



Native Sons



Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

PASTOR RICKY DIAL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- NABC has achieved candidate status in the accreditation process, which means all degrees are now recognized. There is still one last step in the process to receive full accreditation and a 4-5 year process involved with this.

PRAYER POINTS

- More ministry partners: our budget has been falling short by app. \$1000 per month.
- Theresa's neck surgery in April.
- NABC—Students & finances

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In 1997 a Lumbee DJ and musician gave his heart to Jesus. He sensed that he had been given a new life - freed from all his addictions, but like so many of us there were things in his old life which the Lord wanted to address. God asked him, "You are saved now, why are you holding onto your past?" The man had a music collection comprised of over 300 albums—which he offered up to the Lord as a burnt offering on his back lawn. Those of us who come from a music background can understand how much of an idol music can be.

The DJ was Pastor Ricky Dial. Pastor Ricky is the pastor of Open Arms Assembly of God—our new church. Although Pastor Ricky grew up in church and had given his life to Jesus early on, as a teen he quit church and got into the partying life-style. He was married by his former pastor at home some years later. The pastor invited Ricky and his wife Lynn to come to church. Pastor Ricky states, "If he had not invited me, I probably would have never gone." But that invitation was the turning point. Ricky and his wife Lynn gave their hearts to Jesus, that morning. Ricky states he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "It is time to give Me a chance now."



Pastor Ricky & Lynn, Boyd & Breonna

what time he felt God calling him into ministry he replied, "Down deep inside I knew all along that I was being called into the ministry." Like many of us, he also sought confirmation from others and asked one area pastor, "How do you know?" The truth is, we know... deep inside we know, but there is always confir-

mation too. Sis. Lynn also knew, she never said anything, but when he told her that he felt God had called him into the ministry her response was, "I've been waiting for you!" This was right after 9/11.

Pastor Ricky often makes connections in his preaching in God's Word which I had not; at this point in my life this is rare! He is a full-time music teacher at a local elementary school and has taken a few courses at NABC and a number more through the district school of ministry, but he has taken to heart what he has learned in an unusually deep way and as a result his preaching and teaching are some of the best in this area. He also has a solid understanding of God's purpose for the Church. Open Arms has a bulletin with a vision statement which reads, "Our vision: To grow mature disciples." So often the focus of church growth is on attendance and building projects; as good and desirable as these things are, the command of Jesus remains, not to build churches or to fill pews, but to grow disciples—those who love God and others fully and who invest themselves in discipling others as well.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

We are fully settled into our new Lumbee Indian home church and involved in ministry now. Theresa is teaching one of the children's Sunday school classes. The kids love her and she has led several of them to Jesus! I was asked to teach a few Wednesday night Bible studies by the pastor back in January, but this arrangement has continued to today. Pastor Ricky is bivocational so this helps him out and so far no one has stoned me (which being interpreted means they seem to like my ministry)!

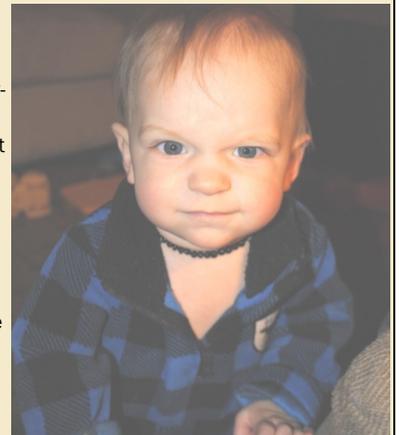
Caleb graduated from Marine Artillery School as an honor graduate. He had the second highest score in his class and missed first by just 0.3 pts.! He is now stationed here in NC at Camp Lejeune. This is

just 3 hours away so we often see him on the weekends.

Levi has returned from his 8-month deployment and is thrilled to be with his family once again in WA. He serves on the aircraft carrier which was in the news so much in January for being in the Iranian Gulf (the straights of Hormuz).

Theresa is scheduled for surgery on Good Friday to have two herniated discs removed from her neck and then to have the adjoin vertebrae fused together. She has been in much pain because of pinched nerves from this. Pray that the surgery goes well and she has a quick recovery.

As always, thanks for all your prayers and support! Blessings!



Dillon: Obviously a Flood!