

Spring 2013 edition



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Spring 2013

Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona



The IBC Epistle

“From the Mission Field to a Mission Force”

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

When is the work in cross-cultural ministry (i.e. missions) completed? How do you know that the gospel has had its full impact and a people group has been “reached”? Some might say that it is when you have a healthy church with indigenous leadership, and this is certainly a “step” along the way. But if the mandate of the Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all peoples” is for all believers, then the ultimate sign of full maturity is engagement in world missions.



Indian Bible College’s vision is focused on exactly that. The last line of our vision statement states: IBC wants to be “HELPING THE NATIVE CHURCH CEASE TO BE THE MISSION FIELD AND RISE TO FULFILL ITS POTENTIAL AS A MIGHTY MISSIONARY-SENDING CHURCH.” In addition to this being the ultimate goal of any mission’s work, Native Americans have more doors open to them around the world for the gospel than any other people group. Here are just four of the reasons :

There is a worldwide fascination with Native culture.

There is a worldwide empathy with the history of Native suffering.

The ostracization faced by some Native people who come to Christ is similar to what is experienced by many Muslims who trust Christ.

Most of the truly unreached people groups on the planet are indigenous/tribal.

The story of my personal journey to IBC relates to this area very specifically. When the Lord began to lead my wife and me towards service here, my growing burden was primarily focused on the heartaches, struggles, and “plight” of Native people. Within the first year at IBC, however, it became clear how incredible the opportunities and possibilities are for Native people. Instead of my original plans (in college) to be a medical missionary in South America, God prepared me to lead IBC, which I now believe is

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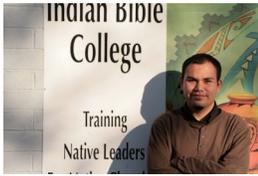
IBC Spring Missions Conference



We were privileged to have Tucker and Grace Grose as our mission speakers this year. Residents of Black Diamond, Alberta, and members of North American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM), they focus on the area of First Nations and Native American mission mobilization. Over the past ten years they have organized and led short-term ministry trips to Mexico, western Russia, eastern Siberia, Russian Far East, Kyrgyzstan, and Native reserves in Canada. To date, three IBC graduates have traveled overseas with them. After our mission conference, perhaps there will be more.

Tucker and Grace have demonstrated that there are many unreached people groups in today’s world who identify so closely with Native Americans and First Nations people that they are uniquely open to their ministry. Many of these places are closed to traditional Western missionaries but will roll out the red carpet for fellow indigenous people.

New Students, Avery and James



James comes from Gray Mountain, Arizona, about 30 miles north of Flagstaff. He completed high school in Flagstaff in 2011 and started attending IBC in Jan. 2013. His dad grew up in this area while his mother is originally from Georgia. James recently submitted a scholarship application to the Arizona Community Foundation. He expressed gratitude for his family's support and encouragement to come to IBC. He would like prayer that the Lord provides financially for his schooling.

Both of Avery's parents graduated from IBC. He grew up mainly on the Navajo Reservation. He graduated from high school in Page, Arizona, in 2010. Before coming to IBC, he had moved to Flagstaff and was working with a solar company and also for Coconino County. Avery recommitted his life to the Lord near Christmas 2012, which led to his being open to attending IBC. So far he is enjoying his classes. Pray that he would be able to find a part-time job and that he would continue to grow in his faith.



Photos from the mission conference:



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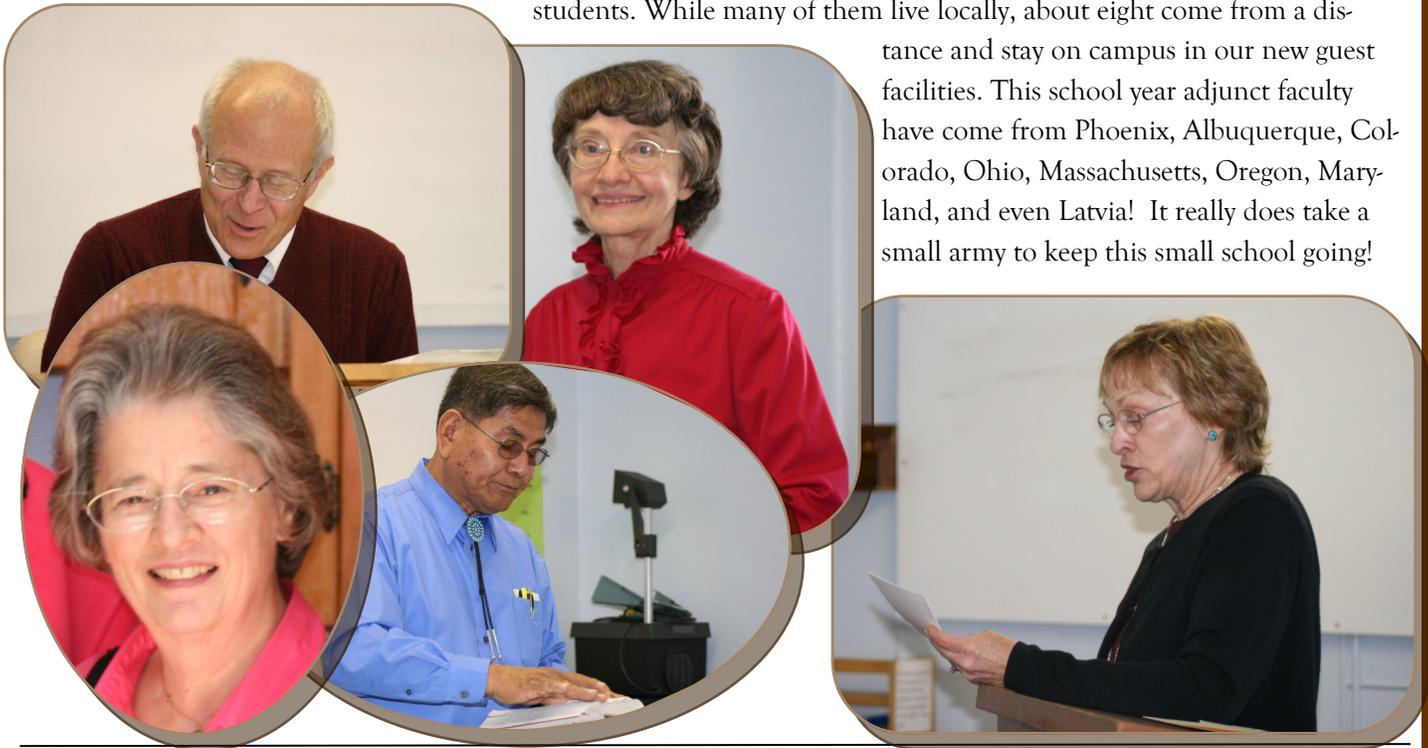
one of the most strategic contributions to world missions that anyone can make.

If we can see healthy leaders leading healthy churches that are sending healthy Native missionaries around the world, they could be some of the most effective and exciting missionaries the world has ever seen! (This is one of the reasons I am praying for 20+ years of service here!)

Would you pray and partner with us in this endeavor? This last fall we packed out our housing and our chapel with about 30 full-time students, and we are praying to at least double that capacity. With a 55-year legacy behind us, I strongly believe the best years are ahead of us. Please consider contributing your prayers, finances, and volunteer efforts to help IBC fulfill its massive vision!

The Vital Ministry of Adjuncts

If you're typical, you have to get out the dictionary to know what, exactly, an "adjunct" is. According to Webster, adjunct faculty are those who do not have permanent status who are working in a college. In our case, they are men and women who are generally not affiliated with IBC in a formal way but who volunteer their time to meet a teaching need. Every school year IBC uses a total of 15-20 adjunct professors who sacrifice their time (and travel costs) to educate IBC students. While many of them live locally, about eight come from a distance and stay on campus in our new guest facilities. This school year adjunct faculty have come from Phoenix, Albuquerque, Colorado, Ohio, Massachusetts, Oregon, Maryland, and even Latvia! It really does take a small army to keep this small school going!



Exciting Developments

The IBC Board of Directors has approved the school's formal pursuit of **accreditation** within the next calendar year! The potential benefits for the students of having an accredited and transferable degree are tremendous; pray for us as we develop our application this summer.

Thanks in part to a grant, IBC is working on the development of an **online** method that allows students to take classes through a webcam. We hope to "go live" with this method in some of our classes this fall!

Due to the fact that IBC is substantially larger, its student body will be dividing into two groups for its annual **Ministry Immersion Trip** (formerly called the "Witnessing Trip") March 23-29. Most of the students will be serving and ministering on the Yavapai Apache Reservation in Arizona, while a small number of more advanced students will be training local church members for ministry on a Shoshone reservation in Nevada.

Summer Work Teams

Have you and your church considered a work team trip to the Indian Bible College? Week-long trips to IBC are one of the most important ways to contribute to the ministry of IBC; the maintenance and improvement of our facilities are dependent on these fantastic volunteers. These trips are fairly low-cost, a natural way for families to serve together, and are a great way to serve Native people without doing ministry that they should be doing for themselves. All kinds of skills and abilities are useful. We currently have five teams scheduled for summer 2013 but have room for three or four more. For more information, contact Bob at the school at (928) 774-3890.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Praise and Prayer:

Praise God for working in the hearts and lives of students during our recent mission conference.

Praise God that there are at least three current students who are considering serving the Lord long-term overseas.

Praise God for a projected 20 students receiving a degree or certificate at our annual commencement on May 11!

Praise God for student leader. IBC has students serving in student body leadership, in dorm leadership (RAs), and as spiritual formation (i.e. discipleship) group leaders.

Praise God for a growing board. Our board has added four new men in the last year!

Praise God for a strong academic performance on the part of 11 students—four on the “Dean’s List” (3.0-3.49 GPA) and seven on the “President’s List” (3.5-4.0 GPA).

Pray for the two student teams travelling for the Ministry Immersion Trip to the Yavapai Apache and Shoshone Reservations March 23-29.

Pray that the Lord would provide the guidance and provision for IBC to expand so that it can help accomplish the mighty vision He has given us.

Pray for the provision of an Academic Dean and/or a Dean of Students.