



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

DAVID FOWLER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Hoh River Reservation is home to the Hoh Tribe. The Hoh tribe is considered a band of the Quileute tribe.
- The Hoh call themselves the Chala-at which means "those-who-live-on-the-Hoh."
- Hoh River is a small reservation comprised of 443 acres in the Olympic peninsula in the northeast corner of Washington.

PRAYER POINTS

- Complete healing for Theresa and that the 2nd surgery goes well.
- New financial partners
- Donations for The Celebration outreach.
- God's guidance for the new leadership at AIC, enrollment & finances.

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"I think they set me up." David was talking about how he decided to come to AIC.

"When I arrived for church there was no one there, instead there were two tables and a bunch a chairs. I thought to myself, 'I don't like this.' A couple of church elders sat me down. They asked if I had thought about going to Bible College. I told them, 'No, not really. I was thinking about going into accounting.' They asked if I was willing to go. After a moment I answered, "Yes, something about reading the Bible makes me feel at peace." They said, 'Good, because you are going anyway.'

David Fowler had given his life to Jesus just a year earlier and was living on the Hoh Reservation in WA. He was not raised on his reservation and only recently returned to it. His paternal grandmother was highly influential in their community and he is the son of a chief. As we talked it became apparent that he is being groomed to be a chief also.

David is not a traditional student. He is 40, been in the army, graduated from technical college, and was a successful manager in the Waffle House chain in SC. He has also been divorced twice. After the second divorce and losing his children he describes himself as "lost, hurt, and having lost a sense of direction." He became an alcoholic & drug addict. He lost his job. In desperation he moved to WA.

In WA he continued to struggle with drinking and drugs. He went to a homeless shelter, there he picked up a Bible and began reading. He says, "I have not put it down since." After, he entered in-patient treatment. During this time he had an argument

and split with his girlfriend. Walking beside a river reflecting on what went wrong he involuntarily fell to his knees and began crying out. God spoke to him. "It was not an audible voice, more like a vision, I did not hear or see anything, but I heard God speaking to me." God said, "I am going to



use you." David argued for a half hour asking, "Do you know who I am? What I have done?"

As he began walking again he saw signs that read, "If you believe in God follow these signs." He had never noticed these signs before and has never seen them since. He followed them to a house that had a barn with a large cross on it. A man named Craig came out. Craig had also been involved in drinking & drugs earlier in his life; he talked with David about this and the Lord. He suggested several Rez churches to David. David then moved to the Hoh River Reservation where he got to know his father and other siblings. He began attending a church and slowly became involved. He constantly wanted to read the Bible and would invite both those

who knew the Lord and those who did not to read it with him. This led to the meeting with the elders . Over the next year Pastor George Kallappa and his brother began pouring their lives into David, sharing their testimonies, ministry experiences, values, , etc. with him.

I asked about living on the Rez after having grown up in SC. David explains that you learn by watching in his culture rather than by having things explained. It is a little awkward for him, because he did not grow up in the culture. Since moving back to his Rez he has not had a home, instead he has been fed and cared for by others. This is part of how the tribe is training him. He is constantly taken to meet new people and see new things. He wonders whether it is more the tribe's design or "God's master plan to teach me to trust in Him." It appears that both his tribe and church have plans for David, but behind it all is God's plan.

AIC is preparing David for ministry . He says that before he was doing a lot of memory work, but here he has learned to deconstruct the biblical text searching for patterns and principles. He remarks, "Good guidance from the seasoned pastors (professors) has been an invaluable tool." He is a Resident Assistant and works with the other students. He has a big picture understanding of ministry even now, sometimes putting personal interests aside to minister to others. God is already beginning to use David. It is a privilege to be among those helping to equip him.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Theresa had low-back surgery at the beginning of the school year and is home recuperating. She needs a second surgery on her neck that she hopes to have in late November.

Levi, Alicia and the boys are now in MA. Alicia is working as a nurse and Levi is in school for journalism at LaSalle College.

Caleb recently returned to NC from Marine mountain training in Northern , CA. He is happy to be "home."

I am again coordinating the college's "Birthday Party for Jesus" outreach, but have changed its name to "The Celebration." We are holding it in the Gila River Indian Community this year.

