

ALCHESAY ARTHUR GUENTHER

Senior Church History

Professor Brenner

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As the skies opened up and clouds prepared to greet an ascending Lord Jesus, eleven disciples heard their Savior's last words. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mk 16:15). And they went, to the four corners of the earth, crossing continents and sailing seas to bring the Gospel to sinners.

The same words have motivated many since to do the same. Alchesay Arthur Guenther is one of those many.

I had the privilege of interviewing Rev. Guenther on April 22 & 23, 1995, at Open Bible Lutheran Church in Whiteriver, Arizona. For almost six hours we talked about the Apaches, their beloved Pastor Guenther, and the many moments of gladness and sadness shared by both.

I couldn't help but leave with lasting impressions. As I watched Whiteriver disappear behind me, I thought of faithfulness and dedication. The Lord has blessed Rev. Guenther with true devotion, devotion to a people who have grown to love their Savior through his work. There is not a better example of a man who truly loves his people, a shepherd who truly cares for his sheep.

As I drove off toward a glaring, setting sun, I thought about experience--about how much the "boys" can learn from the "men" with experience, and experiences. Rev. Guenther has many

stories. But Rev. Guenther also has many lessons to share. Some of the lessons are hard--lessons of disappointment, of challenge, of regret. Many of the lessons are inspiring, as he recollects the burials and baptisms, each a celebration of salvation. All of the lessons teach. They remind us of the wonder, the awe, the privilege of serving God full time; and they remind us of the challenge. Not all is easy, but nothing is impossible with the Good Shepherd at our side.

And the last impression? As I headed west, I soon left the land of the Apache--a land that was once desert, dry and desolate not of rain or river, but thirsting for the water of life. Thanks to our gracious God, a land once stricken with drought is now part of that spiritual country described by the prophet Joel: "In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk . . . A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias" (Jl 3:18). A lush country. A land where many have learned to love their Lord. A land which many have left for a better land, a land with another fountain, a "river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Re 22:1).

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ALECHESAY ARTHUR GUENTHER

VIDEO CHRONOLOGY

*** TAPE 1

:57 INTRODUCTION

ORIGINS OF THE APACHE MISSION

1:41 Beginnings of Wisconsin Synod work in Apacheland
11:24 Germans break the ice among Apaches
13:43 Legal status of the WELS on the reservation--land
ownership, etc.
32:42 Building and dedication of church in Whiteriver
45:28 Arthur Guenther's baptism & Alchesay's death

PERSONAL/FAMILY

52:10 Endearing qualities of Arthur Guenther's father, Edgar
53:46 Edgar finds time for his children
56:29 Arthur's mother, Minnie
1.00:40 Arthur gets spanked
1.01:55 Vivid smells remembered from youth
1.03:19 Games played with Indians
1.05:41 Elementary, high school, college, and seminary
education
1.13:53 Arthur Guenther begins work on reservation
1.18:28 END

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VIDEO CHRONOLOGY

*** TAPE 2

PERSONAL/FAMILY (cont.)

:15 Arthur meets his wife, Gloria

1:58 Edgar Guenther goes to jail

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MISSIONARIES

6:32 Interaction between the northern and southern
reservations

8:41 Upleggers, and other workers, on Apache Reservation

10:24 Rev. Schuppenhauer dies tragically

THE APACHE PEOPLE

12:07 Origins of the Apache people

14:50 Strengths of Apache character

16:59 Difficulties faced by Apaches considering public
ministry

THE MISSIONARY RELATES TO THE INDIAN

22:36 Arthur Guenther as a "father figure" among the Apaches

25:51 Differences between Apaches and Anglo-Saxons

31:21 Safety of women during early years of mission work

APACHE LORE

33:27 Relationship between Apache legend and Biblical truth

ARTHUR GUENTHER'S GOSPEL WORK

- 39:15 Highlights of Rev. Guenther's Gospel work
- 48:27 What Rev. Guenther will miss the most about Apache work
- 50:46 The future of the Apache mission, under God's blessing
- 59:46 Rev. Arthur Guenther looks back, gives thanks
- 1.18:18 END