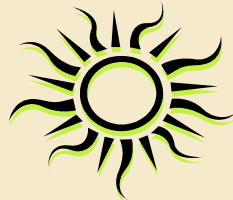




Native Sons



Equipping Native Leaders; Empowering Native Christians

COUNCILMAN JEROLD ALTAHA

DID YOU KNOW?

- The White Mountain Apache Tribal government is unicameral. This means that all decisions are made by consensus of the 11-member Tribal Council. There are no individual powers so this can be a messy process and demands interacting and working with others to come to a consensus.
- Jerold was one of 3 Apache Tribal Leaders that met with candidate Trump. Jerold was instrumental in convincing Trump of the Apache's need to secure their water rights. Trump agreed to sign the bill if he was elected. Shortly after taking office, Congress and the House passed the bill, and Trump immediately signed it.
- Info on Chiefs Diablo & Alchesy gleaned from: www.frontierpartisans.com; www.prabook.com; www.buildheadonwest.com

PRAYER POINTS

- Levi, Alicia, and the boys.
- Guidance developing the CNLDs.
- Godly leadership in Tribal, state, and federal governments.

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Soft-spoken and humble Jerold Altaha is a modern Daniel in the king's court. However, he is uncomfortable with this description.

Jerold is a White Mountain Apache raised in a Christian home. His mother was the Sunday School superintendent at their church and always came to church an hour early. While she made Sunday School preparations, Jerold would sit in the sanctuary where the missionary pastor would walk about loudly praying. He always concluded his prayer time by praying for Jerold and telling him, "Son, God has some big plans for your life. You may become a preacher, but whatever it is, God has something big for you." This routine and these words were repeated to Jerold at every church service.

When the pastor retired, Jerold's family moved to an AG church closer to home where his mother became the Sunday School superintendent. The pastor there, Rev. Charley Odell, also prayed with Jerold saying, "God has something big for you." From 3rd grade through high school. Pastor Odell was Jerold's pastor, and they formed a close relationship. During this time, Jerold manifested his servant spirit by helping in

the church doing whatever he could, such as mowing the lawn, cleaning, etc.

After high school, Jerold attended American Indian Bible College. This was a time



WMAT Councilman Jerold Altaha

of transition. It relaxed its dress code, moved from hymns to worship choruses, and had just dropped "Bible" from its name. Jerold remembers the times when the Holy Spirit moved during the chapel service and how the college adjusted the class schedule to accommodate what God was doing. During the summers, he would return home and work for the Tribal Educa-

tion Department. There he "learned the ins and outs of the department."

Jerold earned his bachelor's degree in Christian Ministries and returned to his reservation. He first worked in the Tribal courts as a juvenile probation officer. He says, "I used my faith to help address the needs of these youth. Not pushing my faith down their throat, but providing wisdom and insight for life." During this time, he became connected to the police and served as an unofficial chaplain. As a result, he became familiar with the laws and various legal issues of the Rez.

When he sensed it was time for a change, he applied to the tribal housing authority and was appointed the executive assistant to the director. He became familiar with the general needs and housing needs of the people. He also saw firsthand the hurt, oppression, and poverty of the people. He says, "It broke my heart to see people living like this." He left the housing position because of political turbulence. He became the program director for Complementary Alternative Medicine in the

ON A PERSONAL

We had to postpone the Center for Native Leadership Development scheduled to launch in Yahtahey, NM on May. 3 of the students caught COVID, a 4th was also sick, and a 5th was called into work at the last moment. We rescheduled for July 16-18. In June, I attended my final doctoral class and am working on its assignments now. I attended the Native American Fellowship's (NAF) annual convocation in NC in June and was one of the presenters. John Maracle retired as the chief/president of the Fellowship, and his son Brent was elected in his stead. At the end of July, Theresa and I have a week of vacation scheduled in NH. After, I will head to FL to attend the AG General Council. This is a busy travel summer for me!

Theresa continues to thrive at her new school. She is teaching again and is the leader teacher of the summer program. She also wrote the curriculum for the summer program. The owner/administrator is delighted with There-

sa's work and approach to teaching and has freely lavished praise upon her. We are both looking forward to seeing Levi and our grandchildren again at the end of July. Theresa's sister and mother plan to visit us while we are in NH as well.

Levi and Alicia are facing many difficult challenges. Please keep them and the boys in prayer. When we go to NH, Dillon and Torrin should be spending the week with us.

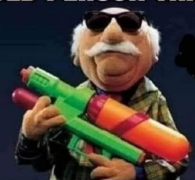
Caleb and Erin are well. I was able to stop and spend an evening with them both on my drive back from the NAF convocation. This was my first opportunity to meet Erin. She is a nice young lady that shares quite a few interests with Caleb. Apparently, they met through a dating app. Both are busy with their work and felt that using an online service made more sense because they filled out information on what they like and dislike and were looking for in a

NOTE

relationship. Their wedding is scheduled for October 30. This is as close as Caleb could get to having it on Halloween!

As always, thanks for all your prayers and support!

MY GOAL IS TO BE THAT OLD PERSON THAT



EVERYONE IS AFRAID TO TAKE OUT IN PUBLIC.

Theresa says, "Goal achieved!"

tribe's Division of Health program. Now, he was in the community again at a personal level. He was invited into people's homes and saw the effects of drugs and alcohol on individuals and families. As he talked with people about alternative health therapies, he discovered that many used music as a way to destress, so he would suggest various worship songs to them.

After 2.5 years, the chief of police called Jerold, saying, "We need your help." Jerold became the executive assistant to the chief of police until he was elected to the Tribal Council. The position of Tribal Council requires you to be familiar with the needs and workings of the tribe's educational and judicial departments, law enforcement, and health and housing. Jerold remarks, "Little did I know that all my experiences had prepared me to serve on the Tribal Council."

Jerold had been told most of his life that he would make a great tribal leader or pastor. He is a minister and served for 8 years as the pastor at CBQ New Life Fellowship in Cibecue, AZ, and prior for 6 years as the music Pastor at Cedar Creek AG in Cedar Creek, AZ. Even so, he always wondered what direction God wanted him to take. He felt drawn to tribal leadership, and many encouraged him to run for Tribal Council. Uncertain, like Gideon, he laid a fleece before the Lord asking for confirmation from 7 specific individuals—individuals who were unlikely to support him! Two days before the nomination deadline, the first person came to him and told him he needed to run. The rest did the same in short order. Then, he had a dream where his deceased grandmother came to him, placed her hand on his shoulder and said, "You are the man the people need. You are the man God needs. You are a man who stands

firm & strong. This is the kind of person we need. Don't be afraid."

Jerold won his election and first served under Chairman Lupe (pronounced "Loo-pee"). Chairman Lupe was a traditional man, a firm believer in the ancient Apache religion. He was well known and well respected. Chairman Lupe did not trust Evangelical Christians. He knew that Jerold was a Christian, but he told him early that he knew he would become a tribal leader. He told Jerold, "I know you are Pentecostal Christian but you're not like them." Jerold stresses, "It's important to have a common witness. To get to know and love people and not push Christianity down their throat." Chairman Lupe helped prepare Jerold for leadership & called to congratulate him when he was elected.

Jerold reports that after the election, "when things got tough," the Chairman would call him to his office and they would meet privately. He would inform Jerold about some situation and ask him to pray and get back to him. Jerold wondered why the Chairman was asking his advice. He would pray for God's guidance and come back after a few days confident that he had heard from the Lord. Finally, he would sit and tell the Chairman, who would smile and say, "You are repeating what has already come to my mind." This became a normal routine repeated time and again.

A revival broke out at Cedar Creek AG in 2008 that included many miracles and healings. Chairman Lupe would ask Jerold to tell him about it. He also frequently asked Jerold to pray for him. Jerold was one of the few that he would ask to pray for him. As a result, Jerold was able to lead Chairman Lupe to the Lord just before he passed

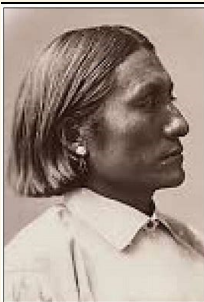
away in 2019.

Jerold notes that the tribal council deals with many issues that most Christians would find uncomfortable. Jerold stood as a voice against the tribe approving a marijuana farm on the Rez. This upset many because it would have brought money to the tribe, but his concern is that the tribe do nothing to hurt the people. He was appointed to the tribe's Gaming Commission which deals with the tribe's casino. He stresses that the issues connected with gaming are complex and that all five main tribal departments benefit from it. In fact, for many tribes the casinos bring in funds that help build and support needed tribal infrastructure. Jerold faces challenges as a Christian and as a tribal leader which caused him to question running for re-election, but he did and again won.

Daniel was schooled as a pagan astrologer (Dan 1-2) and served in the court of the king who destroyed his nation. He served as an ambassador for the True God and gave wise and godly counsel to a pagan king. His presence brought Nebuchadnezzar to true faith (Dan. 4:34-37). I wonder if Daniel questioned his role in politics sometimes. We need people like Daniel and Jerold in secular positions of influence. We need them to provide a witness, godly council, work for beneficial policies, and stand against policies that harm people. There are more stories to tell about Jerold, but space does not allow me to tell more.

Jerold asks that we pray for the people, pastors, churches, and leaders in Indian Country. Pray for more Christians in tribal and federal government. Pray for wisdom, strength & boldness for the Christian already in places of leadership. Pray for Pastor Jerold, a real modern day Daniel.

Two Little Know But Important Apache Leaders



Chief Diablo

Chief Diablo—In 1869, Maj. John Green entered Apache country intent on killing or capturing Native people. However, he was welcomed so warmly by the Cibecue Apache that he concluded it would be murder to shoot them in cold blood.

Chief Diablo, his brother Miguel, and a 3rd leader called Pedro agreed to allow Maj. Green to establish a military fort and several reservations in the area. The post was first named Camp Ord, but after several name changes it was named Fort Apache. Maj. Green's intents were never honest, and he hoped to control the Apache and their trade through this stronghold

In 1871, Gen. George Crook took over the Department of AZ. He recognized his army was no match for the Apache. To further cooperation, he formed the Apache Scouts who played a decisive role in the Apache Wars & Geronimo's surrender.

Conflict increased between the bands over white

settlement and cooperation with the military. In 1873 one band killed a man at the fort. Diablo sided with the army displeasing many of the Apache. The army then ordered the bands to move closer to the fort, limiting attacks against the settlers but increasing tensions among the bands. Later, it ordered the uncooperative bands, including the Cibecue band, onto the San Carlos Reservation—a desert area. This move permanently alienated Diablo. He attacked a white settlement and then turned his anger on the White Mountain Apache who continued cooperating with the military. After 5-years of ongoing conflict between the White Mountain and Cibecue bands, Diablo was killed in battle as a direct result of welcoming a divisive enemy.

Chief Alchesay—Born in 1853 between Globe and Showlow, AZ, William Alchesay enlisted in the US Army in 1872 at Camp Verde, AZ. He eventually became a sergeant in A Company, Indian Scouts under the 6th Cavalry. He was one of ten Apache scouts who guided Gen. Crook in his actions against a Chiricahua uprising in 1872-73. He received the Medal of Honor for gallantry and

became an envoy for Crook to convince Geronimo to surrender peacefully and remained friends with Geronimo until his death in 1909. He again fought under Crook against the Chiricahua in the Sierra Madre of Mexico in 1883. His last military duty was as an advisor to Crook in his Geronimo campaign in 1885-6.

Alchesay served over 14 years in the army. Then he returned home and became a successful cattleman and farmer. Eventually, he became Chief of the White Mountain Apache until he retired in 1925. During that time, he made numerous trips to Washington, DC, advocating for Indian rights & acting as a counselor to the Indian agents in AZ Territory. He met with Pres. Grover Cleveland, Pres. Teddy Roosevelt, and Pres. Warren Harding. He dies in 1928 and is considered a hero in the US Army and to his people.



Chief Alchesay