





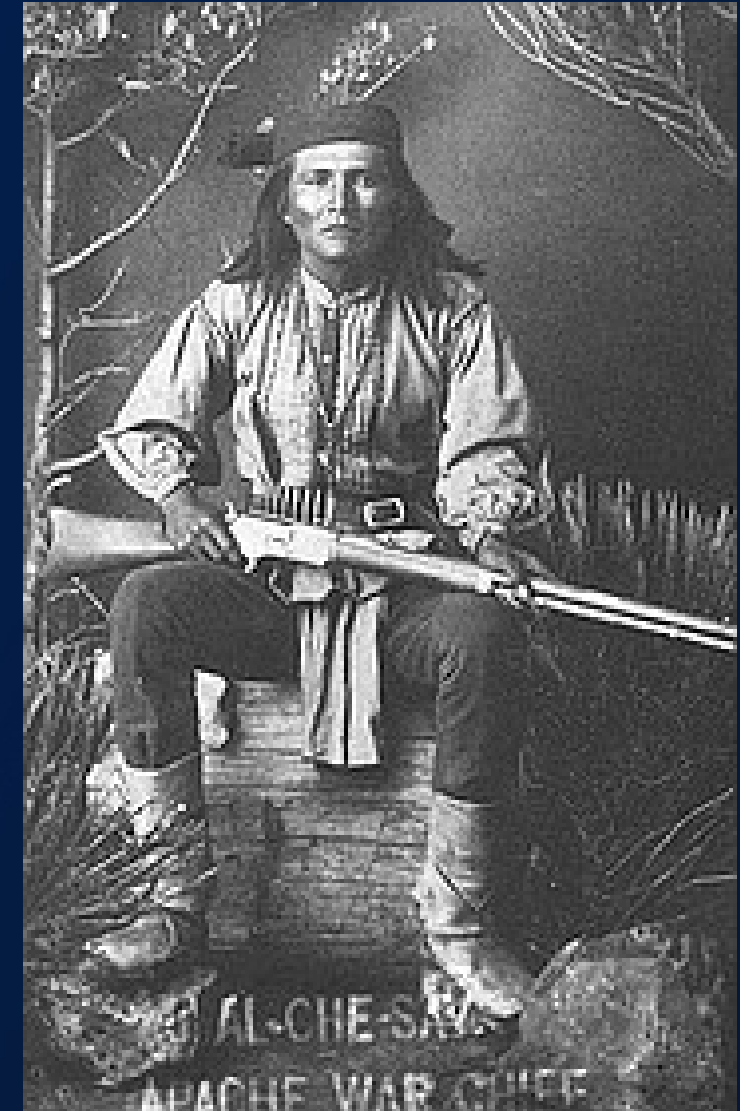


**CHRIST**  
THROUGH US

SYNOD CONVENTION 2025

# Native American Missions

**The OG of WELS World Mission work!  
Sharing the Good News (and kicking  
butt) since 1893.**





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## Truths that compel us . . .

- 574 Native Tribes with 2.9 million tribal members in the U.S.
- Many Native Americans have a relationship with Christianity, but very, very few are “Christ Alone!”
- Native communities, in general, face numerous struggles . . . “Cascading grief”



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## Truths that compel us . . .

- “We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses . . . .”
- The gospel is working! (sometimes slowly . . . .)
- Jesus wins.



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# QUIZ TIME!

**Which of the following phrases has Erik heard in connection with WELS Native American Missions?**

- A. “Every mistake that WELS World Missions has made, it has made in Apacheland.”**
- B. “No, mister! They are sending you to the end of the world! This is a demotion!”**
- C. “It’s not Peridot; it’s paradise!”**

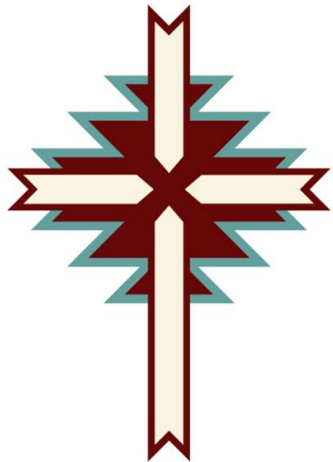


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# Who are we?

**We are a willing partnership group of WELS churches, schools, and individuals ministering within Native American communities.**



**NATIVE  
CHRISTIANS**



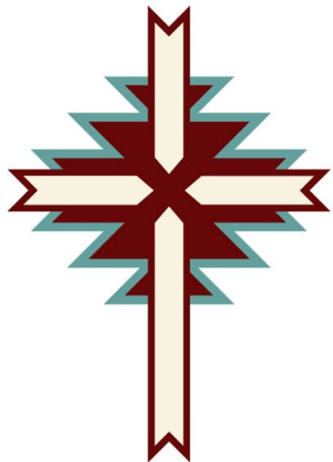


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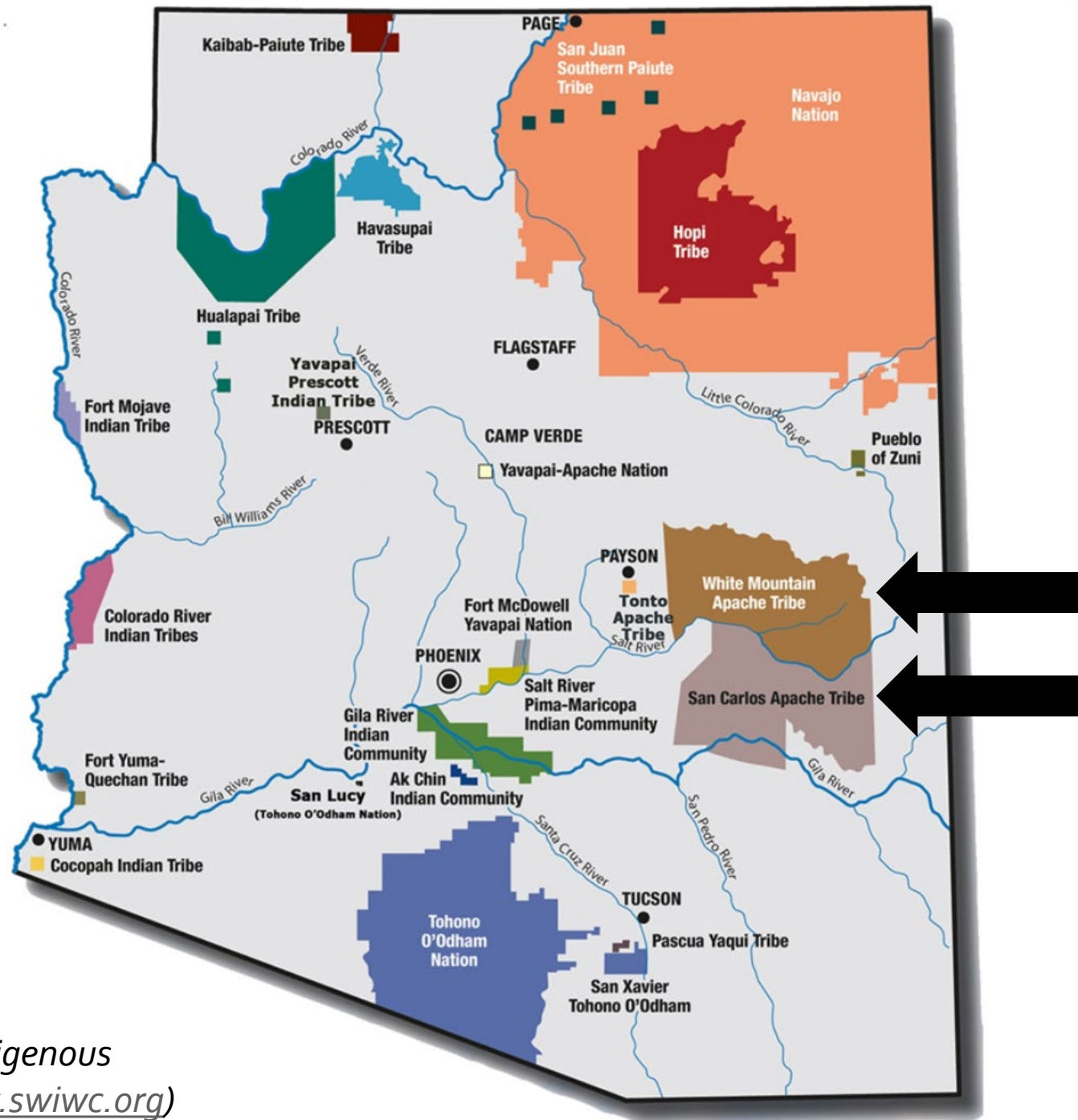
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# What is our focus?

**To train and equip Native American Christians for leadership and service in God's kingdom.**



**NATIVE  
CHRISTIANS**



Map from Southwest Indigenous  
Women's Coalition ([www.swiwc.org](http://www.swiwc.org))





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**NATIVE  
CHRISTIANS**

## **Churches**

- East Fork
- Canyon Day
- Open Bible, Whiteriver
- Shepherd in the Pines, McNary
- Gethsemane, Cibecue
- Shepherd of the Mountain, Cedar Creek
- Peridot
- Grace, San Carlos
- Our Savior's, Bylas

## **Elementary Schools**

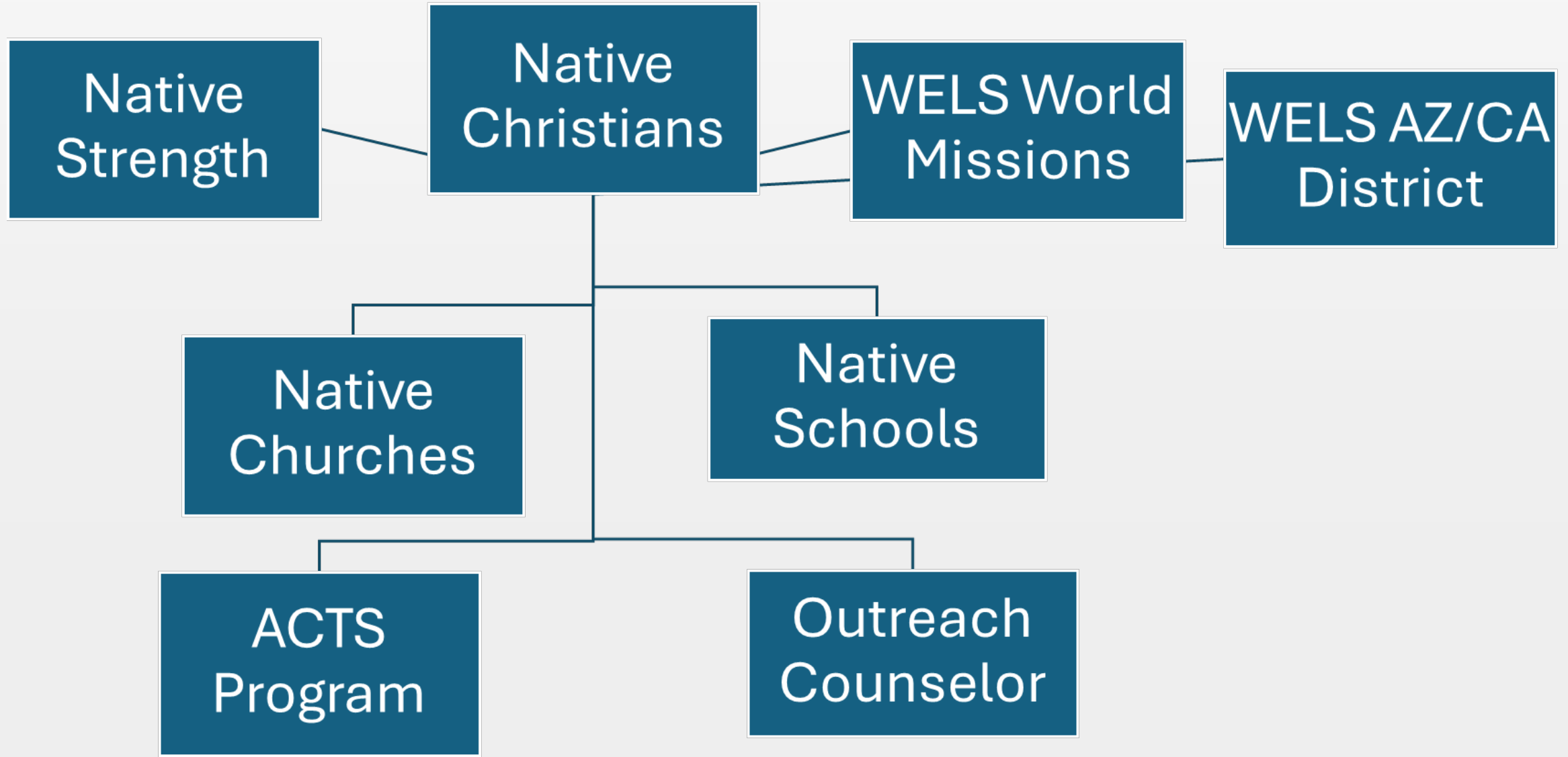
- Peridot—Our Savior's Lutheran
- East Fork Lutheran

## **Ministry Training**

- Apache Christian Training School

## **Outreach Counselor**

- Farmington, N.M.



**Connected  
to WELS  
World  
Missions**

Financial Support

Administrative Support

Calling Workers

Called Worker Support



# Connected to WELS AZ/CA District

Doctrine & Practice

Pastor & Teacher Conferences

Calling Workers

Synod “Business”



**NATIVE**  
**STRENGTH**  
network

**Connected to  
Native  
Strength  
Network**

Training

Community Engagement

Access to Grant Funding





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# QUIZ TIME!

Which WELS school won the Arizona state middle school robotics competition and qualified for the VEX IQ World Robotics Competition?

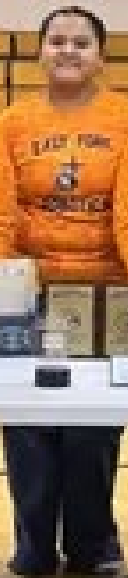
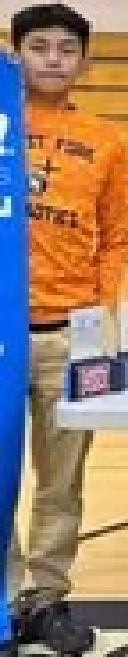
**EAST FORK LUTHERAN!!!**



Those Who Hope In The Lord...  
...Will Soar On  
Wings Like



Isaiah 40:31





**Going forward:  
Things to think  
about . . .**

**How can we work  
toward more  
financial  
independence?**



# Going forward: Things to think about . . .

Who will be making decisions and leading our ministries?



**Going forward:  
Things to think about . . .**

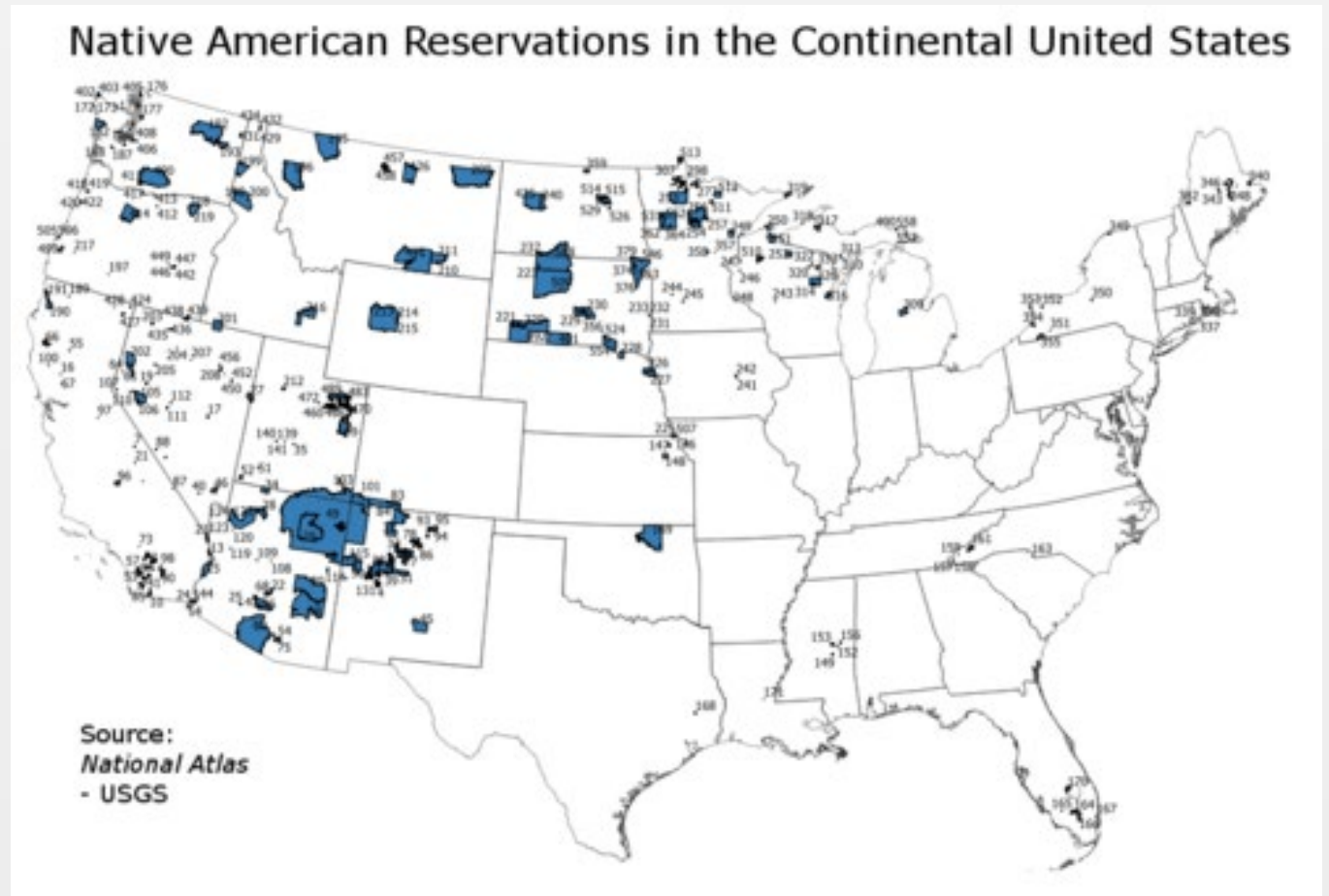


**Growing schools . . .  
How can we better  
connect them to our  
churches?**



Going forward:  
Things to think about . . .

Where will God  
open the next  
Native American  
door?







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## Learn more about our ministries

- [nativechristians.org](https://nativechristians.org)
- [poscrusaders.org](https://poscrusaders.org)
- [eastforklutheranschool.org](https://eastforklutheranschool.org)
- [nativestrength.net](https://nativestrength.net)
- [crosstrainkids.com](https://crosstrainkids.com)

**THANK YOU!**



