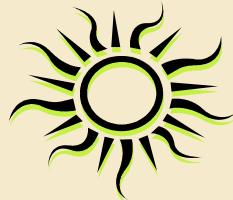




Native



Sons



Equipping Native Leaders; Empowering Native Christians

CHRISTMAS FACTS

- Reindeer have specialized noses that warm the cold air before it gets to their lungs. So, under a thermal camera, Rudolph's nose really is red!
 - Reindeer eyes change color in the winter to adapt to lower light levels, going from gold to blue.
 - Tinsel was originally made from shredded silver. Thanks to oxidation, it often turned black and tarnished the holiday spirit—literally!
 - The word "mistletoe" actually means "dung twig" in ancient languages. Let that sink in next time you're going in for a kiss.
 - In Japan, eating KFC on Christmas Eve is a beloved tradition, thanks to a successful marketing campaign in the 1970s.
 - The statue of Liberty is the largest Christmas gift ever given (1886).
 - Chandler, AZ has a 30' Christmas tree made of tumbleweeds.
- www.bellanovabooks.com/20-weird-christmas-facts
www.bestlifeonline.com/christmas-facts

ADA'S PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the ministries at Whiteriver AG (WRAG).
- For individuals in Ada's immediate and extended family who are in bondage to drugs and alcohol.
- For God to bring things together for WRAG so they can build a new church building.

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ADALEEN (ADA) GREYEYES

"One thing God has been showing me lately is that He really doesn't care about your past or past circumstances. God has been showing me that He has a plan for each one of us regardless of how we came to be." After telling me this, Adaleen (Ada) noted she was the "byproduct" of teenage parents. Her mother was a teenager when she had her. Her mother's parents adopted and raised Ada so Ada's mom could return to school.

Ada was raised in the oldest church on the reservation, a Lutheran church. Her great grandfather was the church's first translator, translating the English messages into Apache. Although she attended church, she did not know Jesus as her Savior.

Growing up, she also attended the revival and camp meetings on the Rez. She was not saved, but the teens and youth used to hang out together during these times and camped at the meeting site. In 1999, when she was 19, a friend in her church's choir asked Ada to camp with him during the camp meetings. Ada accepted the young man's invitation and notes that it was through him she "got to know the Lord." She continues, "When I went camping with the choir, I never realized my life would change," Ada notes.

Afterward, Ada joined the choir but slowly drifted away from the Lord. "I went to Job Corps in San Diego, CA. My surroundings changed, and I had no church or supporting community. I was the only



Adaleen (Ada) Greyeyes

Apache among 800 students. Eventually, my cousin came, so there were two of us. The students at the Job Core came from all over the USA and around the world. Ada worked on retail sales, child development, and other work sectors at the Job Core. She also earned her GED.

After San Diego, Ada moved to New

Mexico, where she attended the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque from 2006 to 2009. She studied accounting and earned her associate degree. She also met and married her husband while at school. Afterward, they moved around and eventually ended up at Fort Lewis College in Colorado, where Ada began working on a Bachelor's in sociology. She says, "I struggled with history and had to take it over and over again. It's hard for me to remember dates. I fell behind, and I needed to let it go. I have two courses left and am now working to finish the degree online."

While at Fort Lewis, Ada began working at the Native American Center. She helped connect families to resources in the area and assisted students entering college. Later, back on the White Mountain Apache Rez, she "helped kids to rethink their behaviors" as a detention teacher at the elementary school.

Throughout this time, Ada was not seeking or serving the Lord, and she and her husband were both drinking. She says, "My marriage was going downhill because of drinking. I thought if I returned to Jesus and quit drinking, things would get better, but

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

2024 is almost over; I suspect most people will be glad about this. Though our world seems a mess, most of our lives plod along. As I write, Theresa has an upcoming nerve ablation procedure to provide pain relief for pinched nerves in her neck caused by ongoing disk degeneration. She continues to work part-time at the preschool. She has transitioned from classroom teaching to the reading specialist working one-on-one with children. Theresa is also a girl Friday, filling in wherever needed. She continues to love her work and her co-workers.

The Native School of Ministry on the White Mountain Apache Rez will finish the 19th of 20 courses this month. The students are getting excited about completing the last of the courses. We plan to hold our graduation celebration on February 23rd, and the AZ Network Pastor has agreed to be the keynote speaker. All 12 students indicate

they intend to apply for credentials, and many want to continue taking classes to prepare for the second level of credentialing.

Levi and the boys are well. In October, Levi took the boys on a week-long vacation to Norway, which they all enjoyed. Alicia remarried in November, which was hard on all of them. Theresa had intended to visit them over Christmas but has decided to stay home because of her upcoming neck procedure.

Caleb and Erin continue to forge knives and power lifts. Caleb has beefed up his workouts and diet habits. He now looks like a mini version of the incredible Hulk minus the coloring. He is actively looking into transitioning from serving as a paramedic in the hospital emergency room to becoming a weight-lifting trainer. Erin continues

to enjoy working as a specialty welder.

As always, thanks for your prayers & support!

Have a Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year!



they didn't. My husband continued drinking and eventually ended up in jail."

Ada quit drinking and began attending Canyon Day Miracle Church under the late Bishop Leroy Tate. She notes that in the middle of her separation from her husband, "I was at my lowest point. I started to attend Whiteriver Assembly of God under Pastor Marty Paxson. I was broken, I had lost my family, and I was in the process of getting divorced. I knew it had to be God to enable me to quit drinking and stop all the stuff I was doing. I was not planning on going to the AG church. Pastor Marty was a classmate growing up. However, I had a friend who Pastor Marty had repeatedly invited to attend the church. She asked me to go with her. I had never been to an AG church. I went and never left. I returned to Jesus fully around 2017. I told my Bishop Tate that I had started at WRAG, and he gave me his blessings. As I think about the courses I am taking today (in the Native School of Ministry), I think my former pastor would be pleased with me."

"Since returning to Jesus, my husband and I have reconciled. He's been sober but isn't saved. However, he is my biggest supporter in all I do at work, at church, and for the Lord." Ada is very active in her church. She helps with the youth and with the children. As needed, she helps with the finances. Ada also works with the women's ministry and sometimes teaches the adults, generally on Wednesday nights. Once, she taught the Wednesday night adult group for two months. She says, "I feel like I am a helper. I help where it is needed."

Today, she works for the Tribe in the personnel department of the retirement section. "I help ensure information is correct and lines up across the board. She cross-checks documents and works with individuals to ensure that their information is accurate. Her work involves help-

ing seniors with their finances and ensuring tribal information aligns with personal retirement information. She also assists with loans.

I asked Ada why she had started taking classes with me. She said, "When Pastor Marty began to promote the Native School of Ministry, I jumped at the opportunity. I wanted to learn more about God's Word. The courses haven't been easy, but the time has gone by fast. I was also surprised to see how much I had already learned from doing ministry in the past." She says the courses became more difficult about halfway through. "Some of the answers to the questions became harder to find. With the class we just finished, I felt like I was guessing at the test answers sometimes (Ada earned a high "B" for this course!). A few times, I felt like it was too much, but I thought to myself that I had come this far, and I did not want to stop. It's been a lot of work. I stayed with it. I talked to myself and encouraged myself. I remind myself, "You can do this."

Ada intends to apply for her credentials after completing all the courses. However, she is still determining what the Lord has for her in the future. She says, "I feel like what I am doing now is just the beginning of what God wants to do through me. I don't know what particular direction. I feel God has more for me."

One of the things Ada has enjoyed about the courses is that they take you more in-depth into the Bible than necessarily happens at church. The last course we just finished was on the fruits of the Spirit. She says, "Normally, we talk about the fruit of the Spirit in one big clump. I enjoyed studying the fruits one at a time and learning more about each one." She especially liked the books on leadership and how people work together. She says, "Many people do not see the big picture. A lot of stuff falls on the pastor. A pastor has ten jobs, but he should

only have one. We all fit in somewhere, so we need to find out where we fit. What I have learned has given me a better appreciation for the work pastors do."

Ada continues, "I liked the classes. We didn't just learn about stuff in the books. We learned about each other and how we work together. I learned how and where we need to improve on how we work together. We learned about each other's learning styles and techniques. We learned about each other's experiences and other things. It gave me an appreciation for each person who was a part of the class. Amid everyone being busy with their work and families, we learned about each other. One of my favorite parts was learning about each other more than we do in church. This is part of my liking sociology, learning to problem solve and work together. Sociology teaches me how to interact and work with people."

Ada notes that the White Mountain Apache Rez is a small rural place. The people deal with many difficulties, including drugs, alcohol, homelessness, murders, etc. "Things happen here that are not great. Even so, this place can thrive with God. God opens many doors here. There is a lot of beauty regardless of some of the things that happen and things that we face. God does many good things every day for us here."

"God has been showing me that He has a plan for each of us regardless of how we came to be. He still has great things for me, regardless of my past mistakes and sins and how I came into this world." I agree with Ada. I believe God has great things in store for her. I know that as trained and committed works are raised on the White Mountain Apache Rez, God will bring healing so that God's beauty will shine forth as His people work together to establish His Kingdom on the White Mountain Apache Rez.

Apache Origin Story as Related by Geronimo



"In the beginning, the world was covered with darkness. There was no sun, no day. The perpetual night had no moon or stars."

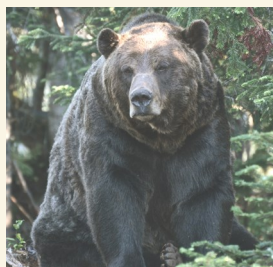
"There were, however, all manner of beasts and birds. Among the beasts were many hideous, nameless monsters, as well as dragons, lions, tigers, wolves, foxes, beavers, rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, and all manner of creeping things such as lizards and serpents. Mankind could not prosper, for the beasts and serpents destroyed all human offspring."

"All creatures had the power of speech and were gifted with reason. There were two tribes of creatures: the birds or the feathered tribe and the beasts." The birds were better organized under their chief, the eagle. These tribes often held councils, and the birds wanted light admitted. The beasts repeatedly refused. Finally, the birds made war against the beasts.

The beasts were armed with clubs, but the eagle had taught his tribe to use bows and arrows. The serpents were so wise that they could not all be killed. One took refuge in a perpendicular cliff of a mountain in Arizona,

and his eyes, which changed into a brilliant stone, may be seen in that rock to this day. The bears, when killed, became several other bears, so the more bears the feathered tribe killed, the more there were. The dragon could not be killed. He was covered with four coats of horny scales which arrows could not penetrate. The eagle killed one of the most hideous by flying high in the air with a round, white stone and letting it fall on the monster's head. The beast died instantly. The stone used to kill the dragon became sacred. They fought for many days, but finally, the birds were victorious.

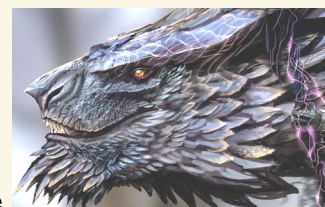
After the war, some evil beasts remained, but the birds controlled the councils, and the light was admitted; then mankind could live and prosper. The eagle was chief in this good fight. As a result, his feathers were worn by man as emblems of wisdom, justice, and power.



There was one human woman left alive who had been blessed with many children, but the beasts constantly destroyed them. The dragon ate any children the beasts missed. The dragon was very wise and very evil. Eventually, the

woman succeeded in hiding one boy who grew. However, when he grew up, he wanted to go hunting. His mother warned him of the dragon, wolves, and serpents, but he went anyway. The boy killed a buck, and his uncle showed him how to broil the meat.

As the meat cooked, the dragon appeared, seeking to eat the meat and threatening to eat the boy afterward. The boy challenged the dragon to a fight. The dragon agreed. Each would shoot arrows at the other four times. None of the dragon's arrows hit the boy. The first three of the boy's arrows hit the dragon's armor, knocking each coat off. The final arrow pierced the dragon's heart. With a tremendous roar, the dragon rolled down the mountain into a canyon below.



This boy's name was Apache. Usen, the Creator of everything, taught him how to prepare herbs for medicine, hunt, and fight. He was the first chief of the Indians and wore the eagle's feathers to signify justice, wisdom, and power. To him and his people, as they were created, Usen gave homes in the land of the West.

www.legendsofamerica.com/na-apacheorigins