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Christmas 2020

**Indian Bible College**  
of Northern Arizona  
**The IBC Epistle**

## Light in the Midst of the Darkness



By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

Merry Christmas! I pray grace and truth (John 1:14) are more evident to you than ever before in the midst of this challenging season. As I have reflected recently on the incarnation of Christ, I am reminded that He stepped into a broken, challenged world. The Jewish people were under Roman oppression and rule—experiencing a profound lack of freedom. The faithful followers of Yahweh were under the religious leadership of a very flawed system. Famine and disease were common in the first century world. Jesus is the life and light for a dead and dark world. “In HIM was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it...The true light that gives light to all mankind was coming into the world.” John 1:4, 5, 9.

This has been an incredibly difficult year for the United States. The pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and civil unrest, and political division have challenged us all. In the midst of all this, Indian Bible College is continuing to train Native Christians for ministry and leadership to their own people. We are rejoicing at the Lord’s provision and protection in the following ways:

After a number of on-campus COVID cases over the summer, we’ve been totally protected from any active cases of COVID in our staff and student body.

IBC has a volunteer nurse practitioner who is offering on-campus COVID testing, using the rapid test with results in just 15 minutes!

Despite losing both of our facilities staff and having seven out of nine work teams cancel, IBC is moving forward on the development of the Learning Resource Center, albeit more slowly (see page 2).

After seven years in the accreditation process IBC was finally approved in June to process Pell Grants for students (see page 2). We are NOT taking federal loans.

A total of 43 people are taking classes this fall, including full-time and part-time, on-campus and online, audit and for-credit.

We’ve seen incredible financial provision for IBC even the midst of current economic uncertainties (see page 3). We are so grateful for all the ways IBC students and staff are being well taken care of by God’s people.

IBC is certainly experiencing challenges (see the prayer requests on page 4), but we are AMAZINGLY blessed during these formidable times. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and financial support! May the Lord continue to use you, me, and IBC to be His hands and feet in this broken world!



## An Update on Institutional Initiatives: God is on the Move!

### Accreditation

The long-anticipated October 20th day dawned to reveal a typical Flagstaff fall day. The sky was an amazing cloudless blue and the temperature was perfect. The Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) site team had arrived the night before and settled into a local hotel in anticipation of three long days of observation, interviews, discussion, and in-depth study of Indian Bible College. For months we had been working toward this day, preparing numerous documents, organizing files online, and preparing a room where they would meet. The team was composed of five administrators from other Bible colleges across the U.S. and Dr. Ronald Kroll, representing ABHE. For many years Dr. Kroll has walked alongside IBC in the accreditation process, but this was his last official visit. He is pictured here receiving a Pendleton blanket from IBC



in recognition of his years of service.

Instead of being a hardship, their visit was a pleasure. They treated us

with respect, encouraged and affirmed the work that is being done, and were willing to learn from our holistic approach to discipleship within an academic environment. They gave us pointers to help us improve and, when they prepared to depart on the 22nd, encouraged us with three commendations. This was followed by four suggestions (which we can choose to pursue or not) and then four recommendations. The recommendations will need to be addressed before we can meet with the accrediting board. If all goes well, we should be rejoicing in initial full accreditation in February 2021!

Additionally, IBC was awarded Pell Grant eligibility in June! This means students have access to need-based grants and to tribal scholarships. IBC will continue its focus on graduating students debt-free. We plan to use the Pell Grant funds only as long as it doesn't require us to compromise our theological convictions.

### Expansion

It all happened miraculously fast at first. The Salvation Army offered us their complex for \$675,000. In April of 2018 we closed on the property. God provided the full price in cash, as



we stood by with gaping mouths, wondering what He would do next. The next steps, however, did not take place as quickly as we had hoped, as the construction design and approval process on our new Student Center moved extremely slowly. In summer 2019 volunteer work crews created a beautifully wood-paneled, comfortable place for meals, meetings, study, and play. By fall of 2019 we were excited to finally move into the new student lounge.

So what about the Learning Resource Center (LRC)? This smaller building attached to the student lounge/chapel is still in process. After COVID hit and Arizona became a hot spot, most of the 2020 summer volunteer work teams decided against coming. But God continues to provide. As a result of several unanticipated and unsolicited large financial gifts, we have been able to hire local workers to do the electrical, plumbing, and drywall. As you can see from the picture above, we still have a ways to go, but we continue to hope the LRC will be functional in January 2021.

### Extension

At least partly as a result of our recently acquired experience in online, synchronous learning (thanks, COVID!), we have decided to offer the Christian



Ministry Certificate (CMC) virtually. The CMC is designed to provide the basics of local church ministry for those who are unable to move on campus. Many CMC students are still working full time as they study, frequently taking one class at a time. Using the synchronous online format will enable off-campus students to join classes already offered on campus, and will allow the IBC faculty to remain on site.

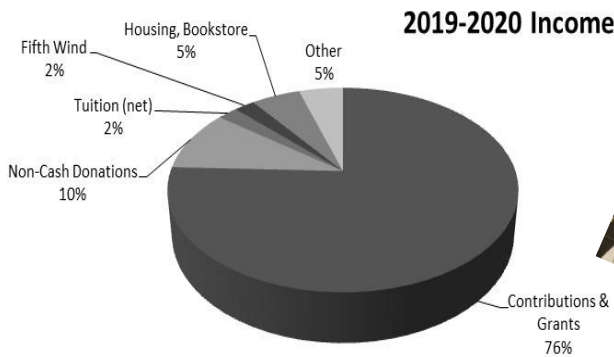
Continued from page 2 . . . **Vocation**

Likely, for the first time in the history of the school, all on campus students are employed! Most are working on campus in maintenance, cleaning, working as teaching assistants, or in Fifth Wind, our business arm that trains students in marketable skills and is doing a booming business in this Christmas season. We now have a Fifth Wind dedicated page on the IBC website from which you can place orders. Please check out: <https://www.indianbible.org/fifth-wind/> or access the Fifth Wind tab at [indianbible.org](http://indianbible.org).



## 2019-2020 Financial Report

God's people have been exceptionally faithful and generous towards the Indian Bible College over the past year! We are incredibly thankful we didn't need help from



the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program. The 2019-20 fiscal year was our ninth year in a row "in the black"! The pie chart above gives a look at the sources of income and highlights the fact that IBC operates primarily as a faith mission, allowing students to graduate debt-free. Here are the overall numbers for the year:

2019-20 Total income: \$1,230,327  
 2019-20 Total expenses: \$1,001,533  
 2019-20 Net income: \$228,794

Go to [www.indianbible.org/annualreport/](http://www.indianbible.org/annualreport/) to see a full color report on the 2019-20 school/fiscal year.

## Christmas Wish List Report & Request



Over the last few years we asked you to help provide new mailboxes for the students. You responded and now installed students. We also re-these are and in use by the students. We also asked that you help provide dividers for the student center. You generously responded to that as well. These are also now being used to divide the chapel area from the dining area. This enables us to give privacy to those engaged in counseling after a difficult chapel. The partitions also allow us to separate the library area from the chapel area, when helpful to do so.

This year we are simply asking that you consider supporting the IBC Scholarship Fund. If you would like to help provide financial help for a needy student, please go to [indianbible.org](http://indianbible.org) and click the "Invest" tab, which will enable you to donate to the IBC Scholarship Fund. Thank you so much!



## IBC Welcomes New Staff



Linda Kitchen started working as faculty this fall. She joined the staff of IBC on loan from Reliant Mission as a life coach in Spring 2020. She is still life coaching as well as team-teaching a Basic Life Skills class, teaching Principles of Verbal Communication, and assisting with various other tasks as needed. Before coming to IBC Linda served in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, for nearly 15 years in discipleship and church planting among young Europeans and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, since 2011 she has gone on several missions trips to work among orphans in Kenya.

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

## Prayer Requests

- \* Please pray for continued protection for staff and students from COVID-19.
- \* Recruiting Native Americans for college under COVID is very difficult. Pray with us for the Lord to call many more young Native Christians to receive the biblical education, transformational discipleship and leadership training that IBC provides.
- \* Registrar Ammie Palmer is returning to serve her own people next summer, the White Mountain Apache people. Pray with us for the Lord to provide her replacement in time to be trained by her.
- \* Both of IBC's staff that were focused on facility maintenance and improvement have moved out of Flagstaff; please pray with us for a new maintenance supervisor and volunteer coordinator.
- \* Please pray that we can finish the work on the Learning Resource Center and receive our certificate of occupancy before the Spring semester begins in January. Pray that IBC will have a lot of volunteers to help with our facilities in 2021.

