I Strengthen My Nation

Hey, my name is Chaske Spencer. I know both reservation and city life, and can tell you, as American Indians there are challenges in both worlds. I’m also a recovering addict-alcoholic. And I know, from first-hand, that these things can take your soul, and your life.

And I lived in darkness for a long time. It was my choice.

My name is Chris. I’m a senior. What do I do for fun? Uh, I don’t know. Play Racing Games, I guess. (laughs)

It actually gets pretty intense. My friends and I all race against each other. My mom hates video games.

She says (impression of a woman’s voice): “Video games will rot your brain, Christopher.

I don’t think she actually minds it, though. (quiet and reflective) She likes it better than the stuff I used to do.

I’m Arianne, and I’m a poet. I write songs, too. I love watching The Voice and Idol.

I like to be alone when I write. (quiet and reflective) I guess I like to be alone lots of the time.

It’d be cool to see somebody on TV singing a song I wrote. Or maybe it could even be ME singing on TV!

It’s weird to have these thoughts. (quiet and reflective) I never used to think I’d amount to much.

My name is Scott. When I was a kid, I used climb trees a lot. It was a good way to get away from stuff.

When I was up high, looking at people who couldn’t see me, it was amazing. Nothing could hurt me, and I was in complete control. It’s funny (quiet and reflective)—when I got older, I kept trying to go back to those days, but nothing worked.

I was so afraid, and then one day I saw someone who made me feel that I could do it.

Watching him strengthened me.

Then I saw somebody who made me want to change. Just seeing how she lived strengthened me.

Then one person inspired me to change. It was like he strengthened me.

You can choose to walk the right path. And when you do, you strengthen yourself.

You strengthen other people. And you are not alone.

Be strong. Be confident. Because we’re walking the path with you.

And together, we can strengthen our nation.