



Native Sons



Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

JOSHUA HENRY

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Apache call themselves "Inde" or "Nide" which mean "the people".
- The term Apache probably comes from the Zuni word "Apachu" which means "enemy".
- Today, 6 Apache tribes remain: the Plains Apache (OK), Lipan Apache (TX), Western Apache (AZ), Chiricahau Apache (AZ/NM), Jicarillo (NM), Mescalero Apache (NM).

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

"Growing up my motto was, 'Be as bad as I can be.'" Joshua was molested by a relative as a child and grew up angry because of the abuse and because when he finally told what had happened no one did anything. In fights often, by the time he was in high school he was selling drugs, carrying guns, threatening teachers, the principal, and the school police officer. "I knew that if I could intimidate someone I could control them." Like many, Joshua's hurt made him tough.

Joshua is a White Mountain Apache. He was initially raised by his grandmother, an Apache medicine woman steeped in traditional Native American spirituality. She taught him who he was as an Apache, about the spirits they prayed to, and how to pray using feathers. Joshua was particularly interested in learning the medicine man ways so that he could curse others. When he was 11 he began dancing as a crown dancer. There was real spiritual power in the dances and crowns. "When I was dancing and wearing a crown I was in the clouds and saw nothing in my own place." His grandmother taught him, "the spirits (represented by the crowns) are mountain spirits and like angels to the Apache." As in all Native cultures, the songs and dances told stories

intended to teach lessons. Joshua notes that many of the stories find similar expression in some of the Bible's stories. He also says, "Today, its changed. The dances



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are often just competitions and the important life-lessons are not being taught. The Apache used to be loving and community oriented, today there is more fighting and anger."

Around 6th or 7th grade Joshua moved to another part of the Rez (Cibecue) to be with his mother. Switching schools and communities, he also moved away from his traditional cultural upbringing. He helped to raise his brother and sister, but would become bored and hitchhike back

to the White Mountain; there he met the girl he would one day marry.

As a teen he beat up the man who had molested him and was sent to juvenile correction as a result. After 7 months his father, a police officer, came and took him out and brought him to live with him. Joshua did not like it and returned to Cibecue, picking up his girlfriend on the way, who was then pregnant with their first child.

Joshua's first child was born while he was a freshman in high school. He had a place with his girlfriend and supported himself by selling drugs. His second child, a daughter, was born around the time he graduated from high school. He stopped selling drugs when she was born and began working in a local grocery store, "There was something about my daughter that made me stop." However, he continued to live a life "without any self-discipline." When 20 he married his girlfriend.

Josh's grandmother had taught him to be a man, cook, clean, and take care of himself, but he was also an alcoholic and assessed as high risk for suicide because of his childhood abuse. Quick to become offended he had anger man-

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Theresa began work as a preschool teacher in a nearby Christian academy in January shortly after we returned from Christmas vacation, PTL! She enjoys the children and her co-workers. She is getting good feedback from parents and those she works with.

I feel like "the faster I go, the behinder I get" as I balance teaching and working on the doctoral program. I am actually keeping up with everything, but real life is a bit on hold at the moment.

Natasha recently finished with the Navy and she and Caleb are now together. He is top of his class in his paramedic schooling and

plans to go on for EMT training. Natasha is also talking about going to school for the same thing.

Levi and Alicia announced that they will be moving to Phoenix this summer. He plans on attending a branch of Fuller Seminary here. Theresa will visit in mid-May and fly back with our grandchildren. Levi and Alicia will follow in a moving truck. We are very excited about this!

I will spend about two and a half months away from family itinerating in NYC, NJ, and central NY this summer. I have a pretty good schedule of services already. Pray that we pick up new finan-

cial partners. Some of our finances have dropped off so I need to raise the difference. Thanks for all your prayers and support!

OMG, I have finally
Discovered what's
wrong with my
Brain:
on the left side,
there is nothing
right, and
on the right side,
there is nothing left..

agement issues that landed him in and out of jail. He and his wife eventually stopped partying and had been sober for 6 months in 2007, but friends pushed him to party and he eventually went to one where he was began drinking and doing coke and meth. He has no memory of what happened, but in the aftermath he hospitalized his wife, nearly killing her. It took four police to take him down and in the midst of the struggle he managed to take one of their tazers. He was sentenced to 4-years in prison for attempted murder, aggravated assault and other charges.

In jail, he tried to clear his mind, think about his life, and reconcile himself to the idea of being in jail. He was not sleeping much, but began reading books with Bible stories. A few people in prison tried to witness to him, but he was mean and rejected them. He experienced withdrawal and one night had an anxiety attack. He called out "Usen!" (the Apache name for God) and "Bee-kay-ho-dawn!" (the Apache word for Jesus; literally "the One who is in charge of everything"). All this bothered Josh, he began to wonder, "Am I living a lie? Is this just a dream?" He began questioning everything he was taught from his traditional spirituality. Waking he prayed, "If these things are real (from the Bible), do it for me! I will do whatever you ask if you do for me what I have read." He then fell back to sleep.

The next day a young man in the jail placed his hands on Joshua's back, prayed for him, and told him, "You are going to leave tomorrow. You are going to get out." Josh was angry about being in jail and "cussed the man out." Three others were in the room with him. The next day in court all charges

were dropped. The judge stated that he was lucky, that he had never seen anything like this before, but warned him about returning to his court. The prosecuting attorney began to help Joshua. He returned to jail to get his belongings. While there he looked for the young man who had prayed over him. The others stated that the person did not exist; they thought he had gone crazy and was only talking to himself.

After being released from jail he began having all sorts of dreams: dreams about hell, dreams about Bible stories he had not yet read ranging from Genesis through Acts, and dreams about Jesus being the only God. He tried to understand these dreams on his own, but it took others coming alongside of him who explained, "These dreams are God trying to get your attention." He started going to church occasionally and felt that God was talking to him through the pastor. Finally, one day while home alone, he locked all the windows and doors and went into an inner room so no one could see him. He called on Jesus to come into his life, "I think I have learned enough now. I want you to teach me." In those moments he says it felt like a powerful wind was blowing in the room, but there was no wind! He opened his eyes, but no one was there. He raised his arms in surrender (as he would with the police) saying, "I surrender... I am sorry..." He felt a hand on his shoulder. He again tried to open his eyes, but was unable. A warm heat ran through his body which he describes as "more exhilarating than any drug." Crying hard for a long time he eventually was able to get up. He says, "I felt like I had new glasses on, everything was bright and clear."

He told his wife and all his friends what had hap-

pened. His wife and children had previously begun attending church and were happy for him, but he also eventually lost all his old friends. Tempted to return to his old life, friends from the church encouraged him to stay with the Lord. He found father figures who began to help him and kept him accountable. After 2-years he began helping out with the youth and children. He wanted to help them "work through their stuff too." After a while he began to sense God's call to ministry, but he resisted it. Then he had a dream about AIC and drew a picture of the school from it.

When he finally came to AIC, Joshua was excited and saw some people he knew from home. He is doing a double major: ministry & education. He wants to teach middle schoolers and serve in a church. But it has been tough for him; he had to quit his job and leave his home. He is in school, working, and raising his family. He has to trust God to provide for his needs. The hardest thing is he often feels homesick and has been tempted to give up, but he has a clear sense from God, "You need to do this" and "do this last mile by yourself."

Joshua states that AIC is helping to lay strong foundations in his life and for his ministry. "Going to classes keeps me focused on where I want to go. Seeing my teachers makes me want to get there." He appreciates being pushed to find information for himself, rather than having it handed to him. He recognizes as a junior that he is a role model to others and this also helps him to want to give his best.

Great Apache Leaders

Geronimo (1829-1909) is the most famous of all the Apache leaders. He was not a chief, he was a powerful medicine man and warrior. His name is actually a nickname that originated when the Mexicans he fought against would call on St. Gerome for help against him. A fierce warrior and strategist from the Chiricahua

Apache, he was the last of the Apache to surrender. Although promised upon his surrender in 1886 that he could return to his homeland, he was never allowed and died at the Fort Sill Reservation in Texas.

Cochise (1815-1874) was also from the Chiricahua band. He was known for his courage, integrity and military skills. He began fighting the US government in 1861 after his band was wrongfully accused of



raiding and kidnapping at a settlers ranch. Cochise was arrested, but escaped by cutting his way through a tent. Some of his relatives were unjustly hung in the aftermath.

Chief Victorio (1825? - 1880) was chosen by Chief Mangas Coloradas as Chief of the Ojo Cailente (Warm Spring) Apache. He was a great strategist and a fierce warrior. After over 10 years of evading the military, he accepted resettlement on the San Carlos

Reservation (known as Hell's 40-acres). After all appeals to the federal government to return with his people to their homeland were rebuffed he escaped the reservation in 1879. Hunted by the military he began wreaking havoc throughout the southwest on his way to Mexico. He died at the hands of the Mexican army after being tracked by the combined US & Mexican armies.

Dahteste (pronounced "to-Dot-say") was a female warrior that fought alongside of Geronimo. Beautiful and fierce she never actually allowed herself to be photographed. The picture in the next panel is



said to have been taken after her capture. She was instrumental in Geronimo's final surrender and along with him was imprisoned on a reservation in Florida.

Lozen (184? - 189?)

was the younger sister of Victorio. She is the most famous of the female Apache warriors and was described by Victorio as "strong like a man, braver than most, cunning in strategy... and a shield to her people." A warrior, medicine woman, and prophetess Lozen rejected the role of a traditional woman and is said to have been indistinguishable in appearance from a man. She also fought with Geronimo until her capture and deportation. She died of tuberculosis at the Mount Vernon Barracks in Mobile, Alabama.

