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Christmas 2021

Indian Bible College

of Northern Arizona

The IBC Epistle



Raising Up Disciplemaking Leaders

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President



In Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission tells us the mandate to Christ followers is to make disciples. To become more like Jesus is to become a disciplemaker like Jesus. This is the heart of Indian Bible College—to raise up disciplemaker leaders. Our goal for every student about to graduate with their bachelor's degree is that they would have opportunity to lead their own disciplemaker group.

The term "Spiritual Formation" has become common on Christian college campuses. At IBC it refers to the intentional, in-depth discipleship process that takes place alongside academics. Looking to Jesus as the "model disciplemaker" (as per John 20:21), it focuses on influencing students through large group, small group, and one-on-one ministry. When I came on board with IBC as academic dean, previous president Richard Standley encouraged me to develop materials that would specifically meet the needs of IBC students. This project became my doctoral dissertation, and the process that resulted, with the assistance of a hand-picked group of students and staff, was implemented immediately. Since that time the material has been revised several times in an attempt to make it as relevant and effective—i.e. transformational—as possible.

All full-time IBC students are matched with mentors and meet weekly in small groups or one-on-one throughout the semester. These tight-knit groups form a significant aspect of the community about which IBC students rave. In a recent survey of the students, Spiritual Formation was named as one of the best things about IBC. In these groups students face major issues of the Christian life, such as identity in Christ, spiritual warfare, and personal gifting.

One of the most significant needs in disciplmaking is having Jesus' heart for people—in other words, a shepherd's heart. The more we become like Jesus (Rom. 8:29), the more we have a heart like the Good (John 10; Psalm 23) and Great (1 Peter 5:4) Shepherd. Please pray with me for our staff and students to be effective disciplmakers with shepherds' hearts. And shouldn't we be praying the same for ourselves?

This semester IBC has the incredible blessing of all its groups being led by graduates or soon-to-graduate students. These are pictured below.

Left to right: Christina Tree-Lasiloo (Navajo, staff, '17); Joshua Ortiz (Pueblo/Navajo; staff, '18); Karly Robertson (Navajo, staff, '21); Logan Davis (Blackfoot, senior student); Brina Lee (Navajo, senior student & staff); Coreen Esplin (Seneca, staff, '13); Daniel Esplin (Navajo, staff, '05); Felicia Tillequots-Umtuch (Yakama, senior student); William Axtell (Nez Pierce, senior student); Jerrylyne Lupe (White Mt. Apache, student, prospective 2023 graduate).



A Glimpse into a Productive Summer at IBC in 2021

By J. Luckie Bigman, Business Administrator

Going into the summer of 2021, we were excited to have work teams back on campus. We started summer 2020 with a full schedule but only two out of nine were able to follow through, due to the pandemic. We are grateful for a more productive summer this year. We had eight teams on campus in ten weeks from seven different states (TX, CO, OR, FL, VA, CA and PA). I was able to spend time with each team, learn about them, and share what God has been doing here at IBC. Many major projects were completed, such as installing LED lighting in the staff center and academic building, laying new dorm living room tile, preparing an outbuilding for remodeling into a fitness center, repairing a shaded overhang, painting exterior and interior of several buildings, laying new carpet in our largest classroom, adding steps onto the student center patio, and building the Learning Resource Center portico.



Bethel Mennonite, Florida

Before work begins, everyone is given an orientation to gain a clear understanding of the Lord's vision and purpose for IBC. Many learn of this living miracle supported by God's people and learn that the reservations are America's mission



Luckie & Lanora Bigman

field. We had many students stay on campus for the summer for work and ministry. Some of these students shared a meal with a group and told their life stories and about their relationship with God—this is a high-light for many to hear from those they came to serve.



Faith Baptist, Texas

The work teams not only had work projects to do, but they also had a day to check out northern Arizona. Most groups went to see the Grand Canyon. Others saw the Navajo Reservation.



Fellowship Bible, Virginia

Seeing first-hand the progress of campus improvements that were accomplished before the start of the fall semester, I looked forward to welcoming our new and returning students. I continue to be amazed by God and His people. In addition to myself, working alongside the work teams was IBC's two-student maintenance crew. The teams were able to share meaningful time with them as they worked. I could see the enthusiasm in everyone, since many teams were not able to go out and serve last summer. A couple of new teams came out this summer, and all were very excited to get out and serve. As a Native man, it is enjoyable to serve my people alongside those whom God brought to IBC this summer. We already have several teams planning to come next summer; maybe the Lord would lead your church to come in 2022?

What Students Are Saying . . .

nearly half the students mentioned community. One student said: *The Christian community because we're all kept accountable and encouraged to keep pursuing Christ-likeness, especially when struggling.* Another shared, *The community, especially with Student Life. Student Life is one of the things that I like because of how much they care and are involved in students' lives.*

We were elated to see "facilities" show up several times in the "best one thing" category. As we near completion of the student center and library, it is good to know the students appreciate the improvements. "Staff" showed up the same number of times as facilities in the "one-best-thing" category. One student said, *The best thing about IBC would be the commitment to see you in a good/healthy place, not just academically, but spiritually, physically, mentally, and financially.* "Staff" showed up again as the top "second-best-thing" about IBC. *The staff and their love for the students. How they want us to grow and be responsible here and where we will be later in life* demonstrates that the students sense the effort IBC puts into our primary purpose for being: seeing their lives transformed to become more like Jesus.

Every year IBC solicits feedback from the students to ascertain how we are doing and to hear what students like or dislike. When asked what the one best thing about IBC is,

Fall Conference at IBC

November 16-18 IBC hosted its annual fall conference focused on alumni. Our theme each year is: "Lessons from the Trenches of Ministry." Our first speaker was Jerry Yazzie. Jerry graduated from IBC with a four-year degree in 1985 and he and his wife have been in ministry ever since. They are currently between ministries with most of the churches on the Navajo Reservation still shut down because of COVID. At a time when death has been ever-present on the Navajo Reservation, Jerry exhorted us to remember that death is a doorway to the next world and "to die is gain." Death no longer should cause us to live in fear.



Our second speaker was Vernon Tsosie. Vernon has been earning a living in the workplace since graduating from IBC in 1999. Currently he is employed as an RV technician in Flagstaff. Through his job he has opportunity to share the love of Christ. On weekends he frequently drives several hours onto the Navajo Reservation to speak at Twin Mesa Bible Church. Vernon encouraged us to remember that, like the blind man of John 9, we have nothing to lose when we choose to follow Christ. We come empty-handed to the Lord. He urged us to run with endurance the race He has set before us.

Our third speaker was Melvin Nez, who completed his Christian Ministry Certificate in 2013. Melvin trusted Christ when he was in his 30s but soon learned that we are "saved to serve." Even after retirement from working with the Navajo Tribe, Melvin has continued to serve in various capacities. Currently he is Director of Field Ministries for Flagstaff Mission to the Navajos and serving as interim pastor at Dilcon Bible Church.



These men represent just a few of the many Christian leaders IBC has helped prepare to serve God in various capacities. But the need remains great. The lead article (page 1) highlights this intentional development of leaders through the Spiritual Formation (SF) process. IBC frequently receives requests for pastors and other Christian leaders, but we graduate only a few students each year. Join us in praying for more students to mentor and for the effective ministry of current SF mentors. Pray they would be patient, wise, and godly as they raise up leaders who will in turn raise up and train the next generation of leaders. Also pray for those alumni currently serving God wherever He has led them. Thank you!

2020-2021 Financial Report

2020-2021 Fiscal Year Financial Summary

Income

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Contributions & Grants | \$ | 850,360 |
| Non-Cash Donations | \$ | 93,561 |
| Tuition (net) | \$ | 100,914 |
| Fifth Wind | \$ | 28,401 |
| Housing, Bookstore | \$ | 70,608 |
| Other | \$ | 91,777 |
| Total Income | \$ | 1,235,621 |

Expenses

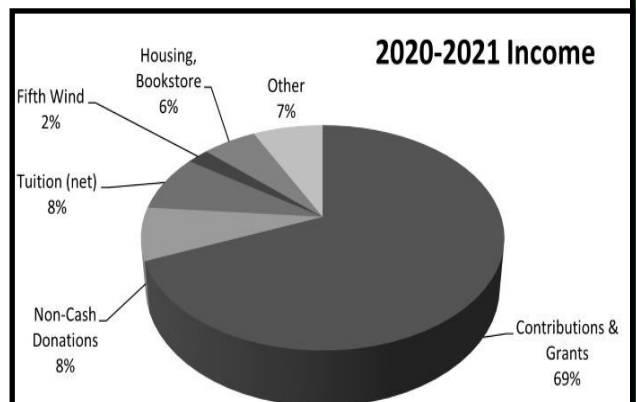
| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Program | \$ | 758,745 |
| Administrative | \$ | 211,091 |
| Fundraising | \$ | 117,577 |
| Total Expenses | \$ | 1,087,413 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Change in Net Assets | \$ | 148,208 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|

tenth year in a row "in the black"! The pie chart below 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. To the left are the overall numbers for fiscal year 2020-21.

Go to: www.indianbible.org/annualreport/ to see a full-color report on the 2020-21 school / fiscal year.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our supporters who invest in the ministry of IBC to train Native Christian leaders! The 2020-21 fiscal year was our



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The Association for
Biblical Higher Education

Praises and Prayer Requests

- * **Praise** God for so many discipling leaders to lead Spiritual Formation (SF) groups. Please **pray** for the SF mentors as they disciple students; **pray** especially for the five students planning to graduate with their bachelor's degrees.
- * **Praise** God for financial provision.
- * **Praise** God for Preview Days' guests; **pray** for more called and committed students.
- * **Praise** God for students who are committed to living out their faith through serving in local ministries. **Pray** for a good incoming freshman class in January and next fall.
- * **Praise** God for a committed and unified staff; **pray** for the Lord's provision for staff needs (Academic Dean, Learning Resource Center Director, Registrar, Adjunct Faculty).
- * **Pray** for comfort for the many indigenous families across the world who have lost loved ones to COVID and for God to raise up new Christian leaders to take the place of those He has taken home.

You are invited to join us on January 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. for an in-person IBC Connection Dessert to be held at the IBC Student Center, 2229 E. Cedar Ave. in Flagstaff. Come for student testimonies, fellowship, music, and yummy desserts. RSVP to 928-774-3890 or info@indianbible.org.

Celebration Weekend (including Commencement) is May 20-21. Mark your calendars to join us in person or via livestream.

