



## Introducing the IBC Core Values



By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

The Lord has done remarkable things at IBC over the past eight years! One of the foremost of His blessings was the development of five biblical values that are urgently relevant in Native ministry. These came about as a result of the staff asking the question: “What will it take to see IBC fulfill its vision statement, that of helping Native America to cease being the mission field and fully joining the global mission force?”

The IBC Core Values have become the “biblical DNA” of IBC over the last few years. Before students graduate they must respond on paper to each of the Core Values, demonstrating their comprehension, their commitment to model them outside the IBC community, and their agreement that these biblically derived concepts, when implemented, will strengthen and preserve the local church.

This newsletter begins a two-year process of introducing and explaining these Core Values; we plan to introduce one Core Value with each newsletter.

### **Core Value #1: Unity in Christian Community**

*The world is to recognize Christ by our unity (John 17:20-23) and the way we love each other (John 13:34-35). Therefore, we need to be fiercely committed to extending truth and grace (John 1:14) to each other through healthy confrontation, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The way we treat each other in the church is the first thing many lost people look at. True community will recognize the possibility of being multi-cultural and intergenerational, both within the body and on the leadership level.*

This value is integral to who we are and permeates our interactions at IBC. A healthy church is a unified church, which requires diligent effort to live the commands of Scripture to love each other as Christ first loved us. IBC is committed to intentionally communicating Core Value #1 through modeling and teaching, helping students live out the unity exemplified in the Trinity within a safe community of mature believers.

Here are a few comments from alumni on Core Value #1:

“Natives have a hard time with forgiveness... The idea is if we leave it alone long enough it will phase out...This is where a lot of Native churches have trouble...not a lot of people go through the process of forgiveness”-Irvinson Jones (Navajo), IBC alum & pastor.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Meet the New (and Returning) Students!

by Richard Smith & Joshua Ortiz (current students)

Gary (right) is of the Yavapai Apache and Tohono O'odham Tribes. His prayer is that his way of thinking may be changed by God and that God would truly become the center of his life.



Felicia (below) is of the Yakama, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs Tribes. Pray that she transitions well into school and that homesickness would not be a burden.

Stephen (left) is a returning student, hoping to finish his bachelor's degree! He is of the Paiute and Apache Tribes. He asks prayer for his studies, that he can finish strong.



Deedra (left) is of the Hopi and Salt River Pima Tribes. She asks prayer for financial stability, that her family would come to know Christ, and that the Lord would heal her in personal matters.



John is Navajo. Pray that he would transition well into school and that he would have a great academic year.



## Twenty Years

By Jon Vrooman, Director of Navajo Friends, California



I'm excited about all the good things happening at Indian Bible College. Twenty years ago, my family and I were invited to the school for volunteer work week. We met students and learned about life on the Navajo Reservation. Students shared how they were growing in the Lord at IBC. They also shared about the impact they were making for Christ among their people. Although most of the students were Navajo, I noticed IBC was reaching out to other Native nations. IBC seemed to have limitless possibilities. Since that time many years ago, I've come back nearly every summer on work teams.

I'm excited about IBC's goal to teach life skills because I've visited many remote areas on the Navajo Reservation and I know that it can be a hard life for Christians. There can be a lot of opposition and I have a real compassion and concern for Native Christians. Native people involved in ministry on reservations have to find a way to finance themselves. IBC teaches students how to provide for their families, how to support themselves. That is why I am so excited about IBC's work training initiative called Fifth Wind.

I also support IBC financially because the school needs help. The school depends on God, and I feel that I am giving to God. I pray for IBC and the future of Native Americans. I pray that Native Americans will become a mission force in Europe and beyond. Please join me in supporting Indian Bible College.

*(Continued from page 1)*

"I have no doubt that Unity in Christian Community is crucial for the development and mentoring of the church. People need healthy relationships but are not sure how to do that if it hasn't been shown to them."—Ammie Palmer (White Mountain Apache), IBC alum & staff member.

Several students have commented that traditional religious ceremonies seem to be more adept at building and modeling community than does the evangelical church on reservations.

IBC also has a five-minute video introducing this biblical value! Go to [www.indianbible.org/core-values/](http://www.indianbible.org/core-values/) to watch the video and to find additional explanations and resources.

## Update on Initiatives: by Doug Hanson, Director of Development & Jason Koppen, President

### A Huge Accreditation Milestone!!!

ON FEBRUARY 7 THE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION (ABHE) AWARDED CANDIDATE STATUS TO THE INDIAN BIBLE COLLEGE! This is a huge answer to prayer, is the result of a lot of hard work, and is an important step towards being fully accredited.

Candidate Status is a pre-accredited status granted to those institutions that show promise of achieving accreditation within a maximum of five years. Candidate institutions are required to submit annual progress reports demonstrating progress toward accreditation.

IBC achieved this status in just three years; the normal pace is 4-5 years. We are planning to go through the Candidate stage in just another three years.

Students can now transfer credits within the 195 ABHE schools. They also begin to have access to the Pell Grant and tribal grants. This progress in accreditation is a strong sign of IBC's stability and of the likelihood of fruitful ministry for decades to come!

### The Legacy Circle

By Doug Hanson, Director of Development

The Legacy Circle is a new program that honors donors who have included Indian Bible College in their estate plans through some form of planned giving. (See the insert for a thorough explanation.) We welcome two new donors to The Legacy Circle. Their reasons for giving should motivate each of us to remember Indian Bible College in our estate planning.

Juanita states, "I support Indian Bible College's focus of seeing students transformed by the power of Christ and serving Him among Native Americans. The school frequently needs vehicles to transport staff and students to and from various ministries/activities. I'd like to have a part in this ministry by donating my car when the Lord takes me Home." Juanita is a missionary herself and recognizes the value of ministry to Native American people.

Robert is a retired school teacher in Texas. He named Indian Bible College as a "Beneficiary for Survivor Benefits" in his state's teacher retirement system. According to Robert, he gave to Indian Bible College because it "was the right place to give" and is a "very vital thing to do." Robert spends his days talking to people about Christ in a small town in Texas.

### Expansion

When you think of a library, what comes to mind? You probably envision many things, but foremost is a place of learning. A library is a place that has the resources and the environment to stimulate your pursuit of knowledge. IBC's current library is small, 500 square feet, with room for one study desk and just 10,000 books.

Our recent journey towards accreditation highlighted the need to improve our library. We need more square feet, more resources, and more study places to help our growing student body succeed in their pursuit of knowledge. But there is good news . . . with the \$100,000 grant IBC received last year, we are working with local architects and the city of Flagstaff to design, and obtain a building permit for, a new 2500 square foot library.

This is only the first step. Next we will need to start actual construction and we will need your help! Stay tuned—more information is on its way in the next couple of months!

### Vocation

As part of IBC's work development program, students make products that are sold in Flagstaff stores, over the internet, and in local farmers' markets. Among the products are pen and ink Native drawings and rustic wooden signs (made in our new workshop on campus) which can be personalized. The products are sold under the name "Fifth Wind." Please support IBC and its students by purchasing Fifth Wind products. You can order them on the internet. Simply go to [etsy.com](http://etsy.com) and search for the shop called "5<sup>th</sup>Wind" (no spaces). John Childs, a support staff member at IBC, is the contact.

### Extension Studies

IBC is planning two more extension classes this semester: another class in Tuba City and a class at a new location on the Hopi Reservation. We have received requests for classes at other locations around Arizona. Please pray for enough available teachers to meet the growing interest in IBC extension studies.

In the past few years God has blessed IBC with increased giving. In 2011, 378 donors gave \$371,698. In 2016, God provided IBC 515 donors who gave \$735,729, an increase of \$364,031!

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

## Prayer & Praise

**PRAISE** the Lord for His leadership of IBC in the development of its Core Values (page 1).

**PRAY** that IBC would model and teach Unity in Christian Community.

**PRAISE** God for an increased enrollment of 22 full-time students (p. 2)!

**PRAY** for the five new full-time students.

**PRAISE** God for Candidate Status for accreditation (p. 3)!

**PRAY** for our pursuit of achieving initial accreditation in three years.

**PRAISE** the Lord for the increased generosity of God's people towards IBC in recent years (p.3 and insert).

**PRAY** for more of God's people to join the IBC support team, including through the Legacy Circle.

**PRAISE** God for growing interest in and impact through extension studies (p. 3).

**PRAY** for more teachers to join the IBC team so that we can see the program grow.

**PRAISE** God and **PRAY** for the alumni who are doing great things in ministry (insert).

## 60th Anniversary Celebrations!

The Indian Bible College is currently in its 59th year! Starting in fall 2017 we will begin celebrating our 60th anniversary through regional events with staff and students. More info to come.

## COMMENCEMENT Weekend!

Join us for the Student Ministry Showcase at 7 P.M. on May 19 and IBC commencement at

2:00P.M. on May 20. Both will be at FlagNaz Community Church, 3505 Soliere Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86004. Call the IBC office for more details.

