



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

P A S T O R M A T T H E W J O N E S

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- NABC is proceeding with its accreditation, but it is a long process before we receive full accreditation.
- We now have SKYPE for those that are interested in Skype-conferencing as a way of "visiting with" with. Our account is: john.flood501

PRAYER POINTS

- More ministry partners: our budget has been falling short by app. \$1000 per month.
- Levi & Alicia as Levi is on his 8-month deployment.
- NABC—Students & finances

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"NABC has been good for me. Learning can be hard, but I enjoy the challenge." Pastor Matt Jones grew up in a Christian home. He gave his heart to the Lord early in life (11 yrs.) and felt called to the ministry early as well (18). When he was 14 he fell away from the Lord, but rededicated his life when he was 16 avoiding the world of alcohol, drugs, etc.

Pastor Matt's father was a preacher from a Holiness denomination and founded The Light of Truth Holiness Church in this area. Although a pastor, his father needed others to read the Bible for him when he preached. Pastor Matt states that his own reading skills are not what he would like and so although he knows that education is good, it is hard for him. Even so, he says that reading "helps to give me confidence that I am going in the right direction and in dealing with challenges in the church."

Pastor Matt has been attending NABC as he is able since 1993 when he accepted his call to ministry. He began preaching when he was 19. When he was 21 the Lord gave him a vision of starting a church in a bar, showing him the building and its exact location. He found the place and cleaned it up, then started a church with 6 people. In 10 years it grew to 140. The

church is called Vision of Christ because of how the Lord had led him to establish it.

Eventually, he left Vision of Christ and God gave him another vision, this time of a church with blue carpet and white pews. Shortly after receiving this vision Freedom Assembly of God (blue carpet, white pews) voted him in as pastor. He has been there



for over 4 years now, the attendance was around 45 people when he arrived, today it averages 160-180.

Pastor Matt is a successful businessman who was running a very successful construction company. He recently left the construction field in order to engage in full-time ministry even though this has meant

a significant pay drop for him, but he feels it is necessary in order to properly minister at the church. He is also in school again at NABC.

When I asked him about a favorite class or subject, he stated he enjoys them all. He notes that he has learned how to construct sermons in Dr. Woods homiletics class and that other classes have helped him to run the church, be more productive, and understand and appreciate "where we came from and where we are at now."

Pastor Matt notes that Robeson County has many of the same issues of the Reservations: low self-esteem, drugs, alcohol, high suicide rates, etc. He has done 9 funerals since this past July, all of which were drug related among the youth.

A man of prayer, Pastor Matt seeks the Lord for direction and answer to concerns. He has initiated a prayer-bathed outreach into the local community on Saturday mornings which has resulted in many people coming to Christ. He has preached across the country, on the Reservations, and overseas and is well received wherever he goes. It is a honor to have him as a student.

O N A P E R S O N A L N O T E

Our summer ended on a down note. We returned from vacation to discover that our home had been robbed. The aftermath has made life stressful and there is much which we have been extremely busy with as a result. There are still things to do around this, but life is starting to return to normal.

The school year is again in full swing here at NABC. I am teaching Greek and Theology 1. I was to teach Acts as well, but the class was dropped for lack of students. Theresa accepted a new teaching position over the summer at a school which is walking distance to our home. She is enjoying her co-workers and students, but often works until 9-9:30 on homework and lesson planning.

Alicia and Dillon are staying with us while Levi is deployed. We love having them with

us, but keep them in prayer—its tough for Levi and Alicia to be separated for so long. We have been able to have face-to-face conversations with Levi when he hits ports because of SKYPE. What a wonderful tool!

Caleb graduated from boot camp on October 7th. Off and on individuals have asked me if he is "enjoying boot camp?" Silly question, NO ONE likes Marine boot camp and Caleb was not the exception. He did well, earning a tan belt in Marine Martial Arts and qualifying as an expert in rifle marksmanship. The final exam for a Marine is called The Crucible; it is a 54 hour combat simulation allowing each Marine just 6 hours of sleep and pressing them to the limits of physical, psychological, and spiritual endurance. Caleb is now part of an elite fraternity limited to 250,000. We

are proud of all he has achieved.

As always, thank you all so much for all your prayers and support!



**PFC Flood—Caleb the Marine
Congratulations**