



# Native Sons



## Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

### TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Many white people will claim some Native heritage.
- The most common claimed heritage is Cherokee and often the person will state, "My great-great-grandmother was a Cherokee princess."
- There is no such thing as a Cherokee princess.
- This claim is an oft cited joke among Native people and the claim is often followed by a query asking if the white person is eligible for Native funds.
- The picture in the lower right is from the Lakota County Times.

#### PRAYER POINTS

- New financial partners.
- Guidance & understanding in developing pre-field training for missionaries to Native Americans.
- The spiritual and educational growth of our students at AIC

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"I never thought I could make it outside the Rez. On the Rez you are stuck in a little hole. All the kids have problems on the Rez; there is nothing to do, there are no jobs." Diane is from the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and is about my age. She was describing to me her mindset and the mindset of many from her Rez. It was hard for her to imagine a world of hope and possibilities.

She was originally from Cibecue, a small and isolated Rez town. She grew up not knowing her father or where he was. He had been taken to prison when she was young, but no one ever told her. When she was seven she was taken from her alcoholic mother and placed in the home of her aunt and uncle who raised her until she was sixteen. "My uncle was a pastor, so I grew up in a Christian home. I went to church every Sunday, went to all the revival meetings, and was at church every time the doors were open." Her aunt and uncle lived 50 miles from her home in Cibecue, and she was originally afraid to be there. At their home she was introduced to her aunt and uncle's five children, a younger sister she did not know she had that they were taking care of, and their recently adopted 3-year old daughter.



**Diane Bonito**

avoid going to church. Even so, she returned to her aunt and uncle's every Sunday to attend church. She earned "C's" and "D's" in school and states that she was always in trouble. She dropped out of high school when she became pregnant, left home when she was 16, and was married when she was 17. She was involved in church off and on during this time, She had two more children, then her

marriage failed and she was left to raise three children on her own. She fell into depression and forgot about Jesus.

Diane had two more sons, before meeting and marrying again. Her new husband adopted her two youngest sons. "I met this wonderful man I am married to now ... I knew I would be taken care of with no worries. We started going to church and took our two youngest with us. The older three had grown and had families of their own." Diane speaks very highly of her husband. He has been in and out of jail for drinking and was recently let out of prison. He gave his life to Jesus while in prison and Diane tells of sharing things she had learned in her classes with him before he was let out and of how hungry he was to learn about Jesus and the Bible.

Diane heard about AIC after a woman at church paid her way to attend a woman's convention that was held on campus. While attending the conference she thought to herself, "If I could, I would like to come to college here." However, she felt that she was too old. Sometime after the conference, one of the people working in recruiting called and asked if

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I interview Diane at the end of April for this article. When you receive the newsletter in June I will be in New England working through another summer of itineration. I want to give special thanks to my friends Janice and Cattie for putting me up during the Southern New England leg of my itineration and Pastors Steve Gadomski and Aaron Burtzell and the Manchester Teen Challenge for putting me up for the Northern New England leg of my summer. I am looking forward to seeing many old friends and making new ones.

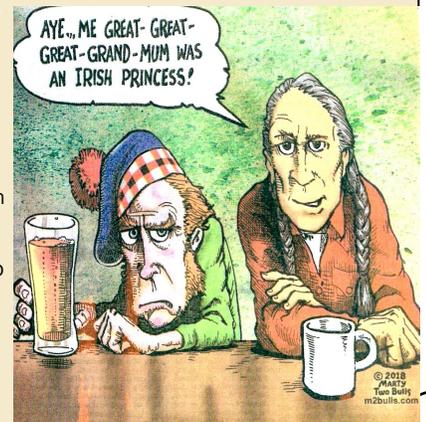
Theresa is working both her school's summer sessions to keep busy while I am away and has asked the school administrator to give her as many assignments as she would like so that she has things to do. The new building for her school is progressing well and they are getting excited about the new facilities. She also plans to spend as much time as possible with Levi, Alicia and our grandsons.

Levi has finished his MA in Theology at Fuller. The graduation service is in June, so I will miss this. He has been working as a substitute teacher in the local school system, developing clients for his fishing business, and looking for a ministry position. Alicia continues to enjoy nursing and is working on her bachelor's degree in the field. This is now becoming a requirement for most nurses.

Caleb is doing well and is dating a new young lady. He has recently completed HAZMAT training and been certified for this. Apparently, his captain is fast-tracking him for leadership within the fire department. Caleb absolutely loves being a fireman/paramedic and tells some of the funniest stories about the people they attend on the ambulance. He has saved a number of lives at this time and is very proud of this. He

continues to compete as a power-lifter and works out constantly.

Anyway, as always, thanks so much for all your prayers and support. We hope all of you have a great summer!



she would like to apply to attend. He helped her work through the paperwork and she began attending in the fall of 2016. She was fearful that first semester because most of the students were her children's age. "They were younger than me and knew more than I did." She was also intimidated, because it had been more than 20 years since she had been in school and she had not been a stellar student when she was young.

During her first year, Diane's youngest son TyRee, just four days shy of his 15th birthday took his life. She left to attend his funeral and went into a tailspin of depression. She became angry with God and turned to drinking. She was hospitalized because of her drinking. Diane was in rough shape when her daughter came and spoke with her in the hospital, telling her that she had lost a brother and did not want to lose her mother as well. This helped Diane gain perspective. Later, while attending Pastor Marty's church on the White Mountain Apache Rez she and her husband went up to be prayed for at an altar call "for those in pain." The visiting speaker prayed for them and told her, "You must learn to forgive yourself, forgive your son, forgive others, and ask God for His forgiveness." She says, "After this I finally got my peace back."

In December she received another call from AIC. The school was unaware of why she had left and wanted to know if she was interested in returning. Diane returned for the Spring 2018 semester and has been earning "A's" and "B's". She is surprised and pleased, She finds her classes interesting and works very hard. She says, "I read, and read and read, but I also forget. I have a hard time remembering." She says, "When I first got here I thought I knew everything in life, but have discovered there is a lot more than I knew."

She is enrolled in the AA in Church Leadership program, but would like to go on and earn a BA afterwards. She would like to get into counseling and return to her Rez to minister to the needs there. There is a suicide prevention program on her Rez and she would like to work there. Cibecue has indicated that they would like her to come and work as a councilor there after she earns her degree. There is also a high school that has expressed interest in having her work as a councilor.

When I asked how she was finding being at AIC she stated, "I feel like I am meant to be here, and everything just fell into place for me to come. My children do not know the Lord, but they let me

know that they are proud of me. They tell me that when I get all done they are all going to move in with me." Her husband is also talking about earning his GED so that he can come and attend the school.

Diane's favorite courses are the psychology courses, then the Bible classes. She finds the people at the school friendly and appreciates that the teachers willingness to answer questions and work one-on-one with students so that they will not fail. She encourages the youth on her Rez to come to the school, but when asked to say a few words at a church she was visiting recently told the older people, "you are never too old to go back to school." She also appreciates the fact that so many individuals and churches are supporting the missionaries that are here, especially since she is learning so much about the Bible from us.

"I never thought I could make it outside of the Rez, but now I want to see more, I want to go on missions trips to other countries. I never thought about leaving the Rez, but I am glad I had the chance to come here. The only way out (of our problems) is God, there is nobody else. God is the only one that can save and help us in the end.

## Cibecue, AZ (Western Apache: Deshchii' Bikoh)



Apache Army Scouts

Cibecue is a small town on the Apache Rez. According to the 2010 census the population was just 1713 people which represented a nearly 30%

growth rate from the 2000 census. The estimated median household income in 2016 was just \$18,120 while the average income of most Arizonans was \$53,558. 32.5% of the people living in Cibecue have earned a high school degree, this is down from nearly 60% in 2010., Under 3% have earned an associates degree and only 1.3% have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The unemployment rate stands at nearly 35%.

Cibecue is known for some of its beautiful hiking areas and has a creek running through it called the Cibecue Creek. Cibecue Creek was the site of a relatively small, but significant battle that sparked a two-year war between the US and the Apache.

Nock-ay-det-kinne was a respected medicine man and chief of the Canyon Creek band of the Cibecue Apache, part of the Western Apache. Well respected among his people the leaders he counselled included Cochise and Geronimo. Because of the corruption and unhealthy conditions on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Nock-ay-det-kinne began holding religious ceremonies known as the Ghost Dance. These ceremonies often included heavy drinking and the use of hallucinogenics like

peyote. These ceremonies became a rallying point for the Apache and a means of expressing their discontent with their living conditions.

IN 1887 the Fort Apache soldiers included 25 Native scouts, 13 of whom were Cibecue Apache. The 25 scouts had been given permission by the military to attend the Ghost Dances. When Col. Eugene Carr asked the scouts leader, Thomas Cruse his opinion about the loyalty of the Native scouts Cruse along with others noted to him a change in the scouts' attitudes since attending the Ghost Dances and concerns that even if the scouts did not mutiny, that they would be useless should a battle erupt because many of them had relatives among the Cibecue Apache.

Carr eventually made secretive plans to capture Nock-ay-det-kinne and took a group of soldiers, including the Native scouts to bring Nock-ay-det-kinne in. Suspicion ran high against the scouts among the soldiers over concern that the Cibecue



Apache Warrior

Apache scouts would turn on the other soldiers when ordered to capture their respected leader. The Native scouts were disarmed and then re-armed prior to the expedition, this inciting their concern and

distrust as well.

Carr, Cruse, the soldiers, and scouts made their way to Nock-ay-det-

kinne's village and eventually arrived to arrest him. As they led him away small groups of Apache began to follow and other groups joined them. Apache men normally fought in only loin cloths, and many of those that followed were dressed in loin cloths and munition belts only. Eventually, as was expected the scouts turned on their fellow soldiers and a battle broke out on August 30, 1881. When all was said and done 23 of the scouts, 8 soldiers, the wounded Nock-ay-det-kinne, his wife and young son who had rode into battle on his father's horse had all died.

In spite of the death of Nock-ay-det-kinne the battle was considered a strategic victory for the Apache due to the retreat of the soldiers. Two days afterwards, the Apache attacked Fort Apache in retaliation for their leaders death. This battle of Cibecue Creek sparked a regional Apache uprising that included such leaders as Geronimo, Niache, and Jun. A two-year Apache war ensued as the Apache sought to drive the European-American invaders from their land. This war ended with the defeat of the Apache and the surrender of Geronimo.

Information for this article from: [www.city-data.com/city/Cibecue-Arizona](http://www.city-data.com/city/Cibecue-Arizona) and [www.the.clio.com](http://www.the.clio.com).



Cibecue Creek today