



Native



Sons



Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

REV. MARTY PAXSON

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The White Mountain Apache Tribe is located 194 miles northeast of Phoenix.
- The tribe consists of over 12,000 members.
- The White Mountain Apache Reservation covers 1.6 million acres of original ancestral homeland.
- Originally, the reservation was called the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
- The largest community & capital of the reservation is Whiteriver with 2,500 residents.
- Salt River Canyon is located within the reservation.

PRAYER POINTS

- New financial partners
- The safety of Levi & Caleb while deployed.
- Enrollment & finances at AIC,

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"I had been fasting for 2 weeks. I was told to go up a mountain because of a dead elk. On my way up I talked with God and was praising Him for all the good things He had given. I had a vision, I was on top in a clear area & there were a lot of little camp fires around me. A few were dying out. I saw a stack of wood & began feeding the fires to keep them burning."

Bro. Marty, a White Mountain Apache, had been fasting after losing his grandmother who had raised him. She had raised him in the Lord, but like many he fell away when he was older. At 18 he took a summer job as a detention officer intending to go to college afterwards, but the money was good so he stayed. He was promoted repeatedly, when he was 21 the promotion to full police officer was offered. He went to the Police Academy, but failed—3 times! He remained a Rez Officer with limited duties. After another year he was told that he needed to go back and pass the test or be out of a job. "They sent me to the Navajo Nation Police Academy, the 2nd hardest academy in AZ! There were 50-60 cadets—they dropped like flies. At the end only 9 graduated, but I was in the top 5!"

March's newsletter in April, proof that life remains extremely busy for me as I continue to develop the new courses I am teaching here at AIC. Theresa also continues to teach as a permanent substitute while taking another full load of classes as she continues to pick up missing pieces from her degree that are needed for her to teach in the AZ schools.

Over Christmas, Alicia, Levi, Theresa and I all found out together that our new grandchild will be a boy. They have already named him—Torrin. Levi is seriously into his Irish heritage, can you tell?

Levi has less than a month before he returns from his deployment in the Iranian

Marty became a criminal investigator and was given the most serious cases (rape, murder, abuse, etc.). He developed a relationship with a woman and she became pregnant. After a while, he quit the police to get a position with the Fish and Game Dept., but it fell through & he found himself unemployed. His girlfriend went



Marty Paxson

back home. It was a hard time for him.

His aunt invited him to a revival service and he went. He sat way in the back in the midst of a packed house and watched a series of skits about those who die without being in right relationship with Jesus. After worship the altar call was given, his heart

tugged at him. "A white guy went to the pulpit and said, 'Someone out there is really struggling with God... you need to come forward.' I put my head on the chair in front of me. Someone put their hand on my shoulder. 'God told me to come and talk with you. Give yourself to God, I feel like you have a burden.'"

Marty prayed quietly, "If You give me this job as a game officer, I will serve You." The man left, but then came back with a camouflage Bible. "God told me to give this to you & that He would speak to you through it." Game officers wear camo. He took the Bible & a deep peace came over him. He returned to church for the rest of the revival services. Monday a call came and he started as a Ranger.

His girlfriend returned and they married, but she never went to church with him. He began to fall away from the Lord. His grandmother became ill and was hospitalized. Marty does not like hospitals and did not go to visit her until the call came that she was in a coma. He visited her, but she remained in a coma and died. **Continued on back**

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Gulf area. He is looking forward to being home and with his family again. He will finish his enlistment in early June and intends to return to the New England area.

Caleb has just been sent to the Philippines for a month of training which will complete his deployment before he returns stateside. He will come and spend a week with us in AZ, before returning to Camp Lejeune, NC. We are looking forward to seeing him again, if only for a short while.

I will not be able to do an itineration tour in the north again this summer, because of not being able to take the time to

arrange it, but hope to do so next summer.



In Sedona
A rare Saturday off!

While at the hospital Marty had an encounter with a tall white man who commented that he liked Marty's grandmother's blanket. He told Marty not to worry about her because, "I have the same blanket at my house." Back at his grandmother's house Marty was upset. He had a dream that he saw her in the front of the house with her bags. She told me to take care of the house, but she could not hug or touch me. "A bus pulled up, and as she got on I saw the driver and it was the man I had met in the hospital." It was at this point that Marty told God, "I want to do more for you." This is why he was fasting when he got the call to check on the dead elk.

On the way back to the Ranger station, God spoke clearly to Marty, "That is what I want you to do. I want you to go out there and keep the fires burning."

He went to church early that week and spoke with his pastor. He said, "I spoke in tongues for the first time. My pastor was speaking in tongues and I could understand him, and I heard God speaking to me through him. At that point I realized God can do anything!" I went home and told my wife and told her I felt God was calling me into the ministry."

Initially, Marty's wife was open to this and even went to church a little. During this time he had a dream of going to a place where there was a build-

ing with a sign on it, "Welcome to American Indian College." As he came on campus a white man and a black man came out of the building and gave him a blank piece of paper. He did not know what this meant, so told his pastor who told him to pray on it.

He contacted AIC and began making preparations to come. Then he and his wife visited the school and a black professor and a white professor came out of the Lee Academic Center, spoke with them, and handed him a paper that was the map of the campus! Everything was falling into place. He quit his job and prepared to move, but then there was trouble with coming up with a utility deposit. His wife told him, "Maybe we shouldn't go." God provided miraculously, but Marty said, "I could tell she didn't like it." In the end she did not come with him.

He was in school and going back and forth on the weekends, but it wasn't working, she did not want anything to do with Jesus. He offered to quit school and return home, but she served him divorce papers. He did not want the divorce, and told the judge so. In spite of the laws in AZ that require both parties to agree to the divorce the judge granted it and threatened Marty with contempt of court for not signing the documents.

Broken hearted, he returned to school. He says, "Its not perfect, but it's where God wants me to be." He is still hoping for healing in his marriage. In the meantime. Bro. Marty clings to God. In Texas God brought him to a man who had gone through the same thing that he is going through. The man said that one day God told him to go get his wife, who was living with her boyfriend. He went and did so and God restored the marriage and they are now in ministry together.

Not long ago, Marty shared his testimony in White River. A woman came up to him afterwards and commented, "You really encouraged me. My fire was going out.."

Marty says that AIC has been the best thing for him. He loves the small class sizes and the ability to meet with his teachers when he needs help. "I went to college in Flagstaff and could never see my teachers when I needed help." His heart is to go back to the Reservation and pastor. He says, "I see lots who get credentialed, but never go back." Marty was recently credentialed himself. He knows what he is called to will be hard, but his heart is to rebuild the little fires that are in danger of going out.



Pictures from Sedona

