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Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona



The IBC Epistle

Progress Report on IBC's Four Initiatives

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President



For almost 60 years the Indian Bible College has been committed to training Native Christians for leadership of their own people. But after hundreds of years of missionary endeavors, the 586 registered tribes of the United States are all still very much a mission field. The Indian Bible College is committed to fulfilling its vision of seeing Native America cease to be a mission field and be mobilized as a missions force! In order for that to happen, however, we need trained and spiritually healthy Native leaders to lead healthy Native churches so that healthy Native missionaries can be sent into the global harvest.

IBC is having a deep influence in the lives of our students but we are currently not able to do enough to ultimately see our vision fulfilled. In order to see IBC's vision come to fruition, we must develop its four initiatives:

Accreditation—Young Native Americans desperately want and need what IBC has to offer but often cannot come without IBC being fully accredited. IBC's recent progress in accreditation (achieving candidate status in February of this year) is a monumental achievement, but we are still in process towards full accreditation! (However, see the sidebar for a significant prayer need.)

In regard to accreditation, IBC finds itself stuck in the middle of a conflict between state and federal regulations in reference to receiving funding for our students. Please pray that a quick and total resolution to this problem can be obtained.

Expansion—IBC currently maxes out at just 25 full-time on-campus students. At 25 students our chapel, classrooms, and housing are all full. But at just 25 full-time students we'll never train enough leaders to develop Native America into a missions force. So IBC has a vision to triple its capacity to 75 students. We will need a new chapel, more classrooms, and additional housing. Our first step is to build the new library, which will be the main focus of our spring newsletter in early 2018.

Vocation—The reservation system is a welfare state, which creates crippling dependency and entitlement. IBC is committed to helping Native Americans embrace their creation-design to be responsible and productive members of society. We do this through providing training in a theology of work, helping students get (and keep) part-time jobs, and training in entrepreneurial skills through our vocational program, Fifth Wind.

Extension—Bringing IBC classes to where Native people live—both reservation and urban settings—is one of the best ways to expand IBC's training. We currently have sites on the Navajo and Hopi reservations, but would like to be offering classes all over the Southwest!

IBC has a big vision, but we worship a bigger God! Be a part of the IBC team that is growing IBC's influence towards seeing Native America cease to be a mission field and become a missions force!

Congratulations to IBC's 2017 Bachelor Graduates!

On May 20, 2017, IBC graduated four students with their bachelors degree. They are all deeply committed to ministry and leadership. From left to right, Stephen Hunkup (Paiute and San Carlos Apache) is currently helping lead a youth ministry at a boarding school in Flagstaff. He hopes to work full time at a camp for Native youth where he has served for the past seven summers. Christina Tree (Navajo) is serving on weekends with her home youth group in Dennehotso on the Navajo Reservation. Efrain Aspa (Inca-Quechua) is pursuing further education at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana, seeking a master's in business. Fredricka Toledo (Navajo) is serving at Alaska Christian College as head of resident assistants, basketball coach, and counselor. Please make plans to join us for this school year's commencement on May 26, 2018.



Core Value #2: Relational Disciplemaking and Spiritual Mentoring

(This is the second in a five-part series introducing the IBC Core Values.)

Events don't usually effectively change lives; grace and truth flowing through relationship do (1 Thessalonians 2:8). It is nearly impossible to effectively teach obedience (Matthew 28:20) from a distance or in a crowd; it requires a trusting relationship. A healthy church needs individuals who are intentionally pouring their lives into those that are less mature for the sake of their growth in Christlikeness.

Jesus' command in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) was not to teach people to KNOW but to OBEY what He had commanded them. But we in the Church of Jesus Christ have often shied away from trying to teach obedience—we just teach knowledge. Teaching people to obey requires extra time and attention from the discipler, and it is much more difficult as it requires a personal relationship. Discipleship (the goal of the Great Commission) includes teaching but MUST also include a relationship. Relationally based ministry—where obedience is taught one-on-one or in a small group—is what Jesus modeled for us in the gospels. The disciples who were the most godly and had the most spiritual impact (Peter, James, and John) were those disciples Jesus shared his life with. He did teach in the large group setting but knew that most of His impact was in training leaders by sharing His life with them personally.

If the ultimate goal of our lives is to be made into the image of Christ Jesus (Romans 8:29), then churches, ministries, and Bible colleges should be places of changed lives, not just filled heads. At Indian Bible College we believe discipleship that pursues spiritual transformation can be done in the coffee shop, the office or living room, and in the classroom. The classroom discipleship will be structured and formal; the outside discipleship will be informal and relational. **In all settings we are after changed lives, not just filled heads.**

Here are some statements about this core value from our recent bachelor graduates (pictured on the front):

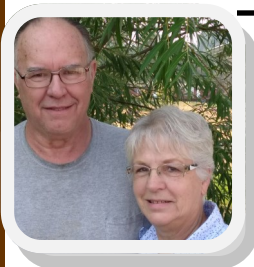
The time, energy, pain, joys the staff have invested into each student is something you don't get anywhere else. This is how the church should be everywhere . . . I now understand why relational disciple-making and spiritual mentoring are so difficult to do in the church. . . Dealing with matters of the heart is messy for both sides and is a process which takes a long time to develop. The way IBC has modeled this will help me immensely in my future ministry with Broken Arrow as I disciple young men . . . —Stephen Hunkup

As Native people, we are social and relational . . . but we fail to be relational on a deeper level in the church. I believe, once we allow ourselves to be open and honest, we could implement relational disciplemaking and spiritual mentoring in the church, and a real revival of spiritual growth will take place. This is a deep longing and burden the Lord has placed on my heart to take back with me in Dennehotso. —Christina Tree

We think a week of conference will make disciples; filling heads with a massive amount of information will somehow make disciples. We miss the point of how we could make disciples effectively. Disciple-making does not occur overnight, but is a process that does not have a deadline. Disciple-making is taking a believer under our wings and eating with them, learning with them, training them, and if it is possible, living with them. When disciple-making we must be open, transparent, honest, loving, graceful, forgiving, and model all these good and positive characteristics. —Efrain Aspa

Churches need people who are spiritually mature to equip people and help them grow closer to Christ. I am grateful that IBC has this emphasis because it has helped to direct me into a healthy walk with the Lord. I want to use this in my personal life to build trust wherever I go. I see this as a great way to disciple others and to help in the church wherever the Lord leads me. —Fredricka Toledo

IBC has a variety of additional information on this value, including a 4 ½ minute video, at www.indianbible.org/core-values.



Legacy Circle Testimony

By Lonnie & Laverne Brotnov (Lonnie served as Business Administrator from 2004 to 2007.)

Little did we know in 1999 we would start a dedicated relationship with Indian Bible College. We joined the first short-term mission group to IBC from our church in Newberg, Oregon, followed by several years of project trips. Then in 2004 God directed us to

IBC ministry full time as Business Manager. Our passion for the ministry continued to grow over the years. We watched students grow and mature spiritually and develop the self-confidence to take the Good News to their family, friends and tribes.

As our lives transitioned into retirement, we knew it was important to include IBC in our legacy. The transformational change in lives through biblical and relational principles that drives IBC is the core of our belief through Jesus Christ. We encourage you to include Indian Bible College in your estate plan as well!

IBC thanks the **Willingham Family Foundation** for their grant of \$30,000 which will be used toward construction of the new library.

Celebrating More New Staff!

By Jan Hanson, Registrar

Indian Bible College is excited about officially welcoming two new support staff members to the IBC family! With a background in campus safety and law enforcement, Harrison Gunter, long-time resident of Indiana, brings with him a passion for campus safety. Harrison works full time at Moody Bible Institute but will be flying out to Arizona a few times each year to help IBC.

Having already made four trips out in the last thirteen months, Harrison has made IBC a safer campus by addressing deficiencies. He reports, "Some campus safety steps that we have already implemented are the hiring of two campus safety officers, a written lock/unlock policy, some new door lock hardware and some safety suggestions for Fifth Wind. I also made contact with the Chief of Flagstaff Police and he has added IBC to their school list, which will help in emergency notifica-

tions. I made contact with the Chief of Coconino Community College and he is willing to train our officers and provide additional assistance." Thanks to Harrison, IBC students and staff are feeling safer on campus.

After hearing President Jason Koppen speak at church, new staff member, Wade Adakai (Navajo, Window Rock, AZ), became excited about the ministry of IBC. A college graduate himself, Wade recognized the purpose and necessity for training Native Christians to reach and serve their own people. Wade was impressed by IBC's focus on community. "Being educated in a conventional western format taught me knowledge, but it did not teach me wisdom. My schools



Harrison Gunter with Flagstaff Police Chief

taught me to fend for myself, but not to walk with my peers as brothers and sisters in Christ. It taught me to win an argument, but not to resolve conflict. In this case, I am not only a staff member leading students, but I myself am growing with them." Interning last year and coming on full time this year, Wade brings to IBC a passion for philosophy and the-

ology as well as expertise in music, pho-



Wade Adakai

tography, and videography. This year Wade is co-teaching Introduction to Philosophy, co-leading IBC's Life Coaching program, serving as the men's dorm Resident Director, AND attending Phoenix Seminary studying for his Master of Arts in Bible and Theology.

Contributing to Campus and Community

By Hal Givens, Volunteer Coordinator



Once again this summer Indian Bible College hosted several work teams from around the country. Teams from California, Indiana and Arizona descended on campus and turned it into a beehive of activity! About 80 volunteers contributed over 3000 hours of labor and about \$4500 in donated materials to improve the

facilities of IBC. Repaired sewer lines, a remodeled trailer, a repaired roof, interior and exterior painting, and shampooed carpets are a sampling of the work that was done by volunteers this summer.

The result of all this effort is a beautified campus which benefits our students, communicates the love of Christ through selfless efforts of our volunteers and helps transform the neighborhood. In a recent visit to IBC, the mayor of Flagstaff remarked about the impressive facilities we have! This contribution to our community would not be possible without the help of many committed volunteers.

Though much has been accomplished there is still much more to be done. We hope to begin construction on our new library in the spring. This alone will take a significant number of volunteers to complete. In the meantime, we cannot neglect our older facilities. Would you be willing to contribute a week of your summer to help make a difference in the lives of our students and our community? 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!

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Members of :



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Come celebrate with us!

IBC began in October 1958 when four Navajo men met with Gordon Fraser to study the Bible around his kitchen table. Since that time, IBC has grown to be an accredited, four-year Bible college, serving Natives from North and South America. Help us celebrate sixty years of God's faithfulness to IBC! Over the next two years we will be holding banquets around the country to celebrate the past, present, and future of IBC.

Please join us at one of our scheduled banquets:

- Fall 2017: Flagstaff, AZ (Nov. 10)
- Spring 2018: Sun City, AZ (Feb. 3), Sacramento, CA (April 6), Portland, OR (April 7), Seattle, WA (April 9), Spokane, WA (April 12), Nampa, ID (April 14)
- Fall 2018: Beaumont, CA (TBD), Indiana (TBD)
- Spring 2019: Maryland (TBD), Massachusetts (TBD).

Contact Pam Givens, pgivens@indianbible.org
for more information or call (928) 774-3890.

Praise & Prayer

Praise God for four bachelor graduates that are all serving the Lord so fully in ministry! **Pray** for Stephen, Christina, Efrain, and Fredricka (page 1).

Praise God for great progress on our four initiatives. **Pray** for the Lord to clear the way for student scholarship funding from tribal entities (see sidebar, page 1).

Praise God for a staff so fully committed to seeing lives changed through personal discipling! **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would continue to change the hearts of our students to more and more be the people they are created and called to be in Christ Jesus (page 2).

Praise God for Legacy Circle donors like the Brotnovs! **Pray** for more partners to include IBC in their estate planning (page 2).

Praise God for more new staff! **Pray** for Harrison and Wade in their new roles (page 3).

Praise God for all the volunteers who came to maintain and improve IBC's campus! **Pray** for more churches and individuals to "join the team" in this way, especially as we prepare for the new library project (page 3).

Praise God for 60 years of ministry to Native Americans! **Pray** for more churches and individuals to "join the team" as financial partners as a result of our celebration banquets (page 4).