation cards were given to the local pastors so they could do follow up. The leftover stockings, dolls, balls, and literature were given to the participating churches so they could do further outreach. One pastor commented, "This will be the only gift many of these children will receive for Christmas."

We have visited 2 of the participating churches since the outreach and know that follow-up is occurring. Both churches have seen families visiting as a direct result of this outreach. The pastors and people of the community were thrilled that we brought this event to them. To all that gave to make this happen, THANK YOU!!!!!!!



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*Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!*



### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

The fall semester is nearly over here at AIC. I love being a part of equipping these young Native leaders for ministry and thoroughly enjoy all my colleagues. I remain very busy and next semester promises to be my busiest yet; I am scheduled to teach 6 course almost half of which are new to me.

Theresa has healed well from her low-back surgery, but the doctor wanted to do more tests and give her body further

time to recover before doing the neck surgery. She hopes to have this done early in the New Year.

We plan to visit our sons and family in New England over Christmas. This will be the first time I have seen Levi in three years. We will be staying in MA with Levi & Alicia; Caleb will be there too. We hope to make it up to VT to visit Theresa's family also.

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