

IBC exists to disciple and educate indigenous Native Christians for lifetimes of biblical ministry and spiritual leadership to their people and the world.

Spring 2014 Edition

Remembering 55 Years of IBC



Volume 21, Issue 1

Spring 2014

Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona



The IBC Epistle

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago (Psalm 77:11).

The Indian Bible College began as Southwestern School of Missions in 1958; this spring we will conclude our 55th year! Serving in a ministry with such a legacy is truly a privilege. IBC has 147 graduates from 45 different tribes. The school has had more than 200 staff and faculty (including adjunct and full-time) and thousands of volunteers serve its students over the years. It currently has hundreds of donors and thousands of prayer partners! It takes a small army to run a small Bible college like IBC . . . so think of the large army it has taken to operate and fund IBC over the years! [Note: for a comprehensive copy of our history, contact Editor Martha Gushee at (928) 774-3890 or mgushee@indianbible.org.]

In my recent travels on behalf of the school I have had the privilege of spending time with several individuals who knew our fearless founder, Gordon Fraser, or the beloved absent-minded professor, John Greenfield, and so many others. It is always a treat to hear the stories of those who helped establish the legacy that is IBC!

Please join us to celebrate and re-connect! Consider joining us for the following celebration events in May:

Thursday evening, May 8—55th Anniversary Reunion Dinner for alumni and current students, past and present staff, supporters and prayer partners.

Friday evening, May 9—Student Ministry Showcase with student-led music, art, drama, and various other ministry methods.

Saturday afternoon, May 10—Graduate lunch & Commencement. There were 160 people in attendance at last year's commencement service—come join the celebration!

Additional details will be on the website by April 1. If you are not able to attend in person but would like to be "present" at the events via the internet, contact the school.

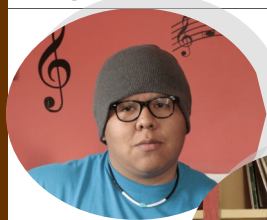


IBC Begins Accreditation Process!

On February 21, 2013, the Indian Bible College received notice from the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) that we had been granted approval of "applicant status"! The feedback we received is that IBC is more ready for the pursuit of accreditation than most schools at our stage.

For over 20 years, IBC has been preparing for the pursuit of accreditation, led by servants like Jerry Yonnie, Ben Yazzie, and Richard Standley. The fruit of their efforts is close at hand! IBC has been pre-approved to move forward with an accelerated timeline of three years through the first phase (instead of the normal four to five years).

The addition of our two newest full-time staff, Academic Dean Kevin Newman and Librarian Barbara Berreman, has been particularly helpful in proving our readiness to ABHE. For more information on accreditation go to www.abhe.org. The Indian Bible College holds applicant status with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 130, Orlando, FL 32822; 407.207.0808). Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to those institutions that meet the ABHE Conditions of Eligibility and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate status within five years.



Rodrigo (Rico) Chissay is White Mountain Apache from White River, AZ. His prayer requests are that he would be a good manager of his time, be able to find a job, and have a heart of worship in every area of his life.

Three New Students at IBC



Caitlin Defoe is Ojibwe (Chippewa) from Red Lake, MN. She would like prayer that she will pass all her classes, that she wouldn't get homesick, and that God would use whatever happens at IBC to bring her closer to Him.



Joshua Ortiz is San Juan Pueblo and Navajo from Leupp, AZ. He would like prayer for his family and that he would be a good student. Joshua began as a part-time student in the fall.

Encouraging Student Creativity!!



We have continued to explore various methods by which to encourage student creativity that honors the Lord. Now that the administrative offices have moved to a separate facility ("The Barn"), the open area in the old administrative building is available for a long-awaited student lounge. What better way to encourage student ownership than to allow them to paint the walls! You can see the fantastic results in the photos to the right! One student commented that this opportunity was a fitting expression of our emphasis on relationship as it allowed small groups of students to work together. At the same time it provided for variety as representative of the diverse student body.



Another way students are expressing themselves is through the Creative Ministry classes—week-long courses on a variety of topics. Participants in the creative writing segment exhibited amazing word-smithing skills. Story-telling gave students tools for using Bible stories as catalysts for deeper thinking about biblical truths. Media ministry allowed students to express their creativity through original short films. Sketchboard training equipped students to share the gospel through drawing and illustrative illusions. The only complaint? Classes were too short!

Another avenue for creativity has been the Thursday Night Lights, a weekly activity night for student socials, life-skills training, and fun. Some of the favorite activities this semester have been cooking, sewing (the guys loved it!), frybread making, a basketball tournament, and furniture restoration.

Every Thursday last semester and now this current semester a member or

Thursday Lunch a Big Hit with Students



group from the Flagstaff community has generously provided a meal for the entire school. The students probably look forward to this more than any other activity all week. One student commented that it made him feel valued that someone from the community would go to all that effort and expense for his sake. If you would like to help provide a Thursday lunch (or Tuesday would be great too!), contact Barbara at (928) 774-3890.

Alumni Focus

Daniel Esplin

In 1982, Daniel Esplin was born as the second son of a Navajo couple living on the northwest side of the Reservation. When Daniel was ten his father left the family. From then on his mother raised her three boys as a single mom. Later Daniel understood that God would use such difficulty to bring about ultimate good.

Music kept him involved in church, but he wasn't born again until the summer of 2001 while attending a camp meeting in California. He grew up hearing the gospel and even played in a band for church but wasn't ready to surrender to Jesus until that day. After a lawless semester at Northern Arizona University (NAU), he dropped out and was ready to listen.

Shortly after dropping out of NAU in 2001, Daniel started Bible college at IBC. That first week in school was a little rough. One of the other students noticed he was using a Bible from the library so bought him one of his own. The registrar helped him get to class on time, but Daniel began learning to discipline himself. He was known for his polite demeanor and respectful attitude.

While attending IBC Daniel worked part time as a youth pastor at his home church. After graduating in 2005, he worked full time with the church. In 2006 Richard Standley, then President of IBC, invited Daniel to come as IBC's first admissions counselor. After a few weeks of training at Brewton-Parker College in Georgia, Daniel started developing the role of admissions counselor. In the fall of 2006 there were seven students enrolled full time at IBC. Currently in the 2013-2014 school year 29 full-time students are enrolled.

In 2011 Daniel married Coreen Peters who with her twin girls, had come from New York to study at IBC. Coreen graduated in 2013 and has been serving as part-time registrar since 2010.

Daniel still sees himself as a learner. He continues to recruit, lead a traveling music team composed of current students, mentor a group of men, and facilitate a course on Native masculinity. Pray for his continued growth in understanding what it means to be a godly man—a man after God's own heart. Pray that he would apply what he learns to being a husband, father, and mentor. Pray also that God would supply his full financial support by 2015 as he continues to seek additional partners in ministry.



Coreen and Daniel Esplin

Jimmy Francisco

In 1991, Jimmy Francisco graduated from IBC, accompanied by his brother, Herbert, and friend, Robert Dayzie. It had been a long road for Jimmy. Born in Zuni, New Mexico, as the third oldest of ten children (one of whom died as an infant), he grew up in one of the most traditional areas of the Navajo Reservation. Navajo was Jimmy's first language. Jimmy trusted Christ around age 12 but struggled with alcohol for a number of years.



Around 1983 Jimmy met and married a young widow with two young children. God blessed their home with an additional four children. Several years after their marriage they decided to follow their pastor, Jerry Yonnie, to Indian Bible College where Jerry had accepted the presidency.

After graduation from IBC Jimmy and Nevey spent three years ministering at a small church in Defiance, New Mexico, near Gallup. Then they moved back to their home area for about 14 years, where Jimmy pastored Oakview Bible Church. In 2012 they returned to Defiance and continue to minister at the church there under the sponsorship of Village Missions. Currently Jimmy is pastor there, preaching in Navajo. He asks that we pray for wisdom and knowledge for himself and his wife as they age gracefully. Both are struggling with some health problems.

Leo Bird

After watching the change in his home town near the capital of the Cherokee Nation, Leo came to believe that God can transform any town on earth.



Leo (on right) with Jacob G.

Leo's mother came to Jesus first. From there the message of Jesus began to permeate the family and the community. Leo was about 15 when he trusted the Lord. He first heard about IBC when he took a trip to Alaska as part of a ministry team called On Eagle's Wings (OEW), sponsored by Ron Hutchcraft Ministries. As a result of that experience, Leo became interested in attending Bible school. He graduated in 2004.

After finishing at IBC Leo headed home for about a year. He served as interim pastor in South Dakota among the Lakota, then returned home again for a time. About four years ago he started helping out with Mokahum Center for Indian Ministries located near Bemidji, Minnesota. They offer a one-year discipleship training or three-year ministry program for Native Americans. He and his brother, Jim, are also helping reopen a Chippewa (Ojibwe) church in the Cass Lake area.

Pray for safety in travel as Leo frequently travels around the country and that Leo would continue to be used of the Lord among Native people.

Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona

Southwestern School of Missions

PO Box 30880

Flagstaff, AZ 86003-0880

NONPROFIT
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

The **IBC Epistle** is published two times per year by The Indian Bible College.
Newsletter Editor: Martha Gushee

Members of :



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

Praise and Prayer:

- ◆ Praise God for 55 years of IBC's training Native American ministers and leaders! Please pray that we will continue to be faithful and effective in seeing Native men and women transformed by the Holy Spirit into capable evangelists, disciplinarians, and leaders.
- ◆ Praise God for His favor in entering the accreditation process! Please pray that the IBC staff will be focused and diligent to enable completion of the applicant phase in three years.
- ◆ Praise God for a continued packed campus (especially classrooms, chapel, and housing) of spiritually growing students. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom and provision as we consider the many options for expansion of our campus to hold twice our current capacity.
- ◆ Praise God for the growth of our new extension program (called the "Christian Ministry Certificate"). Please pray that the Lord will draw many men and women to take advantage of IBC's online and extension site offerings.



Did You Know?

A study of recent graduates (2000-2013) from IBC's Associates and Bachelors programs found that 82% are fully devoting their lives to ministry! What an amazing result! That's significantly above the national average for Bible colleges!!

Please prayerfully consider partnering with IBC through financial support, volunteering your time (it's not too late to plan a summer work team), and remembering IBC in your estate planning.