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Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona



The IBC Epistle

From a Board Member's Perspective . . .

By Barry Eagle, Board Member

The focus on academic achievement is part of our lives to varying degrees throughout our lifetimes. We are required to attend school when we are young; then we have a choice after high school to continue into higher education. According to the 2005 US Census Bureau, close to 90% of adults over the age of 25 have at least a high school diploma or equivalent. In the same sample, the number who had a bachelor's degree was around 30%. Since I work in higher education, I am aware of these statistics.



Barry with his wife, Kim, and son, Gabriel

Serving on the board of Indian Bible College (IBC) has revealed something greater than simply academic achievement, namely preparation for serving God. Knowing a little of the history of IBC has allowed me also to trace exciting changes and plans for the future.

I have seen a commitment to God's work and calling in the lives of the current leadership team at the school. It is amazing to see such a strong team of staff and faculty who are relying on God's provision through His people in action! That alone is evidence of God's work, but to see Native people learning and preparing for a life of ministry is greater yet. One thing I am excited about is that the school has taken steps toward accreditation. This is something I am fully behind. It's about time IBC be recognized by a higher education accrediting board for the learning that happens here! This is a time-consuming process, but the staff has made the commitment to pursue it. I look forward to how this will benefit the students.

Though I did not receive my education at IBC, God has used the people of this school to impact my life. Mr. Robert Hardgrave, previous college president, dedicated me as a baby while he was serving in Los Angeles. Soon after my parents married they spent a summer in Flagstaff while my dad helped put a roof on one of the buildings at IBC. Then, Mr. Hardgrave dedicated my own son when we attended the same church here in Flagstaff.

By God's grace, Indian Bible College will continue to educate and disciple Native believers for lifetimes of ministry and spiritual leadership among their people and the world.

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare to her" (Proverbs 8:10-11).

Barry is Navajo and Lakota and grew up on the Navajo Reservation. He is employed in student housing at Northern Arizona University, is married, and has one son. Barry has served on the IBC Board since 2012, first as Advisor and now as a Director. He currently is Secretary of the Board.

From a Current Student's Perspective . . .

By Connie Thompson, Sophomore at IBC

IBC is a unique school, at least in my experience. I have been to other schools, including a Bible college, but IBC is a completely different experience. For hands-on experience with Native ministry, IBC is where it's at. For a place that truly believes in cultivating community, IBC is where you want to go. And if you want to see a school that is deeply committed to incarnational ministry—the way Jesus modeled it—look no further than IBC. The small campus and student body enable you to know not only your classmates but your instructors and even their families.

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Tyrell comes from Zuni, a small Pueblo nation in the northwest corner of New Mexico. He attended another Bible college in Illinois for a time but says he finds IBC is a great place to learn and grow. Please pray with Tyrell for those who are struggling with alcoholism. In addition to Tyrell, James has returned full time and Donna part time.

New and Returning Students



Roni & Marlin

Marlin Granger grew up with a variety of religious influences but after a short stint in jail was open to trying the evangelical church as well. Through the ministry of that local church Marlin came to trust in Christ, but only after he had married Veronica (Roni).

After realizing that her husband was probably not really born again, Roni faithfully prayed for Marlin's salvation. At the same time, she wasn't prepared for his subsequent desire to attend Bible college. God proved Himself faithful to provide for their needs as a family during the two years Marlin attended IBC. Today they are serving Him in Tuba City through facilitating a Bible study at the hospital where they are both employed, and through ministry in a local church.

Please pray that Marlin would be a godly leader in his home and community and that he and his family would be effective in reaching out to those around them.

It was February 24, 1981, when **Bill Sinclair** found his reason for living. Through the influence of an InterAct missionary, Bill, a Cree from Alberta, Canada, came to understand his need for the Savior. In January of 1991 he started a four-year degree at Indian Bible College (then Southwestern School of Missions), graduating in May 1994. It was here he met and married Lena, grew in understanding God's Word, and learned to share his faith without fear.



Lena & Bill

Bill says he has come full circle, from being addicted to alcohol to working with alcoholics, as he is currently doing at Christian Discipleship Center of Cortez, Colorado. He would like prayer for effectiveness, boldness, and peace as he and Lena teach.

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The biblical education I receive here is all the more impactful because my instructors are invested in me and my spiritual growth. IBC has helped me grow into a far more mature Christian than I would have been at a larger school. Previous schools offered great education but were so big that it was easy for students to fall through the cracks. However, IBC tries its best to care for students and exhort them. Their goal is to raise up leaders for tomorrow's church. Because of this emphasis on leadership training, I know I will finish with a great deal of hands-on knowledge that will help me in future ministry.



Connie serving

Other Alumni Prayer Requests:

Pray for Johannah Charley (featured in a previous newsletter) working with youth and taking her father's place in ministry to the elderly.

Pray for Wilford Bilagody filling in after the resignation of the pastor at the church where he trusted Christ. His wife is struggling with health problems as well. Pray for their patience and for God's will in her healing.

Coreen Esplin is serving as Dean of Women at IBC. Pray for wisdom and continued growth as she counsels and interacts with students daily.

Mary Lola Joe is ministering to her own people in Alaska and Sarah Peshlakai is attending the University of New Mexico. Pray for them.

Mending the Soul

By Anne Childs, Associate Staff with IBC, Pioneers missionary

There are profound implications to the fact that humans are divine image bearers, one being that Satan hates us and has targeted us for destruction. As the Deceiver, he attempts to lure us into believing lies about God, others, and ourselves. Abuse is one of the most powerful and vicious ways he accomplishes this.



John & Anne Childs

Because it attacks the core of who we are, abuse—whether physical, sexual, verbal, abandonment/neglect, or spiritual—is terribly destructive and has wide-ranging effects. Survivors of abuse often live with debilitating shame and anger, as well as feelings of emotional deadness and isolation. Many attempt to suppress painful memories for years because they have no idea how to heal from such trauma.

The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (1999) revealed that 79.8% of American Indian girls had experienced sexual abuse. Because Indian Bible College is committed to being biblical, relational, and transformational in its discipleship of students we recognize how vital it is that we help students grow into healthy relationships with God, others, and self. Mending the Soul is one way we are doing that.

Mending the Soul (MTS) is a journey of biblical healing from abuse. It occurs in the context of a small group using material written by Steven and Celestia Tracy. Under the guidance of a facilitator, the group works through a very personal process that enables each individual to recognize and reject unhealthy shame, begin to overcome emotional numbness, and to reclaim his or her original design—the God-given uniqueness and beauty long marred by abuse.

It is not an easy process; participants must be willing to look honestly at their past and invite God into that pain. One IBC student, Rebecca*, describes the process this way: “As a child I was never allowed to feel or express pain, anger or sadness over my abuse. This made it difficult to revisit my past and allow myself to feel those things.” Another student, Susan*, shared, “I didn’t know what was buried inside my heart until I took MTS.”

As participants find courage to face their brokenness and move toward healing, they begin to rebuild intimacy with God and others and find hope again. Susan continues, “It started with nights of crying, thinking the hurt was never going away, but eventually it did. After the storm passed, my future began to look optimistic.”

Our God is big enough to redeem even abuse. And, while the healing process doesn’t end when the MTS small group does, the look of hope on each participant’s face is testimony to the power of our great God. Rebecca concludes, “If it wasn’t for MTS and my support system I would have continued deceiving myself that I am okay. God has shown me how much I need him, how much I want him to heal me, and that he has been beside me all along waiting for me to realize it and to run into his open arms. Mending the Soul has made a big impact on my healing process and my walk with Christ.”

Our prayer is that God will use Mending the Soul as a powerful tool of healing in the lives of many IBC students and that they will then be equipped to lead others through the same healing process!

*Not their real names

Babies!!!



Congratulations are in order to students James and Hazel Alsum who welcomed a new baby girl into their family. On March 9, Skylar was born at 7 lbs 15 oz and 19 3/4” long. Lanora Bigman has taken a semester off to deliver her second child, due any time.

Graduation Weekend is May 15-16. Plan to attend if you are in the area! See the IBC web site for more information starting April 15.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Prayer and Praise Report:

Praise God for His work in and through the missions conference. The students and staff were encouraged, challenged, and informed.

Praise God for a great student body that is unified and spiritually growing.

Praise God for the provision of \$26,000 towards the pay-off of the mortgage on the "Barn" (new administrative building). The original loan of \$180,000 is down to \$153,900. Please continue to pray for the ability to pay the remainder off in just a few years!

Praise God for another great accreditation review in November. Pray as we develop the "self-study" document this summer that we might demonstrate our worthiness to step into the next phase in February 2017.

Join us on April 9th for a day of prayer and fasting for the recruitment of future IBC students. We are praying for the largest fall freshmen class ever (15-20)! For more info see the website.



Missions Conference March 2-5, 2015

Dr. Nabeel Jabbour was our featured speaker for the 2015 missions conference at IBC. Dr. Jabbour is an internationally recognized author and speaker on Islam and Muslim issues. Born in Syria and raised in Lebanon, Nabeel speaks Arabic as his first language. He and his wife lived in Egypt for 15 years before coming to Colorado Springs in 1991. He and his wife currently serve with Navigators.

Dr. Jabbour has written several books in English, including *The Crescent Through the Eyes of the Cross* and a book on the Muslim Brotherhood. He has also written several in Arabic.

His ministry at IBC was very well received by staff and students as well as visiting guests. He challenged us to see

Muslims as people for whom Jesus died, not to be afraid but to love them as Jesus does. For the first time ever we expanded our chapel space by using web cam in a nearby classroom to accommodate the overflow crowd.

