



THE IBC EPISTLE

A newsletter published by Indian Bible College of Northern Arizona



Pictured: Class of 2022 Bachelors graduates (center), and Associates graduates (far left & right)

2022 Fall Conference

For this year's fall conference we had the privilege of hearing from guest speakers Steve & Celestia Tracy. The Tracys founded Mending the Soul Ministries in 2003 and published *Mending the Soul: Understanding and Healing Abuse* in 2009. IBC has been utilizing this resource for eight

years to address the trauma and abuse experienced by students and staff, and to guide them towards healing and community. During the conference, the Tracys facilitated discussions on biblical lament, inviting attendees to address and grieve past hurts in the presence of community and to trust that God grieves with them.



The conference concluded with a special session highlighting the development of a Mending the Soul workbook designed by and for Native people.

IBC has a goal of raising \$10,000: \$5,000 to help with the editing and printing costs of the workbook and \$5,000 to send two IBC graduates to Africa on a short-term trip to partner with the Tracys in their work in the Congo. With the help of God's people, we are already about halfway to our goal! Would you prayerfully consider giving to these opportunities?

Notes & audio recordings from the conference are available upon request. Email inoble@indianbible.org for more information.

Never Give Up...On Other Believers!

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

The two epistles to the Corinthian church give us a glimpse into a compelling story of unrepentant sin, church discipline, and restoration. In 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 Paul rebukes the Corinthian believers for endorsing a church member's immoral behavior, telling the church to expel that individual from fellowship. Any one of us who has walked with the Lord for some time knows the heartache of watching a friend or loved one walk away from the Lord, fall into addictive sin, and betray their witness. The Christ-like response is to offer restoration (Galatians 6:1) but if that is rejected, the response is to treat them "as we would a pagan or tax collector" (Matthew 18:17)—i.e. as a non-believer. However, the hope is that they, like the Corinthian believer, would repent and be able to be brought back into the church (2 Corinthians 2:6-8).

At IBC we routinely help students wrestle with their sin and have so many "success stories" of students walking in freedom from past sin. (continued on page 2)

Sadly, we also have a litany of heartaches over students who have refused our offers of help and need to take a break from their time at IBC. We constantly pray for these dear brothers and sisters. This semester, we are praising God that several students who were away for a season, due to their struggles, are back—and all doing well! One of these individuals wrote, *“I don’t deserve to go back to IBC. I’ve been lazy, I’ve been rebellious. But I have learned something...I think being lazy and going through depression and anxiety and anger made me realize I don’t want to live a life where it’s going nowhere. I don’t want to live a life just to waste away. I do want to live for the Lord.”*

Another of these students declared, *“I was walking in my own fear and shame of where I personally wandered these past years. But even these uncertain times and times of straying have opened my eyes and heart to truth that I am only content with my life [when] I am abiding in a community that promotes a life that is growing, maturing, and transforming in the image and grace of Jesus.”*

As you remember the student requests on the insert, please pray for their struggle against sin—and for IBC’s ability to walk alongside them in their pursuit of Christ-like integrity.

As I write this article, I am praying for each of you that has friends and loved ones who have professed Christ but are defined by their sin. I know the deep heartache, the temptation to “give up” on them, and the struggle to know what and when to say and do.

The greatest pain we feel at IBC is when our alumni don’t walk with the Lord. We often share the prayer requests for alumni walking with the Lord and committed to ministry, but for confidentiality reasons can’t share the specifics of alumni who are struggling under sin. Would you pray with us for THESE alumni over the coming weeks, for strong and gentle conviction of the Spirit, the “destruction of their flesh” (1 Corinthians 5:5) and their return to living faithfully for the Lord?

Christ’s servant—and yours,
Dr. Jason Koppen, IBC President

Welcoming Three New Staff Members!



William Axtell came to IBC as a student in 2015 from the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho. As a result of being subjected to ridicule and abandonment as a child, he grew up feeling as though he had nothing to offer the

world. Then as a young adult he attended Ron Hutchcraft’s Warrior Leadership Summit and trusted in Jesus. After starting at IBC it was still a long, hard road for him as he struggled against depression, loneliness, anger, and bitterness. Throughout his time at IBC he experienced multiple deaths in his family and even stepped away from IBC for a time, but God’s call on his life was clear and he returned to graduate with his Bachelor of Biblical Studies in 2022.

Will is learning to take every thought captive, choosing forgiveness, and leaning on the Lord to find hope each day. During COVID he started producing a podcast to bring hope to other Native youth. He still produces the weekly Rez Roots podcast that involves current IBC students. Will is serving part time on IBC’s staff as Student Life Intern, helping current students grow in their relationships with Jesus.

Charles Lutz grew up in Indiana and had a brief career as an engineer before hearing God’s call on his life for full-time ministry. He graduated from Trinity Evangelical Divinity Seminary in 1995 and has been involved in ministry since 1997. He has served in camps, schools, churches, and music



ministry in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Georgia, and now Arizona.

In 2015 Charles taught high school on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. He felt God’s call to be even more involved in ministry to Native Americans. After attending IBC’s graduation in 2021, he was convinced that God had a place for him here. He joined the staff part time this fall as music teacher and Intermediate Bible Study Methods professor.

Brina Lee is a natural fit for the registrar’s position. Throughout her time at IBC she proved herself to be a person who could be counted on to keep her commitments, and one who paid great attention to detail.



Brina grew up in Window Rock, Arizona, the capital of the Navajo Nation. She

was influenced by Navajo traditional religion and some Christianity as a child but gave her life to Christ in 2014. She attended college at Grand Canyon University (GCU), where she studied biology in preparation for a career in the medical field. After several years at GCU her passion for medicine started to wane. During this time, an IBC alumna encouraged her to consider Indian Bible College and she transferred in 2017. She graduated from IBC in 2022 but started serving part time as registrar while still a student in 2021. Currently she mentors students through the Spiritual Formation process and works as a life coach in addition to her registrar duties.

Summer 2022 at Indian Bible College

By Luckie Bigman, Business Administrator

We are grateful for a productive summer, thanks to eight teams on our campus in the span of ten weeks. Teams came from six different states (VA, PA, TX, CO, OR and CA). Together, we continue to help fulfill our Lord's Great Commission through discipling and educating indigenous Native Christians for lifetimes of biblical ministry and spiritual leadership to their people and the world. Thank God for the faithful partnership of prayer and service from our volunteers to Indian Bible College.

Because many of our graduates will go on to serve in ministries which cannot pay a living wage, we are committed to graduating each of our students debt-free. Volunteers (including work teams) are involved at every level of the school's operations and are an integral part of keeping tuition costs low. Work teams are a major part of completing much needed maintenance and renovation projects. Labor and material costs for these projects are not passed on to the students.



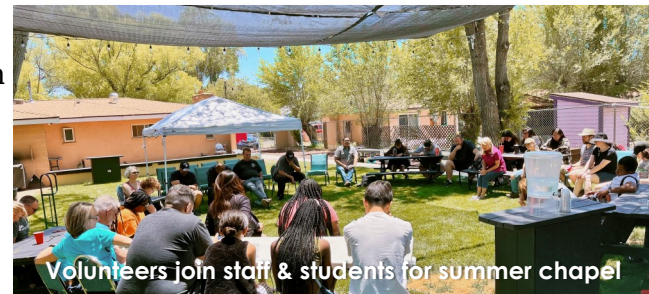
Volunteers from Mission Hills work on shade structure outside Fifth Wind workshop



Volunteers from Mission Hills install a new roof on the fitness center

Kornell (our new facilities manager) and I enjoyed meaningful times with the work teams, sharing how God has been moving here at IBC. Many projects were completed including: new LED lighting, restroom remodel and new hardwood flooring in the administration building; new carpet in the classrooms and offices; a shade structure for the Fifth Wind work shop to allow students to work outside in good weather; in the Student Center a new sink and water heater, an outdoor grill/kitchen area with a shade over the patio area; and a new floor and new roof on the fitness center, which is still under remodel. In the housing areas we installed new landscaping and built a half block wall in addition to providing interior upgrades with new blinds, paint, doors, fridge, bathroom fixtures and a deep clean.

The work teams not only had work projects to do but also enjoyed visiting some areas of northern Arizona. Work teams saw the Grand Canyon or parts of the Navajo Reservation. Some students stayed on campus for the summer in order to work and minister. Many of them spent time with the teams, interacting during a meal and sharing their life stories. I continue to be amazed by God and His people, as we already have several teams planning on returning next summer.



Volunteers join staff & students for summer chapel

What Students Are Saying...

"The love and care you can (and will) receive as a student, visitor, or staff is amazing. In that love and care you are challenged to grow and expand emotionally, spiritually, and mentally." - Cecilia, senior

"The staff, instructors, and leaders here do so much. They want what's best for you. They really like/love you. They show humility, sacrifice, and love, and are willing to give you grace and truth. They make themselves available to you when you need to talk or need help. They are pretty cool!" - Jerrylne, senior

"This is an awesome opportunity to grow in Christ and not just chase a certificate or degree! It's not about grade percentage but about how to apply content to present and future life." - Tim, sophomore

"I wish others knew how affordable, how biblical, relational, and transformational IBC is. Definitely getting one of the best if not the greatest education on earth, definitely a life changing experience." - Philemon, sophomore

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Praise & Prayer

Praise the Lord for His enduring grace in the midst of the struggles of His people; **pray with us** for His gentle conviction for IBC students and graduates in their struggle against sin (page 1).

Praise God for new staff Will, Charles, and Brina. **Pray** for strength and blessing as they fulfill their calling and for new financial partners as they raise support (page 2).

Praise the Lord with us for all the volunteers that serve at IBC.

Pray for the Lord's continued encouragement for the hundreds of people that serve at IBC every year (page 3).

Praise Him for the faithful provision of the resources needed to finish our 11th year in a row "in the black" (insert). **Please pray** for continued provision for the school, particularly to be able to provide necessary raises for staff related to inflation and Flagstaff's high minimum wage.

Praise the Lord that IBC's enrollment has recovered from COVID's impact and campus housing is full again. **Pray** for the provision of additional housing so we can continue to grow our campus capacity to train and graduate more Native leaders.

Announcements & Opportunities

We hope you enjoy the **new layout** of our newsletter! To give feedback, ask a question, or change to the e-news list, contact the office at info@indianbible.org or 928-774-3890.

Have you listened to the IBC **Hope Team podcast**? New episodes, produced by staff member Will Axtell, generally come out weekly. Search "RezRootz" on Spotify under podcasts.

IBC recently dedicated its new outdoor **traverse wall** (horizontal climbing wall; pictured right). It is a part of the development of the new Fitness Center, which is the last major part of the renovations to the Student Center property (acquired in 2018). We hope to have the Fitness Center completed by Fall 2023.



You're invited to the **2023 Celebration Weekend**! Make plans now to join us for the Student Ministry Showcase and Commencement, May 19-20, 2023.