



As of mid-June, IBC is transitioning from RELIEF into the RECOVERY phase, where we partner with other leaders and organizations to address the effects of the COVID-crisis. With the Navajo Nation now receiving



\$600 million from the federal government (and Hopi receiving \$2.4 million, etc.), they will soon have all the resources they need to meet their own peoples' material needs. We need to gradually phase out our relief supplies and transition into supporting local church leaders. We are developing an intentional strategy to invest in ongoing support for the Native leaders dealing with the aftermath of COVID-19, including video training via DVD, a church leaders retreat on IBC's campus this summer, chaplaincy training, etc.



VIRTUAL HOPE TEAM

Additionally, with the number of people who have died (including at least 22 church leaders on the Navajo Reservation) and most of the summer ministries to Native people being cancelled (including Broken Arrow Bible Ranch and On Eagle's Wings), the crisis of trauma and suicide among Native youth is likely to reach epidemic proportions. Since 60% of our student body is on campus this summer, IBC is developing a "Virtual Hope Center" that our students are operating online during June and July to disciple and encourage Native youth, many of whom were struggling with abuse and trauma before the COVID-crisis and are threatened even more under its effects. All our current fundraising efforts are focused on the costs related

to helping the Native church increase its influence during this important season of recovery. **Thank you for praying with us for the heartaches on Native American reservations. We greatly rejoice that the Native church is stepping forward to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" like never before!**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

These are certainly challenging times! Please consider partnering with IBC in these ways:

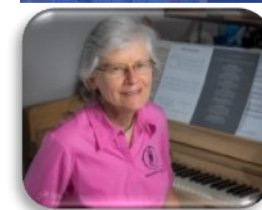
PRAY: Due to COVID-19 there is a greater Christian leadership void in Native communities than ever before, and IBC graduates are necessary more than ever before. Pray that the Lord calls more dedicated students to IBC than ever before. And pray for protection from the attacks of the enemy, both spiritual protection (upon students, from division from ministry partners, etc.) and physical (from a COVID-19 outbreak).

FOLLOW: IBC's social media presence is stronger than ever. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. You can even watch the Virtual Hope Team's livestreams on Monday nights! Email us at president@indianbible.org if you'd like to be on the President's monthly email prayer update list.

SHARE: Help spread the word about IBC! Tell your friends, family, and church about the important ministry being done here. As a non-denominational ministry we rely on "grass roots" communication—so please help us out by telling others about IBC or by sharing our social media posts.

GIVE: Consider giving to IBC's scholarship fund to help students get the training they need to be the leaders their people need. Or you can give to IBC's expansion fund to help grow our campus so we can train more students on site. Donations can be sent to Indian Bible College; PO Box 30880; Flagstaff, AZ 86004 or online at <https://www.indianbible.org/invest/>.

Thank you for partnering with us as the Lord leads. May we all continue to see His goodness and glory manifest among the nations in these challenging times!



IBC and the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Martha R. Gushee, Associate Professor of Music and Missions

Everything seemed fairly normal until the beginning of March. There were the typical struggles and signs of fatigue from students as we neared midterms. It had been a particularly long stretch, since most of the students arrived on campus two weeks early to take two block courses. And then there were rumblings about some new virus traversing the globe . . .

I was working on our spring newsletter when President Jason renewed contact, easing off his months'-long sabbatical. The deadline for printing loomed ever closer as we reworked various articles. Finally the newsletter was fully approved and sent to the printer. It was printed within a few days, but life had drastically changed in the meantime.

The news broadcasts were swiftly becoming preoccupied with this new virus. Out of nowhere, it seemed, people were becoming ill, and a few were dying. Around us schools and businesses panicked. Every day there were new restrictions from the Center for Disease Control and the Arizona State governor. Suddenly our lives were completely upended. Meanwhile, the newsletter was printed, tabbed, and labeled. We proceeded with mailing on March 23, knowing the likelihood of having our celebration weekend, as the invitation on the back stated, was growing slimmer by the minute. The newsletter made no mention of COVID-19 and no indication of decisions that were being made in regard to the school.

Just a few days earlier, on March 19, it was announced in chapel that the board and administration of IBC had determined that we must halt in-person classes immediately. The Ministry Immersion Trip was cancelled. Colleges and universities across the country had already shut down, closing their dorms and sending their students home. Most were on spring break, but we still had one full week of classes to go before the planned break for the ministry trip, followed by a second week for spring break. I felt a sense of disbelief coupled with relief and uneasiness at the uncertainty of life. It was good to know some decisions had been made that addressed the increasing turmoil roiling around us, but unbelievable that we would interrupt classes. We did not, however, send everyone home. Students were given the option of remaining on campus rather than potentially being exposed to the virus or exposing their families. Most staff and faculty were given the option of working from





IBC and the COVID-19 Pandemic (Continued)

home, and those in high-risk categories were encouraged to do so. The Student Life staff committed to remaining on campus during somewhat reduced work hours in order to provide support for students staying on campus.



All but a few students initially chose to remain on campus. Gradually others headed home, over the course of the next five weeks, until the number on campus stabilized at fifteen of the twenty-three full-time students. Classes resumed on April 13 using a virtual format. We maintained the normal schedule and invited students to attend “meetings” (classes) using the Google Hangout Meet format. My Personal Finance class of five was attended by students in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Arizona. Amazingly enough, they came to class on time, when technology allowed, even those three time zones away!

IBC’s brand is: Biblical, Relational, and Transformational. Going online posed unique challenges in the “relational” aspect for both staff and students. While students are more used to spending time in the virtual world, some of us on staff are not terribly comfortable with that type of engagement. The first time I taught the three-hour night class I felt like a total failure. I had lost so much of the give and take, ability to read the students’ faces, and ease of feedback that is inherent in face-to-face interaction. The students also struggled with the lack of personal interaction with the instructor and each other. They were faithful in “attendance” but less engaged in the virtual classroom than they would have been in person. The students extended a lot of grace, however, to both instructors and each other as we adjusted to the new norm.

Several weeks ago, as we processed this unexpected twist in the semester, it was reassuring to hear how students felt cared for. Kelly shared how she felt IBC cared for them *by allowing us to process and providing for us spiritually, emotionally, or even physically with food and donations*. Will explained, [IBC was] *encouraging through this dark season that we were all going through. I was thankful that they didn’t shut down the dorm*. Another student said, *I know that, not just for me, but for some other students as well, that struggled with going home, especially like in toxic environments; I was thankful IBC was willing to keep the dorms open for all of us*. Another student shared the blessing it was to have a job on campus. Several others expressed appreciation for how going online made them feel safe. Terrence put it this way: [IBC made him feel cared for because] *they kept us educated while COVID was happening*.

Whatever Satan intends for evil God turns into good, and so He has in this pandemic as it relates to IBC. Before this past semester many of us had no clue how to teach a class online. Now we can say we have experience in doing so. Having to go online forced us to think outside the box in terms of chapels, class presentations, and commencement. One of the best new things we developed was streaming our in-person commencement online and then posting it. (And, by the way, it is still available online if you haven’t had opportunity to watch it at: https://youtu.be/sIL3At8_kPU). Many people felt it was a highlight to hear from the graduating students in place of a commencement speaker. And allowing the graduates’ mentor to present the diploma was much more meaningful than having someone who had no relationship with the student. Typically we have had mentors present words of affirmation at a graduate luncheon, but we felt this was even more significant and certainly reached a much larger audience at commencement. While the pandemic continues to upend our world, God continues to work in and through it for His glory. We give thanks to God for faithful supporters like you who give without letting up, pray without ceasing, and participate with us without drawing back.



Report on the Indian Bible College’s COVID Relief and Recovery Efforts



by Dr. Jason Koppen, President

The COVID-19 crisis on the reservations in the Southwest, such as the Navajo, Hopi, and White Mountain Apache, is truly tragic. The Lord has called the Indian Bible College into full engagement with COVID relief efforts on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. IBC cancelled its Ministry Immersion Trip (MIT) to the White Mountain Apache Reservation in March due to COVID restrictions. But, the students had already raised \$3,850 for their ministry trip. The money was just sitting there until April when an IBC financial supporter offered to match those funds to help launch us into the relief efforts, and “MIT 2.0” was born! We’ve already raised thousands more. Total gifts and pledges now exceed \$21,000! Our very simple fundraising approach is here: <https://www.indianbible.org/invest/>.



Our relief efforts have helped provide both supplies and people power:

Funding necessary supplies—including handmade soaps (made by students as part of Fifth Wind’s entrepreneurial work training), re-usable fabric masks (made by supporters and friends of the school), and small sanitizer bottles. At this point, we have distributed over 1,380 soaps, 800 masks, and 300 16-ounce sanitizer bottles. We plan to provide at least 1000 more soaps and hundreds more masks and sanitizer. Staff member and graduate, Joshua Ortiz, (Navajo/Pueblo) is overseeing the soap production as part of Fifth Wind.

People power for relief efforts—over half our student body is staying on campus for the summer, so we are mobilizing students and staff (after signing liability release forms and committing to wearing masks and to practicing social distancing) to help with two primary efforts throughout the summer:

- ◆ the **Navajo Nation Christian Response Team**—in partnership with the Navajo Nation Office of the President. Students and staff members helped unload delivery trucks, pack boxes, and load trailers for delivery to the Reservation. This effort is now completed, and, in its place, we are directing our efforts to four other smaller Southwest tribes.
- ◆ the **Navajo & Hopi Elder Support Project**—in partnership with Redemption Church of Flagstaff. As far as we know, this is the ONLY Christian relief effort helping the Hopi. The challenges on the Hopi Reservation are very different from the Navajo, which in some ways makes relief efforts even more difficult. IBC is currently housing all the efforts, using the former library and former chapel to store supplies for packing. Since classes moved online, much of the campus was unused during our final term. Supplies were moved onto campus in April, and we’ve had multiple staff and students helping throughout the week with inventory, unloading, packing, and loading.

