



## Introducing IBC's next step: "75 by '25"

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

"Can you send us a graduate?" "We'd really love to have an intern...." Indian Bible College frequently receives these calls and emails—and we are glad people recognize the value of an IBC-trained leader. We would love to fulfill each and every one of these requests. Unfortunately, IBC has just a handful of students, the majority of whom already have plans to return to their home to reach their own community. The need for trained leaders was significant before COVID, but with the number of pastors and leaders who have passed way since, the need is greater than ever! We feel the intense need and demand for more trained Native leaders than we are currently producing.

The great news is, thanks to the generosity of God's people, we now have a campus that can hold 40-50 students! The Student Center is almost done being renovated (only the fitness center remains) and we now have the classroom, library, chapel, and office space to support up to 50 students—we just need to add housing. Additionally, we have greatly expanded our extension studies' reach through the addition of online hybrid learning, now allowing us to train part-time students from all over the country.

The vision of Indian Bible College is that Native America would cease to be a mission field and become a global missions force. To see that come to pass is going to take an army of healthy church leaders, leading scores of healthy churches, so they can send healthy missionaries around the world.

In January, the Board of Indian Bible College unanimously approved the goal of enrolling 75 total students by 2025. This would likely be 40 on-campus students and 35 online students—twice our current student body size. COVID continues to discourage Native people from leaving home for training. Would you pray with us as we take the steps to expand our enrollment to this level? And continue to pray with us that within a few decades we might see a mighty wave of Native missionaries taking the gospel all around the world.



## Alumni Focus: Chuck Helton, Missionary in Ukraine

Chuck had very little experience with Ukrainian customs and struggled with the Russian language when he flew across the ocean to ask permission to marry his online sweetheart, a missionary among Ukrainian and international students. In his nervous confusion, his attempt to present the proposal in Russian resulted in asking to marry Yulia's father's dog rather than his daughter! Permission was granted after clearing up the confusion regarding who Chuck wanted to marry, and they were married in May of 2014. Russia was threatening Ukraine at that time and occupied three regions. In spite of the tension, Chuck was convinced God had called him to serve alongside Yulia.

Chuck Helton is Navajo from Tuba City, Arizona, and obtained a Certificate of Biblical Studies from Indian Bible College in 2013. From early youth he was fascinated by people of other cultures and languages. Exposure to a variety of people from two years of high school at Markoma Bible Academy in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and then later when he worked in a nursing home in Phoenix, resulted in a desire to continue to interact with those outside his comfortable Navajo world. He even attended an Iranian church for several years after being invited by a co-worker. After two short-term trips overseas, one to Ukraine and one to Russia, Chuck was hooked.

While God was working in Chuck's life to increase his love for people of other ethnicities, in Ukraine He was calling Yulia to Himself and placing a dynamic passion to share Christ with students, especially those from countries that are closed to the gospel. When they found each other online, they recognized a kindred spirit and common goal. They have been working among mostly Muslim international university students in Ukraine for the past eight years.

Chuck and Yulia spoke at IBC's missions conference in February but were unable to return to Ukraine when Russia invaded. They are currently staying in Phoenix and reaching out to Afghan refugee students, continuing to see God work through their lives to reach international students for Jesus. They also continue to be in online contact with the international students they met in Ukraine, assuring them that when you have nothing left, Jesus is enough.



### What is IBC Life Coaching?

Unlike professional life coaching that is driven by felt needs of a client, IBC's coaching focuses on five aspects that pertain to living out a life of integrity at IBC and beyond: finance, academics, time management, work, and ministry. Since 2015, IBC has paired each freshman student with a carefully selected coach who will walk with them through their first year. Occasionally, either because IBC senses the need or a student requests it, coaching will continue beyond the freshman year. Life coaches are recruited from IBC full-time staff, occasionally from upper classmen at IBC, and from mature local believers. A minimum one-year commitment is desired from each coach.

IBC Life Coaching is only one aspect of the holistic approach to life transformation that IBC seeks to witness in students. Spiritual Formation targets the student's heart. Academics challenges the student's mind. Life Coaching guides the student's hands. Classes such as Personal Finance and Personal Development are intertwined with Life Coaching, providing reinforcement for challenges to the student's way of organizing and prioritizing their life. As Life Coaches, we are part of a larger team longing to see biblical life transformation that is evidenced in the way students handle their finances, how faithful they are to engage with their classes, what they do with their time, their pursuit of work and also how they perform on the job, and how they serve others in ministry.

Life Coaching is not counseling. Rather than offering advice, the coach strives primarily to empower the student by asking the right questions. Students formulate their own goals and take ownership of accomplishing them through processes they themselves have identified.

When asked in what ways they found life coaching to be a positive experience, students responded with the following

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

comments: *It felt good to have honest accountability—Aaron. It was an awesome experience. Although it took me awhile to understand the process, I'm so thankful for [my coach's] guidance and leadership—and most importantly, her prayers—LaVonne. It helped me do what I said I wanted to accomplish—Karen. It helped me grow in some aspects of my life, mainly time management, as I was always out of time on stuff—Mikal. One student shared how blessed he was to walk with and pray for his coach during the time the coach was going through numerous doctor's visits as a result of a cancer diagnosis.*

One coach, when asked on the 2020-2021 evaluations if they felt they'd made a positive difference in the life of the student: *By God's grace, yes: providing consistency, not enabling, challenging [the student] to meet her goals, not allowing her to "get by" or not have consequences for her lack of initiative or motivation and providing a safe place for her to share.*



Dr. Scott Tafoya

We have been blessed to have the consulting help of Scott Tafoya, founder of Truth Dancer Coaching of Albuquerque, NM. Scott is Native American and grew up in the Santa Clara Pueblo north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Through his coaching company he seeks to empower Native people in the area of leadership.

**Coming soon!**

**We will be introducing a new and more contemporary look for our next newsletter. In addition, we are updating our data base. This would be a great time to start receiving the newsletter electronically to save postage and printing costs and to enable you to receive the newsletter in color! Please contact us at [info@indianbible.org](mailto:info@indianbible.org) with your email address to receive the newsletter electronically or to be removed from our mailing list.**

## IBC Welcomes Two New Staff Members



As long as she can remember, she has been interested in ministry and maybe even in overseas missions. Irish Noble grew up in Littleton, Colorado, in a Christian family. She majored in Global Studies at Colorado Christian University. Sam and Irish were married in 2017, right after she graduated. After taking a class in Native American history at a local community college, Irish started investigating mission opportunities among Native Americans. Sam was supportive and willing to consider a move. Tim Brown, Regional Director of Pioneers Mid-America, forty-year veteran of Native ministry, and vice-chair of IBC's board of trustees, suggested Irish look into serving at Indian Bible College. Sam and Irish visited IBC in October 2020 and Irish came full time in January 2022 as Communications Specialist while Sam continued his online work.

Irish is meeting a huge need at IBC as she does project management for the development team, works on grant proposals, helps with recruitment and admissions follow-up, and will be working on the website.



It took several years for Christina (Tina) Tree to return as staff to Indian Bible College after her graduation in 2017. She had been offered a position but wasn't ready. For four years she worked in the health care field. She also served in the church and ministry of One Tribe NAU and married Luke, who was also in leadership at One Tribe. An increasing sense of restlessness in her employment led Tina to reconsider returning to IBC. She served as a life coach in 2020-2021. Then, as of July 1, 2021, Tina started working as receptionist in the administration building, doing bookkeeping, hosting on-campus lunches for students and staff, and serving as Student Life Assistant. In addition, she is mentoring a group of women students through Spiritual Formation. This semester she is also serving as Teaching Assistant for an online evening class. Luke works full time at Whole Foods.

Tina grew up on the Navajo Reservation and came to Christ while a high school student.



# Indian Bible College of Northern Arizona

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](mailto:info@indianbible.org)  
[www.indianbible.org](http://www.indianbible.org)

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



## Praise and Prayer Requests

- \*Praise God for the addition of Irish and Tina to the IBC staff! Pray for increasing fruitfulness in their ministry here.
- \*Praise the Lord for the holistic approach that is offered new students through Life Coaches. Pray for their effective ministry to students.
- \*Praise the Lord for the four bachelor graduates from four different tribes planning to finish their IBC education on May 21st. Pray for the Lord's continued leading in their lives.
- \*Pray for the Lord's direction and provision for IBC's goal of "75 by '25"—especially for God's call upon 15 new full-time students in the fall.
- \*Pray for peace for Chuck and Yulia as they struggle to process everything that is happening in Ukraine and seek to continue their ministry among international students.
- \*Praise God for His protection upon President Jason Koppen's home, which was in the path of the April 19th Tunnel Fire. Pray for the family as they deal with ongoing impact from the fire and as they minister to neighbors.

## Celebration Weekend May 20th-21st



⇒ May 20th at 7 p.m. **Student Ministry Showcase** in the Student Center (2229 E. Cedar Ave., Flagstaff)

⇒ May 21st at 2 p.m. **Commencement** in the commons area between the buildings at 2918 N. Aris St.

You are welcome to attend the Showcase and/or Commencement in person if you are in the area but may also attend virtually by the following link:

[https://youtu.be/wvpX9Dop\\_DM](https://youtu.be/wvpX9Dop_DM) .



We are planning a day of prayer on Wednesday, June 1st. To participate, call (928) 774-3890 or email [info@indianbible.org](mailto:info@indianbible.org).