



THE IBC EPISTLE

A newsletter published by Indian Bible College of Northern Arizona



CELEBRATING 65 YEARS!

Accreditation: The Method of “Institutional Sanctification”

By Dr. Jason Koppen, President

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

This newsletter is our “65th anniversary edition”! Within the following pages you’ll find a number of connect-points to the history of Indian Bible College (alumni from the 20th century, anniversary celebrations, anniversary video link, etc.). It is fitting that in this edition we are highlighting the IBC initiative of accreditation, as this became a desired pursuit of IBC administration (particularly John Greenfield) in the 1980s. In the 1990-1991 school year an articulation agreement was formed with (and later canceled by) Moody Bible Institute, which was written partially in the hope that this agreement would help IBC achieve accreditation. In 1992 a relationship began with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), an affiliation that was replaced a decade later with our current partnership with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Over the decades MANY people contributed to elevating the standards of IBC’s academic excellence that prepared the school for accreditation. After 30 years of pursuit, Indian Bible College finally achieved applicant status with ABHE in 2014, followed by candidate status in 2017, and initial accreditation in 2021.

(continued on page 2)

Compassionate Student Life

IBC sent nine representatives to the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) conference in Orlando in February. Josh Manning (Dean of Men) and Coreen Esplin (Dean of Women) were asked to lead a workshop on “Compassionate Student Life,” discussing topics such as restorative discipline and the application of grace and truth. We are very thankful for the voice IBC has been given to speak into the ABHE family of colleges and universities!



(continued from page 1)

Accreditation comes with great benefits. It provides students with guaranteed recognition of class credits with the other 160 ABHE schools and also increases the likelihood of transferability to state and public schools. It has gained graduates additional access to graduate education; about half of recent bachelor's graduates are considering or actively pursuing master's degrees. Accreditation provides the constant mandate to, and assistance in, the pursuit of excellence, giving our students a high quality education. Accreditation gives IBC a voice in biblical higher education (see sidebar on page 1). Finally, accreditation has provided access to Pell Grant and tribal scholarship funds, which provide additional tuition revenue that allows us to compensate Native staff as they raise support.



Brina Lee (Registrar) and incoming Academic Dean, Josh Manning

Of course, there are significant challenges to keep accreditation, the greatest of which is maintaining IBC's assessment process when there is significant turnover in the Academic Dean and Registrar positions. IBC is currently on its sixth Registrar in the last 15 years and President Koppen has covered the Academic Dean role four times, totaling eight of the last 16 years.

We praise God for a great Registrar (graduate Brina Lee) and are excited to announce a new Academic Dean: current Dean of Men, Josh Manning, who will be taking the position this summer. Pray for blessing in longevity for both of these individuals. Please pray also for our next steps in accreditation, which include writing our third self-study this summer and fall, and hosting an accreditation site team in spring 2025. We praise God for all His provision over all these decades to see these great gains in accreditation!



Dr. Jason Koppen,
IBC President

Welcome New Staff Member, Scott Tafoya!



In our spring 2022 newsletter we introduced you to Scott Tafoya, founder of Truth Dancer Coaching, LLC in Albuquerque, NM. Scott discovered a passion for coaching while earning his Doctor of Ministry degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He found that the practice of coaching was an effective means of empowering others to take ownership of their lives, make meaningful contributions to their communities, and uncover their own agency and potential. Seeing the need for this among the congregations he pastored and served with, and in indigenous communities around the country, he founded Truth Dancer Coaching in 2013.

Sometime later an IBC newsletter arrived in Scott's mailbox and sparked a new idea. After reaching out to IBC President, Jason Koppen, he began travelling regularly from Albuquerque to speak in chapel, guest teach, and provide training and support to IBC's volunteer life coaches. We are delighted to share that as of December 2023, Scott has joined the IBC staff as our first ever Indigenous Leadership Coach! In this new role, Scott will provide invaluable leadership development expertise for our staff, students, and alumni through coaching, training, mentoring, teaching, and program & resource development.



Life coaches have benefited from regular training with Scott throughout the school year

The addition of Scott to the IBC staff marks an important milestone for the school – **our staff is now over 50% Native American!** The significance of this cannot be overstated, as this milestone aligns closely with IBC's vision of seeing Native America cease to be the mission field and become a mission force. Additionally, the opportunity to be taught, guided, and mentored by other Native believers is invaluable to our students. We celebrate this milestone and are excited to welcome Scott to the IBC staff!

Scott shares in IBC's commitment to graduating each student debt-free and is currently in the process of raising support. Please reach out to the IBC Business Office if you would like to support the important work he is doing for the IBC community (928-774-3890, info@indianbible.org).

Written by Irish Noble, Director of Communications

Celebrating 65 Years of Indian Bible College!

Indian Bible College was founded in October 1958 when four Navajo men sat down with Gordon Fraser to study the Bible around his kitchen table. Fraser was responding to the vision cast by Harry Ironside and reinforced by his own experience—that there was a desperate need for training that would prepare Native Americans to be leaders in the Evangelical church. By 1961 the school had purchased several buildings and was incorporated in the state of Arizona as Southwestern School of Missions. At the time, the primary emphasis was on training Navajo men to minister in their own language.



Over the years that mission has expanded to include the training of indigenous men and women of all tribes in the skills necessary to lead in the Native church and beyond. In 1985, when the school began offering bachelor degrees, it started operating as Indian Bible College. We have now graduated over 220 students from 57 Native American and Canada First Nations tribes. As we wrap up our 65th school year, we are grateful for God's provision, guidance, and sustaining hand, and we are grateful for YOU—God's people—who have come alongside us in countless ways to serve Christ by building up the Native church.



To celebrate our 65th school year, Indian Bible College staff and students hosted events in Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho, telling the IBC story and casting a vision for the school's future. You can see the highlights from this "Northwest Tour" and hear the excitement for IBC's future from our partners and supporters at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=NFMSlogXbfQ>. At each celebration event, the past, present, and future of the school was discussed, and students and graduate staff members shared their stories of healing, growth, and experiencing the reality of God's love through their time at IBC. You can celebrate our anniversary with us by viewing one of the celebration events here: <https://youtu.be/Eh7KtFXB530>.



It is an honor to be sending this newsletter to many of you who have been walking alongside IBC for much of its 65-year existence. Our campus community has been shaped and sustained by your prayers and support, and we look forward to following Jesus into the future alongside you. It is exciting to think that some of IBC's best days are still to come!

As part of our anniversary celebration we are working to tell the "origin story" of IBC via video by gathering pictures, testimonials, and stories of Gordon Fraser and others who contributed to starting the school. If you have anything that might benefit this project, please contact inoble@indianbible.org. We plan to have this video completed over the summer, and will announce it in the fall newsletter.



NONPROFIT US
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT
NO. 100
FLAGSTAFF, AZ



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

PO BOX 30880
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86003-0880

PHONE: (928) 774-3890

FAX: (928) 774-2655

EMAIL: info@indianbible.org

www.indianbible.org



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



Praise & Prayer

Praise God for His care and provision for IBC and its alumni for 65 years! **Pray with us** that IBC's best years are still yet to come!

Praise the Lord for all the benefits that accreditation is bringing to IBC. **Pray** for God's blessing on new Academic Dean, Josh Manning, as he assumes the role just as we launch into writing our third self-study.

Praise God for our new staff member, Scott, and new student, Leanna. **Pray** for them in their new pursuits.

Praise the Lord for a fruitful Ministry Immersion Trip, progress on the museum, and the development of the community garden.

Pray for the Lord to call many more Native Americans to pursue IBC studies, and for the Lord's protection from Satan's efforts to deter them from coming.

Celebration Weekend May 17th-18th

⇒ May 17th at 7 p.m.—**Student Ministry Showcase** in the IBC Student Center at 2229 E. Cedar Ave., Flagstaff

⇒ May 18th at 2 p.m.—

Commencement in the IBC

commons area between the buildings at 2918 N. Aris St., Flagstaff



You are welcome to attend the Showcase and/or Commencement in person (RSVP encouraged) or virtually at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/30AqdbOKYwY?feature=share>