

## **Pastor David ‘Two Dogs’ Zamora**

‘Two Dogs’ has spent a lifetime explaining the origin of his unusual name. He was born in 1952 in Fresno, California, the son of an Apache, Yaqui, Sephardic Jewish father and an Apache, Comanche, Mayan mother. His grandfather gave him the Native American name ‘Two Dogs’, because he believed that everyone has two dogs that live inside of them, one good and one evil, and whichever is fed the best decides the path of life.

David was the oldest of 6 children and his birth settled his migrant family in Fresno, where the family could find nearly year long work with the variety of seasonal crops that abounded in the Valley. When he was 5 years old he moved to Southern California, but learned the value of a good work ethic by earning money to pay for this school clothes and personal needs by working alongside his family in the fields in Fresno throughout the summer.

As with many migrant families during the 1960’s, he was brought up in an atmosphere of turmoil. His parents divorced when he was eleven, after which he suffered great physical abuse at the hand of his troubled mother. The abuse ended when he was 12 and old enough to fight back. David was able to cope with the abuse by immersing himself in his schoolwork and excelling in his classes. He also was introduced, to what has become a lifelong passion in music, by an older cousin who was a professional musician. At 11, he began to learn the guitar and by the age of 14 he was putting his own groups together and playing at local school events and nightclubs. At 15, he joined the musicians union Local 10 in Fresno, CA.

He became the first in his family to graduate from high school and did so at the top of his class. Shortly after graduation, he joined a multi-cultural band, a choice that, at the time, was very unpopular. In 1975, he joined a traveling band and ended up in LA where he began working with professional musicians. He joined Musicians Local 147 in Hollywood and became active on the local scene in Hollywood, West Hollywood and West LA. Through these associations he was hired by the Cornel Gunther ‘Coasters’ group to tour across the United States. This enabled him to meet with and work for other famous groups, such as the Drifters, Mary Wells, Chubby Checker and the Platters, for whom he became musical director and played across the U.S. and other countries, including Japan, the Phillipines, Hawaii, South America, and Canada.

He returned to Fresno in 1985 and supported himself and his addiction habits by working in a popular music store and playing in clubs. In 1988 he was arrested and went to prison for 18 months, a sentence that probably saved his life. In prison, he became aware of his Native American spirituality and studied with the leadership until he was ready to lead sweat lodges and become part of the leadership. He eventually became involved with the First Nations movement.

In the early 1990’s he began working in southern California with substance abuse faith based and Native American agencies. Due to the loss of many family members, including his wife, father, brothers and friends to addictive behavior, he began studying the addictions which have become his life’s work. In 1993 he was made a pastor by the United Tribes of Christ. He received his second ordination from Set Free Ministries in 1995 and in 1999 was ordained by the Southern Baptist’s. After having planted several churches throughout Southern California and Las Vegas, many of which are still in existence, he returned to Fresno in 2003 to pastor a Southern Baptist church and open the Central California Training Camp. The camp treated men through a faith based drug and alcohol treatment center. He also went to work at the Lifestyle Impact and

Foundation First Recovery Assistance Program in Fresno, as a bilingual counselor. The church he began in Fresno continues today through his indirect leadership.

He now brings to Lake Arrowhead over 25 years of experience in training, counseling, intervention, one-to-one interaction and encounter groups, as well as a firm grounding in what works in secular programming, faith based programming, native American perspective and alternative perspective to recovery. In short, he brings a lifetime of experience in dealing with his fellow man, along with a hands-on involvement in drug and alcohol treatment, to the Lake Arrowhead Treatment Center.