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Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona

The IBC Epistle



Working Ourselves Out of a Job...

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President



"I'll know God's done with me at IBC when He brings a Native man to replace me!"

I use these words frequently when talking about my plan for longevity and succession. As a White Anglo-American leading a school for Native Americans I am keenly aware of the limitations my ethnicity provides.

One of my greatest passions for the future of the IBC (shared by most of the non-Native staff and faculty) is to replace myself with a mature Native leader someday. Part of the legacy I would like to leave IBC is a wholly multi-cultural staff and faculty, with Anglos in the minority! To make that happen, there are at least two challenges that need to be faced:

- Funding—support-raising challenges are both economic (financial limitations—even poverty) and cultural (the assertiveness required to raise support is considered rude in many Native contexts).
- Training—in order to teach at an accredited Bible college, faculty need to have (or be pursuing) master's degrees. Recent statistics reveal 17% of Natives have bachelors degrees; imagine how many of those are believers and have a theological education!

In an effort to remedy these great challenges *it gives me great pleasure to announce the Native Staff Development Fund* (formerly known as the Greenfield Memorial Fund). This is an ongoing project to help with the funding, training, and education of Native staff. All donations to this fund will be used to eliminate the obstacles to service for future and existing Native staff.

This is an exciting time to share the opportunity to help fund and train Native staff, as we are seeing significant transition in this area. Helen Yazzie, who has served at IBC for 23 years, just fully retired in January (see article below). Ammie Palmer, 2015 Bachelor of Biblical Studies graduate, has just joined the staff, is serving bi-vocationally, and is in the process of raising her support. (See article on page 2.) Daniel Esplin (Director of Admissions) has achieved tremendous success in his support-raising efforts, but his wife, Coreen (Dean of Women), still needs a lot of prayer and assistance for her support.

Do you share my passion to see more Native staff and faculty at IBC? If so, please use the enclosed commitment card to respond as the Lord leads. I delight in our staff growth over the last years (it has doubled in size in two years), but unfortunately the percentage of *Native* staff is decreasing, as almost all eligible staff with the funding and education to begin immediately have been White. Your help in remedying this is greatly appreciated!

Special gratitude to all those who are supporting (or have supported) Native staff.

Native Staff Focus

Since January 1992 Helen Yazzie has been a fixture at IBC. Before phone numbers were stored in our cell phones, Helen was the resource for phone numbers! Chances are, if you met a Navajo or invited a Navajo speaker for chapel, they were related to Helen. Her vast knowledge of the Reservation and beyond have made her a valuable asset to the school. Helen's bold testimony is still bearing fruit as she recently led her roommate and family to the Lord at the facility where she is undergoing rehab following knee replacement surgery. Her fluency in the Navajo language, knowledge of IBC alumni, and acquaintance with area churches were always helpful to the school.

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Helen started out as Registrar for the school and eventually became Alumni and Church Relations Director. In January of this year she officially retired, though she continued to staff the front desk when she was able. Thank you, Helen, for 23 years of faithful service to Indian Bible College, and welcome Ammie!

You've met Ammie before in the student insert. She graduated from IBC in May and immediately joined the staff part time as Student Life Assistant. She discipless a group of freshmen girls and fills in as needed. She is also working part time at Sam's Club. You can find a video of Ammie's story on the IBC website at www.indianbible.org.

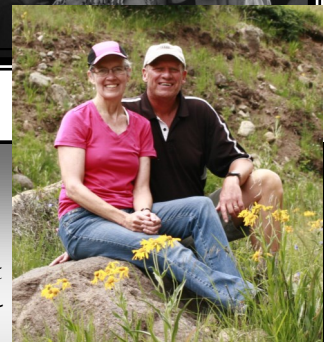
Ammie



IBC staff, August 2015

Director of Development Joins the IBC Team!

For years now our president, Jason, has been doing the jobs of several staff (president, academic dean, director of development). Praise God He sent an academic dean in fall of 2013. Now God has sent our first-ever director of development! Doug and Jan Hanson come to IBC with years of cross-cultural experience. For nine years they lived in Germany and then for 15 years they served at Christian Leaders' Training College (CLTC) in Papua, New Guinea, working with indigenous people. Jan was registrar and Doug worked in administration. Jan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Math Education and Masters in Computer Education; she is serving as our new registrar. Doug has a Bachelor of Arts in Math, a Masters in Business Administration, MDiv, ThM, and a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies. As director of development, Doug will be strengthening the donor base of IBC through phone calls and visits to our constituency, in addition to his other duties.



Summer Investments

By Hal Givens, Facilities Manager & Faculty

The summer months just seem to fly by! How did you spend your summer? Was your time invested wisely or did it just slip away? Have you ever thought of taking a week out of your summer to invest in service for the Lord?

Over 140 people on 7 different work teams from around the country did just that at IBC this summer. Teams from California, Washington, Indiana, Minnesota, and Arizona descended on the IBC campus turning it into a beehive of activity! They invested time (over 4500 hours of labor), sweat (though summers in Flagstaff tend to be quite pleasant) and finances (paying their own way and for most of the materials needed).



The end product was a dramatically transformed campus. The chapel underwent a major renovation. Two housing units received total make-overs. Concrete slabs were poured. Roofs were repaired. New rain guttering was installed. A storage shed was constructed. And colorful paint invaded many dingy corners of our campus.

But, the campus is not the only thing undergoing major changes. Many of our students are being dramatically transformed as they encounter the truth of God's Word through the influence of caring relationships. The work teams that partner with us help to make this possible. Their contribution of time, talent, and finances allow IBC to offer affordable education to our students. All of us here at IBC—administration, staff and students—are grateful for the contributions these work teams made this past summer.

Though much has been accomplished, there is still much more to be done. Would you like to invest a week of your summer to help us make an eternal difference in the lives of our students? If you would like to know more about bringing a work team to Flagstaff next summer, please use the contact information below and we'll explore what God might have in store for you and your team!

Hal Givens, Facilities Manager
Email: hgivens@indianbible.org
Office: (928) 774-3890
Cell: (928) 266-2721



IBC from the Perspective of a New Freshman

First off, IBC is super awesome and a bit uncomfortable~but it's all in a good way! When I gave my life to Jesus in 2010, I didn't know what to expect or what to do. All I knew was that I *desperately* needed something different, some positive change in my life. So far the journey has been awesome ...and...uncomfortable, but it's all good, because that's what I want. I want to grow and continuously work on my flaws and weaknesses and become the woman God created me to be! So at this point in my life, being here at IBC and experiencing the things I have already experienced, learning the things I've learned, it is something I never ever would have expected. Honestly, I never thought I would leave the comfort of my home on the beautiful Spokane Indian Reservation!

One thing is for sure, there is no hiding out or slipping through the cracks at IBC, which I completely appreciate! Most of my life I have been the type to suffer in silence and torment myself emotionally, but here at IBC it

is community-minded. The staff is friendly, caring, and welcoming. They are invested in the students' lives; they show concern, compassion and value to each student. I'd say most of my life relationships, friendships, sharing my pain and struggles, have been EXTREMELY uncomfortable for me, unless drugs and alcohol were involved. Since being at IBC, the thing I like best is the *healthy* relationships and friendships I am learning to have and appreciate and the trust that is being built so I can share my pain and struggles. All thanks to Jesus!

Most definitely, the process can be uncomfortable at times, but with the help and investment of the awesome staff, and all of what IBC stands for, it is exactly what I need and want in my life. Above all, I'm eternally thankful I trusted God enough to actually leave the comfort of my home to attend IBC. Difficult to do, but I'm here now, and I'm diggin' every moment of it! —Jamie



From the Perspective of a Resident Assistant (Sophomore)

IBC wouldn't be where it is without the time and sacrifice people have invested in bringing God's Word to Native Americans. They have seen the potential growth within the IBC community, not just for staff but for students. The staff at IBC make it their highest priority to ensure that we are not just about filled heads but also about changed lives. IBC is a place where staff and students can make the journey together. Everyone here differs in regard to ethnicity, culture, background, and past experiences, but each one shares a heart to serve the Lord.

The classes at IBC are challenging and interesting at the same time, but they provide a firm and focused working atmosphere. IBC is not just a college; it's one big family. We share our lives together, even our pain and shortcomings. Even more importantly, we enjoy each others' company with laughter and activities. We serve alongside one another during the good times and bad. Being a resident assistant has helped me grow closer to the men here at IBC, through leadership as a fellow student. My hope is that in the near future there would be Native leaders who will take this as an opportunity to begin their life journey with God and His creation. IBC is a place of learning, but on a deeper level, it is also a place of relationships. —James



And From the Student Body Vice-President

From a student leader's

perspective, I am grateful for the student life leaders and staff. They all play a tremendous role in a student leader's life, whether you are an assistant, resident assistant secretary, or president of the student body, they are there. As a young Native leader who is striving toward godly character, and even more, toward becoming a godly leader, they are there supporting, encouraging, and guiding you. Thank you, student life leaders and staff, for your prayers and for just being there for student leaders! —Christina



Indian Bible College of Northern Arizona

Southwestern School of Missions

PO Box 30880

Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0880

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US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 100
FLAGSTAFF, AZ

Electronic Service Requested

Phone: (928) 774-3890
Toll Free: (866) 503-7789
Fax: (928) 774-2655
Email: info@indianbible.org
www.indianbible.org

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Members of :



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Praise and Prayer Report:

Praise the Lord for a great start to the school year with an enthusiastic student body!

Pray for the many students working on applications for spring semester.

The size of the IBC staff has doubled in the last two years—**praise** the Lord for new staff! **Praise** Him for Native staff!

Pray for the Lord's provision for the Native Staff Development Fund.

Praise Him for all the facility improvements made by work teams this last summer.

Our accreditation self-study is due to the Association for Biblical Higher Education on November 1. **Pray** for our efforts to step into the candidacy stage in February 2017!

Praise the Lord for four years in a row that IBC has been fiscally "in the black"!

Pray for the Lord's continued provision for the payoff of "The Barn." The school still owes about \$148,000.

Commencement Weekend 2015



Make plans to join us May 20-21,
2016, for this year's commencement weekend!