

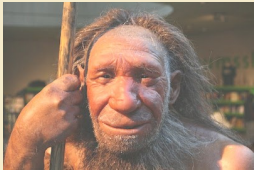


Native Sons



Equipping Native Leaders; Empowering Native Christians

ADRIANE ALSENEY



GETTING HOLD OF THE TROGLODYTE

A troglodyte is a cave-dweller. My wife considers me a troglodyte—though she has other words for this.

Why is it important to realize that John Flood is a troglodyte? Because the troglodyte has a Facebook account which he never uses except to look for amusing pictures for this newsletter. The troglodyte does not use Facebook Messenger, though some have tried to get a hold of him this way.

If you want to contact me—email is best. Home phone is next best—both will get reasonably quick responses. Calling my cell phone will get you a response anywhere from immediately to a week.

ADRIANE'S PRAYER REQUESTS

- That she & her 4 children walk close to the Lord
- To be strong in trials and against very real spiritual attacks they experience.
- To grow in the Lord and to do His will.
- For God to make a way for her to do ministry.
- Salvation for Adriane's ex-boyfriend,

John & Theresa Flood US Missionaries to Native Americans

4820 W. Kristal Way.
Glendale, AZ 85308
Phone: (623) 518-6775
b4theflood@me.com
www.nativesonsministry.com

Field Address: US Missions

1445 N. Booneville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
johnflood@usmissions.org
Offering Acct. # 2570281

"I grew up in church and attended a mission school. As I grew, I started partying and getting into trouble. I hung out with really bad people – some were dangerous. I always went to church and considered myself a Christian, but I often went to church hungover. At one point, I was out of work and lost my home and children. However, I worked hard and got them back. "I was always praying, 'Lord, I just want You. I want to do right. I don't want this life.' I've had two terrible relationships. The first with an alcoholic and the second with an alcoholic drug user. I considered myself a decent person but was deceived. I was only sitting in church; I never really knew God." Adriane is one of the students taking courses with the Native School of Ministry on the White Mountain Apache Rez and was very open with me when I asked how she came to Jesus.

Her last boyfriend was physically abusive. He has broken bones, knocked out teeth, permanently damaged her wrist, and almost caused the loss of an eye. He was repeatedly jailed for abuse, and she often stayed at an abuse shelter. She says, "Living that life, I felt trapped. I had nowhere to go. I thought if I could get him to go to church, this would fix things." So, in 2018 they began attending church and gradually went more often. Then, in 2020 he broke her wrist. Afterward, they both quit drinking.

Theresa and I are well. I began the first in-person Native School of Ministry on the White Mountain Apache Rez in mid-January. Two churches are involved, and we have 19 students (most in the corner photo). We have begun the third of eighteen courses, and the students are all earning A's and B's. They are very interactive and enjoy the courses. Once they have completed all 18 courses, they will have met their educational requirements for the certified minister's level of credentialing in the AG. My intention is that after some of them have received their credentials, they will become course instructors and eventually entirely run the schools locally.

Theresa continues to thoroughly enjoy teaching preschool. She recently had a girl in her class 3 days a week who was painfully shy and refused to eat in the presence of others. Theresa began to work with her, and she now eats with all the other children and is making

The churches shut down when COVID hit. Her ex-boyfriend returned to drinking, drugs, and being abusive. "The last time my ex was jailed, I ended up in a shelter for the 100th time. During that time, a woman invited me to a discipleship conference. I wanted to go, and she paid for me. The conference was life



Adriane Alsenay

-changing for me. The next month I returned to the Whiteriver AG. I felt different – wonderful, and knew it was God."

"On 3/27/22, I was standing in church praying and felt something tell me to pray demons out of me and to ask God to fill me with Christ. I didn't feel like I had demons, but I obeyed. While pray-

ing, I heard someone praying in tongues, then in English. They were the words I was praying, and I felt like he was praying my prayer in tongues. He was also saying I was free. I felt free! God saved me! I felt and thought different. I could feel the Holy Spirit moving through the church like a gust of wind. Some women were asking, "Can you feel it?" The Spirit healed me and released me from demons I was unaware of. After that, everything changed, and I wanted more."

Adriane remained homeless and had problems to work through. She kept telling herself, "I'm OK." Her old boss offered her back her job at Indian Health Services, but she kept praying for a job working for God, a car ride, and a home. She says every day was a struggle, especially Sundays. Her ex accused her of seeing another guy at church. She said, "Yes, I am seeing Jesus!" Sometimes her ex went to church, but he constantly told her it was his church, that she had no right to go to it, and that she was evil. She says, "It felt like a demonic attack, especially the fights after church." Like Adriane previously, her ex considers himself a Christian. However, he drinks, does drugs, is abusive, and is often in jail.

Adriane began going to church regu-

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

friends. The parents were so thrilled at the turnaround in their daughter's behavior and her social and academic gains that they moved her to full-time at the school.

Levi and Alicia are facing some serious issues. Please keep them in your prayers.

Caleb and Erin are doing well. They are both very much enjoying their new workplaces. Caleb is thrilled to move from the 24-hour fire station shifts to 10-hour shifts at the hospital ER. Their knife-forging business

is doing well, and they now have their own website—www.setitallonfire.com. Additionally, they continue to do charity auctions periodically, typically for pit-bull rescue groups.

As always, thanks for all your prayers and support!



larly. However, she depends on others for rides, so she can't always attend. Additionally, she often felt unwelcome and unwanted. "Nobody knew who I was or said 'hi,' even though some knew me from the conference. But I don't go for people. I go to meet with God. God's love feels so strong that nobody can keep me away. I love God so much. My attitude, mind, and outlook have changed as I continue attending church. Everything has changed, and I am growing stronger."

Adriane has had multiple visions. The first occurred last November. She was worshipping with her eyes closed and saw a whirlwind around her. She says, "It was not crazy or hectic. It was calm. It was the Holy Spirit." She opened her eyes, thinking, "Snap out of it! You are in church!" She again closed her eyes to pray. This time it was dark. She saw a huge pair of illuminated feet like molten metal (cf. Rev. 1:15) and a crowd of people. She felt the Spirit telling her, "Worship Him, Praise Him." She thought, "That is the one thing we can do that God does not do. God does not worship Himself, but we can worship Him." Then she saw her ex-boyfriend. He was clean and well-dressed, but she felt the Spirit saying she needed to leave him because he was a distraction. When worship ended, the pastor said he felt God had given someone something to say. After three prompts, in tears, she shared with the church the vision about praising God and the need to gather other worshippers. She was filled with fear sharing. This was the first time God had asked her to share like this, and she was unsure if she was hearing from God or going crazy. She says, "Satan was working on my mind telling me it's not real, don't share it."

Adriane's Bible studies led her to Abraham and Isaac. She says, "Abraham didn't know where he was going or understand all God had promised. God showed me the sacrifice involved in following Him and that we will not always understand all He says to us." She emphasizes,

"It's not knowing or understanding that is important, but obedience."

A missionary spoke at her church and prayed for her afterward. He said, God says, "There is no compromise." Adriane realized that staying with her ex-boyfriend was compromising. The next day, she left him but wondered, "How am I going to do this and keep everything safe and good?" She and her four children went to her mom's home. She was outside cleaning and praying and began to sense something was going to happen. She says, "The Holy Spirit showed up. He told me three things: '1.) Find peace, 2.) Get rest, and 3.) Heal.' I was happy about the first two things because everything had been so hard for so long. My ex's home didn't have water. I had to do everything the old way. I was tired physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When God said, 'Heal,' I cried. I had always told myself I wouldn't let any man break me. I started praying, 'Heal me, Lord!'"

Later, her ex's brother died, and he asked her to help with the funeral. She agreed, but they both caught COVID, and she and her kids lived with him until February. She says, "It felt like Satan was trying to keep me with him." He started talking about marriage, but he remained abusive. Adriane kept telling her ex, "We're not together, don't mistake what is happening." Finally, on Valentine's Day, she couldn't tolerate it any longer. She grabbed the kids and left. Unable to stay with her mother or at the local abuse center, she thought she needed to find a shelter out of state. She says, "I was at peace, though. I knew God had my back." She felt the Holy Spirit tell her, "Hope Center." She did not know what it was or where it was. She recalled a pregnancy center called Hope Center, but this was not the place. There was another place called Hope Center Ministries. She called to explain her situation. The call was repeatedly cut off. Eventually, the pastor told her that they were not a shelter.

However, she needed to hire someone to stay and watch the women. This was both a job and a place to live.

Adriane went to meet the pastor. When the pastor opened the door, her face lit up, and she exclaimed, "When I saw you, God showed me you're my replacement!" After crying together, Adriane told the pastor that she wanted to work with those in need, become an ordained minister, and establish a non-profit. The Hope Center Ministries was everything she had been working towards. She started at the end of February and lives in the men's dorm (which is empty) with her children. She receives a small salary, has a little pocket money, tithes, and gives offerings."

Recently, she went to Walmart to buy some things she needed. At the register, the woman in front of Adriane gave the cashier \$400, telling her to give it to Adriane to pay for her purchases. She says, "I was in tears. I was literally praying for this when I entered the store!" A week later, she decided to see her ex about using his car, but she felt the Spirit tell her, "No, he will shoot you." The next day he was thrown in jail for shooting a gun in a neighborhood near a school. She says, "I remembered what the Holy Spirit told me about him. I had the wind knocked out of me, but I was also so excited about what the Holy Spirit was doing for me. I also realized when this happened that the devil hates me. But I am not going to back down. I am going to stay with God. I am called an Apache for a reason."

Apache means "enemy." Adriane says, "I want all people to be Apache—to be the devil's enemy!" At this time, God has provided a van for Adriane and her children. She feels that God is calling her to gather a war party, a spiritual war party, because of the needs on her reservation and in the world. She is doing exceptionally well in the ministry school courses, which she sees as a way to grow personally and prepare for ministry.

Apache Speaking With Names

The Apache cultures, like all Native American and tribal cultures, historically passed along their cultural heritage and wisdom through stories. Storytelling represents oral learning, learning by listening rather than reading.

Traditional Apache stories are different than stories from other cultures. Apache stories tend to be very short and always connected to an Apache name of a location. The stories always begin, "It happened at (name of the place), at this very place." By connecting a story to a place, the lesson taught in the story is anchored in where the people live and in familiar places, so they become more memorable. The opening line of Apache stories becomes an abbreviated way of telling the entire story to gently make a point. Apache stories are used to encourage, comfort, correct, teach wisdom, amuse, and for a large variety of other reasons. English speakers do this sometimes, as does the Bible. For example, if someone says, "So, I hear you are going to Sodom this weekend," the name-place Sodom carries the idea of sexual perversion and excess. Depending on the speaker, the term is likely to express disapproval, though not necessarily. "Speaking with names" is a way of providing a visual to another that they can reflect upon to gain understanding and insight.

Here is an example of an Apache place name story. It happened at Line of White Rocks Extends Up and Out, at this very place. At Line of White Rocks Extends Up and Out, a young Apache girl's grandmother had asked the girl to collect firewood. The grandmother told the girl to take a specific route and warned her against going up or down a shortcut through the cliff because of snakes. The young girl dutifully went up the trail she was instructed to walk on. At the top of the



Cibecue, AZ

Notice the line of white rocks. However, this is probably not Line of White Rocks Extends Out and Up

hill, she gathered much firewood. However, because the wood was heavy and the sun was hot, she wanted to return home quickly, so she ignored her grandmother's warning. She started to climb down the cliff. She missed her footing as she came down and stumbled, dropping much of her firewood. As she picked herself up and began regathering the firewood, a poisonous snake bit her. She made it home with the wood and was taken to be treated for the snake bite but remained ill for a very long time afterward. When she recovered, she remembered her grandmother's warning and never went up or down the cliff path again. It happened at Line of White Rocks Extends Up and Out, at this very place.

This story can be told to warn against ignoring the advice of a wise elder or to encourage someone that there is hope for recovery. Instead of lecturing or using many words causing the other embarrassment, one only needs to say, "It happened at (name of the place), at this very place." Unfortunately, the Apache name-place stories and speaking with names are disappearing as the elders die and a new generation arises.

Information from Keith Basso's book *Wisdom Sits in Places*.