

BRIAN "WESLEY"

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"Brian" is a name that, closest to your family, is the name of your uncle, Brian Keith Rainer. Aside from this fellow, Brian is not too common; but neither is your middle name, "Wesley". Still, I think both names fit you well and provide both a connection to this side of your family, and to a great theologian, John Wesley.

When the name is mentioned, I sometimes think of a famous football player for the Chicago Bears, Brian Picolo, whose career and life were cut short by cancer. Brian and Gayle Sayers, another running



back, were room mates at the Bear's training camp. One being white and the other black, these living arrangements were very controversial during the 1960's; consequently, their close friendship became an issue for the media. This reaction did not stop them from continuing their friendship and mutual respect. You may sometime hear a song, a tribute to

Brian Picolo, entitled "Brian's Song"...it is beautiful! What about your other name, "Wesley"?

John "Wesley" was born in the 1800's in England and became a theologian {or minister}. Simply, he tried to make Christianity available to all people regardless of their wealth or their race; like Jesus, he presented the gospel to the people who were *poor in spirit* and of less account by worldly standards.



Two great men from which you derive your name "Brian Wesley"; and who went against the popular or accepted views of society or the church and extended themselves without prejudice but with conviction and purpose. Go forward and do the same Brian with the understanding that you are loved forever. Amen

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