



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

MANUEL (MANNY) OLEA

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Mexico has the largest population of Spanish speakers in the world.
- Mexico has the world's 2nd highest number of Catholics after Brazil
- Mexicans make up the largest group of LEGAL immigrant in the US.
- Mexico is the world's leading silver producer.
- Many Mexicans are a mixture of Mexican indigenous Native Americans and Spanish ancestry.
- Southwestern Native Americans generally enjoy good relationships with the Mexican populations.

PRAYER POINTS

- John's summer itineration & new financial partners.
- Theresa's health
- Increased enrollment and finances for AIC.

John & Theresa Flood US Missionaries to Native Americans

4820 W. Kristal Way.
Glendale, AZ 85308
Phone: (623) 518-6775
jflood@aicag.edu

Field Address:
US Missions
1445 N. Booneville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
johnflood@usmissions.org
Offering Acct. #
2570281

Manny wondered why he should come to a school that did not focus on him. He considered going to Latin American Bible Institute (LABI), but decided against it, because it was not accredited. Other possibilities included Grand Canyon University, Arizona Christian University, and Evangel University. He settled on AIC when an older friend and graduate from AIC brought him to the campus. "I saw that people are accepted here regardless of their ethnicity"

Manny is has just finished his junior year here at AIC in the Christian Ministry program. He is of Mexican and Spanish descent. His father is from Acapulco, his mother was born in Mexico, but her family is from Spain and she is white with green eyes. Manny was born in Acapulco, but his family moved to AZ when he was just a month old. He has dual citizenship. Both his older brother and younger sister were born in America, he says, "My parents were not sure where they wanted to live initially!"

Manny was raised in a Christian home and his family attended a traditional Hispanic Pentecostal church that emphasized the externals of Christian faith. As a result, Manny grew up understanding God as a God of "do's and don'ts" rather than a God

Who desired to be in relationship with him. He initially asked Jesus into his life when he was 5-6 years old, but says he experienced his first real walk with the Lord in



Manuel (Manny) Olea

8th grade. He had been going out and doing ministry with a mentor. He was actively "doing stuff" for the Lord and understood this as really walking with the Lord. At this time he began to seek the Lord's face more actively and was also baptized in the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other tongues one night when he was with his mentor. Even so, Manny says this was all "very traditional" and in his mind serving Jesus was work oriented and as a result fairly legalistic.

When he entered high school he turned away from the Lord. Because he understood his walk with the Lord to be so focused on good works he said to himself, "This way is too hard; way too hard." Manny began drinking, smoking, and partying.. He knows that his parents constantly interceded for him during this time. He graduated from high school and went on to earn an associates degree from Universal Technical Institute (UTI) in automotive and diesel mechanics.

One night, half way through the program at UTI Manny was sitting in the back of his church during a Sunday evening service, The Holy Spirit had been moving strongly, Manny says, "I felt emptiness and loneliness, there in the back row I lifted my hands up and gave my life back to Jesus." It is at this point that his life truly changed. For the first time he felt God's acceptance and love for him. He was instantly delivered from drinking and smoking, but in spite of returning to Jesus he continued to struggle with the secret sin of a pornography addiction that he had fallen into as a child. For several years he struggled with this and only slowly through struggle and learn-

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

When you receive this newsletter I will have begun my 2.5 month of summer itineration. I will be itinerating in the NYC and NJ area in late May and June. I will then relocate to Syracuse, NY and will touch bases with churches throughout the rest of NY state through the end of July. I will then swing through NC to minister in a couple churches and visit friends there, then I will return home.

After visiting family in mid-May Theresa flew back to AZ with our grandchildren. Levi & Alicia followed in a moving van and are now staying with Theresa for the summer as they look for a rental home and while I itinerate. Levi plans to attend a branch of

Fuller Seminary in this area. We are extremely excited to have them nearby and look forward to spending time with them and our grandchildren!

Caleb graduated from paramedic school at the very top of his class. He plans to begin EMT training this fall. He and Natasha are now in their own apartment in MA and both are working as they go to school.

Theresa continues to enjoy working at Standing Stones Christian Academy. In the fall she will begin teaching the 4-5 year old class and is very excited because this is her favorite age group. Her

supervisor uses her as her model class and praises her highly for her creativity and care for her students.

As always, thanks for your prayers and support!



ing did he overcome it.

Manny had sensed a call to ministry early in his life—this never left him entirely even when he was far from the Lord. After earning his degree at UTI he knew that he needed to prepare for ministry. His pastor was a graduate of Evangel and encouraged him to go there. Manny was leaning towards AIC, but unsure and asking God's direction. One Sunday in church when Manny could sense the Spirit's movement the man leading the service spoke out prophetically, "You who is seeking an answer, you know where to go, so go there." Manny understood this as the confirmation he was looking for and enrolled at AIC. He likes our chapel services (all our students do!) and enjoys building relationships with others. He is learning a lot in his classes, he says, "I am now learning what the Bible actually says, not just what other people say about it. I am learning to dig and find information for myself. I am surprised at how practical the Bible is; its an ancient book, but it is still modern and its topics are modern." He says, "The Bible is heart-changing, not just behavior-modifying". He describes his understanding of God in his early life as a matter of "dos and don'ts". Today, he says, "Its not what I am saying

'no' to, but what I am saying 'yes' to."

American Indian College includes First Nations students from many different tribes and every tribe has a unique culture. We also have come Hispanic students, Islanders, and a few black and white students. Manny enjoys interacting with the different cultures and is learning to be sensitive to cultural differences. He has gone on a number of college outreaches to different Native communities and experienced the cultural differences as well as the strengths and weaknesses in Native communities in a poignant way. These experiences are creating in him a new and deep desire to reach others for the Lord.

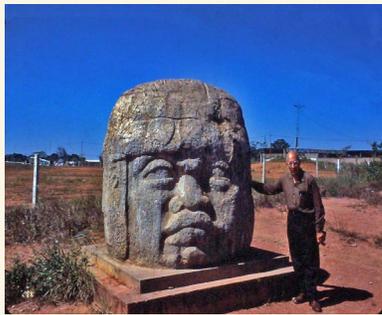
When I asked him what he thought was the most important need to address in ministry he stated, "To reach out effectively what is needed is proper discipleship and teaching. It is better to help a few become grounded in the Gospel than to talk with many who do not become grounded. A few disciples can multiply." Manny also sees the need to become grounded in God's Word and to help other become grounded because as he has grown in his faith and understanding of God's Word he has come to see

"how some people can use the Word to manipulate others, to promote their personal agenda, or to present their own point of view (as a substitute for what Scripture actually says)".

Manny would like to go on to seminary and earn a Master's of Divinity after he graduates from AIC. He is considering going to Fuller Theological Seminary, but has not decided for sure. After that he does not know where he will go or what he will do. He does say, "I know I am going to be used to reach people, perhaps as a missionary, a pastor, or whatever. I want to keep it basic with ministry. I want to be about Jesus' business and finish what He started here.." Manny is a great student who loves the Lord deeply and among those whom I have been challenging to come back and take my position.

I asked what he might say to those thinking about coming to AIC and he said, "People should come to AIC to experience community, to experience learning, and most of all to experience God as you meet people from all different tribes, ethnicities, and lifestyles."

A Brief History of Mexico



The Olmecs were the first known Mexican society. They lived in the Gulf Coast regions and lived in agricultural

Olmec head carving

and hunting villages around 300 BC. They are still known today for the giant heads they carved.

From app. 100 BC—700 AD the Teotihuacan society reigned. They constructed



Teotihuacan temple of the sun

the largest know pre-Columbian city in the Americas (also called Teotihuacan) near present day Mexico City. The city was laid out geometrically and includes a number of ancient pyramids. Teotihuacan means "City of the gods, but can also be interpreted as "the place where men become gods." The tower of Babel could also be properly interpreted as "the gateway to god (or godhood)". The Egyptian pyramids the temples of south and central America share the same basic building style with the ziggurats of Iraq (home of Babel/Babylon; the tower of Babel was a ziggurat). Teotihuacan was mysteriously deserted in 700 BC.

The Mayans reigned from 250—900 AD. They developed a calendar and writing system. They also built cities that served as hubs for surrounding agricultural

villages. At its peak the Maya population numbered 2 million people. The Mayan culture collapsed around 900 AD. Historians debate the



Aztec & Maya Empires

cause of the collapse, but some speculate that overpopulation and depletion of the surrounding ecological systems were involved in its collapse. The Aztecs were the last pre-Columbian Native civilization. They reigned from the 14th—16th centuries AD. They rose by partnering with the Toltec & Mayan cultures to conquer the smaller cultures of the region. Eventually, the Aztec Empire stretched from the Pacific to the Gulf Coast in Mexico. The Aztecs called themselves "Mexico". Little is known of the Aztec culture because they relied on oral tradition rather than written record. Originally, the Aztecs were a weak, struggling tribe, but through struggle and military prowess eventually rose to dominate the country. At the height of their power the Aztec numbered 5 million people.

Hernan Cortes arrived at Veracruz in 1519. The Aztec king, Montezuma II believing him to be the serpent god Quetzalcoatl invited Cortes to the city of Tenochtitlan. Greedy for gold, on the journey Cortes accumulated an allied army of American Indians that outnumbered the defending Aztecs. In 1521, using a combination of germ warfare, siege

warfare, psychological warfare, and direct combat Cortes conquered Tenochtitlan and renamed it Nueva Espana (New Spain). By 1574 Spain controlled a large portion of the Aztec empire and enslaved many of the indigenous people. Between the ravages of war, ethnic brutality, and the spread of disease an estimated 24 million indigenous people of Mexico died

between 1521-1605.

The Spanish ruled until



Hernan Cortes & Montezuma II

the Mexican War of Independence. In 1810 a parish priest, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla of Dolores, issued a call for rebellion resulting in the long and bloody war that earned Mexico its independence in 1821. A constitution was drawn up, but one of the generals, Agustin de Iturbide shortly declared himself emperor. He was overthrown one year later by Aantonio Lopez de Santa Anna and another constitution was created establishing the Federal Mexican Republic comprised of 19 states and 4 territories. Santa Anna was president during the Texas fight for independence. The Battle of the Alamo occurred during the last year of his reign as president.

In 1910 there was another Mexican revolution caused by the gross imbalance of wealth and favoritism of the rich and politically connected while most lived in poverty. This struggle remains today, not only in Mexico, but among many South American nations.