



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

BROTHER BRAXTON CHAVIS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- On paper we are at app. 92% of our monthly support., but can see as little as 80% come in on any given month
- A new president for NABC has not yet been selected, but there are two candidates in the running, both missionaries already serving in the school, and we hope to hear news soon.

PRAYER POINTS

- Theresa's family.
- Theresa's physical healing.
- NABC—Presidential search & enrollment.

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Things looked pretty good for Braxton growing up. Raised by his grandmother and taken to church regularly, in his junior year of high school he had six colleges scouting him for track and field and football, including the University of North Carolina in Pembroke. In track Braxton had won 2 regional championships and had set 2 state records in the 300 meter hurdle. He also played wide receiver, free safety, pump return, kick off return and kick off on his high school football team. Braxton was all about sports and he intended to go places with it.

Success has a down side. Braxton quit going to church during high school. He enjoyed being popular and got into the ladies. Others were jealous of his successes and caused upheaval at school. Although Braxton was not involved in the troubles, he was at the center of them and ended up leaving high school before graduation. He tried to return for summer school taking courses and working with the sports teams, but because he was unable to attend enough of the practices he was not allowed to play and again dropped out.

He left home and tried to make it on his own. His life spiraled downward. His physical involvement with women led to drugs. He became addicted to cocaine and started selling drugs. He says, "Every which way I went, went wrong." When I asked

Braxton to explain this he said, "I would lose money and was getting locked up." He move back home and began attending a barber school. In 1^{1/2} years he had graduated and earned his apprenticeship license. But then he got back into drugs. He says he became so addicted that he stopped going to work. When his barber's apprenticeship license expired he tried to get his full license—and failed 7 times, the result of partying and trying to take the test while high.



Braxton Chavis outside his barber shop

I asked Braxton how he came to the Lord and he said, "I got sick and tired of being sick and tired. I knew I had something in me which I could do. I had tried everything else, I decided to give Jesus a try. I woke

my grandmother up at about 3 am. She asked me what was wrong and I told her I was tired of living the way I was living. She took me into the closet and she started praying." She repeatedly tried to lead Braxton in the sinners prayer, but the spiritual battle was on. "Something was drawing me, but something was fighting me as well; the devil. When I finally said the prayer, it was like 1,000 lbs came off me!" He then started going to church and within three weeks passed his Barber's license exam; less than a year later he opened his own Barber shop.

Braxton began attending school at NABC this year and I asked him about this. He said, "I want to learn. I want to do as much for God as I used to do for the devil. I want to do more for God, He has done so much for me!" Braxton isn't sure exactly whether the Lord wants him to go into ministry proper or engage in church leadership. He just knows that he loves the Lord and wants to do whatever he can to serve Him. He has been singing in the church choir and praise team for some time. He also feels drawn to youth and has begun working with me with the youth. He loves the school and knows he is now where God wants him to be.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

This semester has been a bit rugged on us as a family. Levi and Alicia had Christmas with us and left shortly afterwards for Washington state where Levi is now stationed. He is finally being deployed, and at the time I am writing is on his first trip to sea. Alicia has already found a nursing job and they have a rental house which they have moved into. We are proud of Levi and Alicia, but it's tough they are now so far away.

We spent New Year's week in Moriah Center, NY celebrating Christmas with Theresa's family. Little did we know that it would be the last with Theresa's stepfather, Mike. He passed away at the

beginning of February and we again traveled north. I did the funeral, we spent the week with Theresa's mom and then returned home.

This month has brought more difficulty. We had been making arrangements for Theresa's father and step-mother to come and live with us as his health continues to decline. Mid-March brought a series of phone calls and a trip to Tennessee with concerns that he was going to pass away. He is out of the hospital, but has been given less than a year to live. He and his wife are now planning to move to Vermont; Dick would like to die in the place where he was born and

raised. The good news is that he has asked the Lord into his life.

So, we have traveled much and had a bit of heart-ache and change in our lives, especially Theresa, but God is still on the throne. Again, thank you all



Classic Caleb, Levi & Alicia