



THE IBC EPISTLE

A newsletter published by Indian Bible College of Northern Arizona



From the Desk of the President: A Vision to Strive For

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

This article is the first in a four-part series on each of IBC's four initiatives: Expansion, Accreditation, Vocation, and Extension.

Proverbs 16:9 says “A man’s mind plans his way but the Lord directs his steps.” For almost 15 years now I’ve had the privilege of leading IBC through some significant challenges and to increasing influence in Native America. Many of IBC’s goals the Lord has inspired have been fulfilled. Others have been delayed or greatly varied. Yet we are still committed to our vision of seeing Native America ***cease to be a mission field and become a mission force***... and this is still a long way off—generations, even. To see this vision fulfilled will require hundreds of healthy Native Christians leading healthy Native churches so that thousands of Native missionaries can be sent to other tribes and overseas. To see that come to pass IBC needs to graduate a lot more students. This is why IBC is striving towards a goal of 75 total students by the year 2025.

Expansion (growing the school) was one of IBC’s goals long before I came, and it has been thrilling to see three facilities added to the campus in the past 12 years—and to be debt-free after it all! We now face the challenge of tying our campus together, as three parts of our campus do not touch, and students and staff walk back and forth between these buildings on streets with no sidewalks—a significant safety hazard. There are six homes that sit between these three parts of campus, and we need to buy at least three of them to tie the campus together; unfortunately, so far none of the homeowners have been willing to sell.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

In November we had to start renting a house a few blocks from campus in order to house the growing student body. **Would you pray with us for the Lord to move hearts and pocketbooks so that we can begin buying the homes needed to house a growing student body and to connect all three parts of our campus together?**

Of course, it is not just facilities that are required to grow a school and increase the number of graduates—we need more students and staff! Increased efforts at recruiting have been bearing fruit and IBC has more inquiries for the fall semester than ever before. There are also a number of prospective staff and faculty that are pursuing the possibility of joining the team here. **Would you pray that the Lord would bless IBC's recruitment efforts to bring more students to IBC and for more Christlike men and women to train them?**

Speaking of my nearly 15 years of service here: I am now the longest serving president IBC has ever had. IBC's founder Gordon Fraser served 12 years and Robert Hardgrave led IBC for 13 years. The time has flown by, and yet I know the Lord isn't done with me because He hasn't raised up a Native American to replace me. Whether it is a few more years or a few more decades I am asking the Lord for perseverance, stamina, and provision to be the last non-Native president of IBC...and I'd be grateful if you would ask the Lord for those things with me! AND I hope to serve my Native brethren until I die...

This letter is filled with invitations for you to act by praying, serving, or giving. My prayer is that you **enjoy** following the Lord's leading to participate in His work through Indian Bible College.

Dr. Jason Koppen, IBC President



Indian Bible College receives Service Enterprise certification



If you've spent much time on IBC's campus, you know that volunteers are essential to the school's operations at every level. You can find volunteers teaching in our classrooms, providing meals for our students, working in our offices, making improvements to our campus, and even serving on our Board of Trustees. Over the past 65 years, volunteers have helped shape everything from IBC's curriculum to its campus and have been an integral part of graduating our students debt-free.

In the summer of 2022, IBC staff began the process of re-evaluating current volunteer engagement practices and receiving coaching through the ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Innovation. This was a process we had been through once before in 2019, which turned out to be invaluable for adapting quickly to the changes brought on by COVID-19 the following year. This year the coaching and evaluation process helped us identify and develop solutions in several areas where we found we could better engage with and welcome feedback from our volunteers. What a great opportunity to learn how to better serve the people who serve us every day!

In February, IBC was officially awarded recertification as a Service Enterprise. Service Enterprises rate among the top 11% of nonprofits in the country in volunteer management and organizational performance. Research has shown that they operate as effectively as peers but at almost half the median budget, and are significantly more adaptable, sustainable and scalable.¹ We are thrilled to have met the standards for this certification, as volunteerism is what makes our mission and vision for Native America a true possibility. We hope to continue providing the highest level of service to our volunteers, without whom we would not be able to send out the next generation of Native Christian leaders debt-free and equipped to serve generously and live abundantly!

¹ <http://bit.ly/3IQPU8G>

Investing in Graduating Students Debt-Free

One of the most unique and compelling aspects of Indian Bible College is its commitment to graduating its students debt free. To accomplish this while giving the students an accredited, transformational education with gifted and trained staff on a quality campus is a massive undertaking. It is incredible to see how the Lord moves His people to help carry the burden so that the students don't have to; this is accomplished through donated money (financial support) and donated time (volunteers). See the chart **below** to understand how this breaks out.

There are a number of ways to participate in this commitment of seeing debt-free graduates. There are two broad funds that allow IBC to direct money where it is needed most: the Student Scholarship Fund and the Native Staff Development Fund. Another way to get involved is to support an underfunded staff member. IBC currently has a record number of staff raising missionary support.

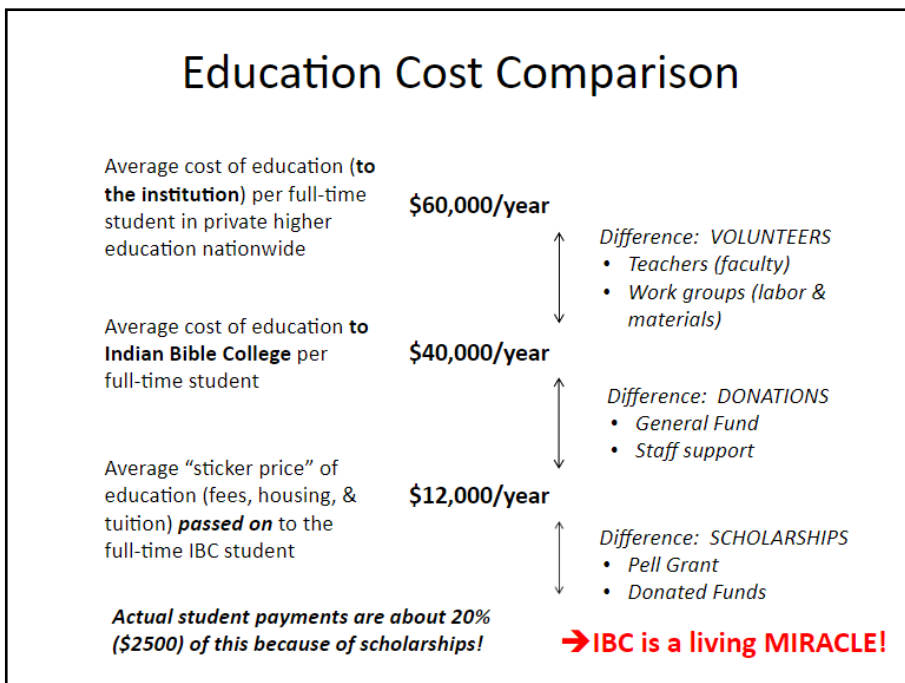


Will Axtell (Student Life Intern), Brina Lee (Registrar), Kelly Johnson (future Learning Resources Center Director) and Irish Noble (Director of Communications)—pictured **right**—are all beginning their support raising process in the next couple of months.



Christina Tree-Lasiloo (Student Life Assistant), Joshua Ortiz (Director of Work), Charles Lutz (Faculty), Josh Manning (Dean of Men), and Luckie Bigman (Business Administrator), pictured **left** have all been raising support for some time and are continuing to need new financial partners.

Another way to help is to volunteer on IBC's campus. Several of the work teams that have served every summer in recent years are not able to return, leaving IBC with a potential deficit in help this coming summer. IBC welcomes local daytime volunteers as well as out-of-town volunteers who serve for a more extended time. If you would like more information about getting involved with one of the needs described above, email president@indianbible.org.



IBC's Effectiveness

Thanks to new accreditation requirements, IBC now has a webpage on institutional outcomes. You can see how we track our effectiveness at indianbible.org/academics/institutional-outcomes/.

Let us know what you think at president@indianbible.org.

Written by Dr. Jason Koppen, President

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Praise & Prayer

Praise God for the 65 years He has used IBC to train Native leaders! **Pray** for the Lord's continued blessing as we seek to see Native America cease to be a mission field and join the mission force!

Praise the Lord for His protection during several recent school vehicle breakdowns and an accident. **Pray** with us for the provision of replacement school vehicles.

Praise God for all the staff that serve at IBC, 43% of whom are Native American! **Pray** for the Lord to provide fruitfulness, encouragement, and financial support.

Praise the Lord for all the volunteers who serve at Indian Bible College. **Pray** for continued encouragement and blessing for those who serve, and for more volunteer help this coming summer.

Celebration Weekend May 19th-20th

⇒ May 19th at 7 p.m.—
Student Ministry Showcase in the IBC Student Center at 2229 E. Cedar Ave., Flagstaff



⇒ May 20th at 2 p.m.—**Commencement** in the commons area between the buildings at 2918 N. Aris St., Flagstaff



You are welcome to attend the Showcase and/or Commencement in person or virtually at the following

link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi6rg5dJyGQ>