



## Why I Believe in Indian Bible College

By Dr. David Smith, IBC Board President  
*(Retired college president; current pastor Quannah First Baptist Church, Quannah, Texas)*

IBC ministers in unique ways to educate, inspire, heal and train students. I am thrilled to be associated with something so successful in transforming human lives. Let me tell you why.

Indian Bible College offers a curriculum that helps rebuild broken people. Native Americans who come to IBC can find restoration by pilgrimages through Mending the Soul and into deep discipleship with compassionate mentors. No one could complete the course of study at IBC without being positively changed. It is imperative that some of our students confront such an intense and personal program of study.



David and Jackie Smith

Indian Bible College offers a family that brings faith, hope and love to all who will accept it. There are multiple “gospels” being taught and preached to Native Americans today, but only one offers a life of hope enriched through faith and immersed in the deepest love that God and His followers can offer. That is Christ’s Good News. At IBC, staff raise their own support to work with the special and gifted students God leads to the college. They are front-line warriors in the army of God. They “fight” for the souls, the well-being, and the healing of the precious students entrusted to them.

Indian Bible College offers a way out and a way up. The academic program weaves practical workplace skills with deep academic understanding. The faculty and staff, under God’s guiding hand, build strong men and women of faith that our Savior can lead into happy homes and wonderful opportunities to serve and lead.

I believe in all of American higher education there is nothing like Indian Bible College. It is indeed worthy of our prayers, our financial support and our physical and social efforts to make it better. Join me, please, in making Indian Bible College an even better place.



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**Indian Bible College**

of Northern Arizona

The IBC Epistle

## Becoming a Voice for the Voiceless

By Martha Gushee

“The conference deeply impacted me because of the similarities between deaf people and Native people. Both groups are isolated, unreached, invisible, unacknowledged, and disengaged from the surrounding society. Deaf people have their own language within another language and only associate with those who share that. That’s how we are. It was also humbling knowing the sacrifices the Sextons made. It made me aware of future sacrifices I may need to make as well.”—Kyon Yazzie

(Junior)

“A Voice for the Voiceless’ impacted me in a way that I never thought possible. The speakers shared about their diverse ministries, and how God has not only changed their lives but the lives around them through them. God is on the move, and will not stop!” —Felicia Tillequots-Umtuch (Junior).

The theme of our February 10-13 missions conference was taken from Proverbs 31:8 where King Lemuel was advised to be a voice for those who had no voice. Our main speakers were Mike and Sherri Sexton (see photo above left) with Pioneers, working in Mexico among the deaf. Several other students talked about how they never realized how good they have it until they heard about some of the “least of these” who never have opportunity to hear the gospel in a language they can understand.

During the conference we also hosted Preview Days. Director of Admissions, Daniel Esplin, is pictured at left with the three prospective students who attended.

## Serving our Alumni-The Extended IBC Family

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

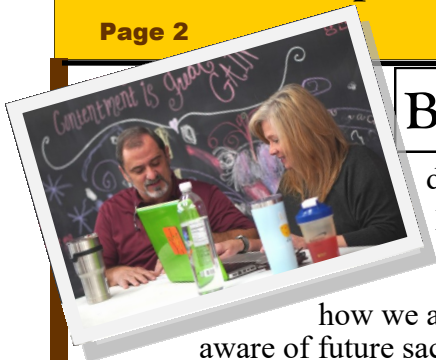
In the spring newsletter we usually focus on sharing the stories and prayer requests of our alumni. This year, we are going to focus on some recent developments that have helped us become even more effective at serving our graduates and former students:

- Long-time staff member (and newsletter editor), Martha Gushee, is now serving as our Alumni Director. Martha has served at IBC for over 27 years (almost half of IBC’s 61 years), and has a personal relationship with most of our alumni who are active in ministry.

- Roger Scarbro, Executive Director of American Indian Mission, Inc. (<https://www.aimisw.com/>), will be providing field support to alumni serving in ministry. Roger has almost 30 years of Native ministry service on multiple reservations and is offering mentoring, church development coaching, and coaching in ministry funding procurement for any alumni who need these services.

- For evaluation and accreditation purposes, IBC has recently begun tracking the ministry engagement of students who have earned associate’s and/or bachelor’s degrees since 2001. We praise God that 83% of these graduates are fully engaged in ministry (whether paid or volunteer). In addition, 50% of our graduates are compensated in ministry in some capacity (part-time or full-time).

Please continue to pray for IBC alumni (see article on next page), but also for Martha and Roger as they provide increased support for these important laborers in God’s harvest fields.



Roger & his wife, Kathy, in Prague, Czech Republic





## Update on Fifth Wind



The following article is by Joshua Ortiz, 2018 BBS graduate and current Director of Fifth Wind. He is pictured on the left working on a sign. Fifth Wind is IBC's workshop that produces signs, soaps, and luminarias for sale.

and how the future of Fifth

Wind will affect them. Business for them has been a blessing, but it has also been challenging.

Several years ago Jason Koppen asked if I would be interested in overseeing Fifth Wind. With authority comes careful, persistent responsibility. I was excited, yet terrified, and knew, from that day on, I had a lot to learn about business.

In an effort to be responsible overseers, we are currently pursuing the development of a Fifth Wind website! This would enable potential customers and partners to have quick and easy access to what we are doing, as well as opportunity to place orders for our products.

In learning about business, I have begun learning about management, and what that looks like for IBC students. The students are excited about what is coming



Please pray with us for IBC/Fifth Wind.

## IBC Receives National Certification as a Service Enterprise

By Josh Copley, Volunteer Coordinator

In the previous spring newsletter we shared that a team from IBC attended training sessions on volunteerism, sponsored by the Civic Service Institute at NAU on behalf of the Arizona Governor's Office for Youth, Faith, and Family. We are happy to announce that IBC is the first organization to receive national certification as a service enterprise. We hosted a celebration at the new Student Center on Wednesday, February 19.



Josh & Karen Copley

IBC has a legacy and culture of volunteerism that has permeated our fabric for many years. Words cannot fully express the gratitude and appreciation we have for our many volunteers and partner churches. We trust that our actions in refining and improving how we manage volunteers demonstrates how much we value them.

## Alumni Update

IBC is encouraged by the continuing ministries of alumni. Recently **Robby Little** (Navajo, 2019) returned from a trip to Shaktoolik, Alaska, where he ministered among the Malemiut Eskimo people. **Leo Bird** (Cherokee, 2004) accompanied students from Mokahum Ministry Center (Cass Lake, MN) on a ministry trip to his home area in Oklahoma. **Donna Dayzie** (Navajo, 2019) is preparing to offer the service of coffin transport for her local community on the Navajo Reservation. **Stephen Hunkup** (Piute & San Carlos Apache, 2017) is working at a dormitory for Native kids in Flagstaff.

**James Betoney** (Navajo, 2009), **Wilford Bilagody** (Navajo, 2014), and **Clifford Hyden** (Navajo, 2018) are all involved in the leadership of First Baptist Church of Tuba City on the Navajo Reservation. **Fredricka Toledo** (Navajo, 2017) continues to minister at Alaska Christian College. Fredricka and **Mary Lola Joe** (Yupik, 2014) recently enjoyed a trip together to South Korea over Christmas break.

Please pray for all our alumni as some pursue further education, some minister through "secular" vocations, and some are involved in full-time ministry. Pray they would stand firm in the faith.

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## Members of :



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

## Praise & Prayer

- ◆ Praise God for an eye-opening missions conference and pray for continuing development of a passion for people.
- ◆ Praise God for national recognition as a service enterprise organization.
- ◆ Pray for at least ten new students for Fall semester 2020.
- ◆ Pray for God's will in obtaining initial accreditation; IBC will be hosting a site team visit from the accrediting agency this fall. Please ask God for wisdom and consistent progress this summer.
- ◆ Pray for several staff members with on-going health issues, one needing comfort after a death in their immediate family, and for God's protection over the entire school.
- ◆ Pray for new staff, especially in their support-raising, that God would provide new financial partners.

## You are invited to join us for our annual Celebration Weekend!!

- ◆ Student Ministry Showcase Friday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. at FlagNaz Community Church. Celebrate student accomplishments and enjoy presentations.
- ◆ Commencement (Graduation) on Saturday, May 23 at 2:00 p.m. These two events highlight the culmination of a year or more of the students' work. Graduation will also be held at FlagNaz Community Church, 3505 E. Soliere Ave., Flagstaff.

