

# Welcome new student, Leanna!

We are thrilled to be welcoming a new student to the IBC community this semester—Leanna from Alaska! Leanna is from the Dendu Gwich'in (Birch Creek) tribe located northeast of Fairbanks. She is attending IBC with a desire to lead within her local church and serve Alaska Native youth in the future. Please pray for her as she adjusts to life in a new community far from home. We are excited to have Leanna as part of our student body and look forward to seeing all that God does in her life!



## Celebrating IBC's Earliest Alumni

**Scott Franklin** (1920-2010). One of the four men who formed the original class of what became Indian Bible College was a very industrious, determined, and bold Navajo young man by the name of Scott Franklin. Scott was known for his skill as an interpreter of Navajo into English and English into Navajo. He knew how to navigate both worlds simultaneously. Pastor Franklin was born again in 1951. After overcoming an alcohol addiction and winning a fight with tuberculosis, he attended Southwestern School of Missions (SWSM, what became IBC), graduating with the first class in 1963.

Scott was unstoppable in his passion to share Jesus with his people. He planted several churches on the Navajo Reservation. He led another dedicated alumnus, **Mike Calvin**, to Jesus. Mike is a 1987 graduate and pastor of Flagstaff Indian Bible Church since 1998. Scott also helped disciple Ben Yazzie, former interim president of IBC and well-known intellectual in Navajo circles. On August 6, 2010, Scott entered the presence of His Lord whom he had followed so faithfully.



**Amy & Scott Franklin**



**Nancy Bradley** (1948-2023). Nancy Bradley graduated from IBC in 1995 with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree. Similar to Scott Franklin, she came on staff at IBC after graduation and taught Navajo. In addition, while living in Flagstaff, Nancy served alongside Lois Martin, another IBC staff member, in jail ministry. By Nancy's own admission, the years she spent at IBC were the best years of her life. Hers was a life filled with struggle as she battled to overcome the disadvantages of being born with Cerebral Palsy and endured debilitating headaches. Yet Nancy was faithful to the end. According to her family, Nancy was ready to stand in the presence of Jesus when He called her home. Cancer presented the final fight that led to her peaceful transition to the next world.

**Nancy Bradley (right), with former staff member Helen Yazzie**

**Jimmie and Glassie Seaton** continue serving the Lord in the checkerboard area south of Gallup, NM, where some of the most traditional Navajo people still live. In his younger years **Jimmie** was groomed as a medicine man but turned from traditional ways to pursue Jesus. He graduated from SWSM in 1969. Navajo is still his primary language, and he continues to fill a niche among the older generation who find English to be confusing.

**Glassie** trusted in Jesus around the age of 9 as a result of Christian influences at the boarding school she attended. By age twelve she was reading Navajo songs for the older people in her home area south of Gallup. Glassie graduated from SWSM in 1970 with a strong grasp of English and a determination to follow Jesus no matter the cost. As a married couple Jimmie and Glassie have served the Lord faithfully throughout the eastern side of the vast Navajo Reservation.



**Jimmie (left) and Glassie with former staff member, Mike Hendricks and IBC student, Aaron (right)**



**Allen Early** (1940-2018) was San Carlos Apache and came to Christ in a radical way from a past of crime and violence. He graduated from SWSM in 1969. You can see him tell his story here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=tXVowTDH4jA&t=1s>. In his years of following Jesus Allen worked with Corrie Ten Boom and Chuck Colson, and visited every home on his reservation twice to share the love of Jesus.

*Written by Martha Gushee, Director of Alumni Relations*

# Ministry Immersion Trip Report

**“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit;...For who has despised the day of small things?” Zechariah 4:6-10.** Fellow student, Kyon Yazzie, shared this passage during a debrief that challenged us for the week of the Ministry Immersion Trip (MIT). Small things are BIG when God is in them. *“Before the start of this trip God laid on my heart this passage from Zechariah 4:6-10 as His encouragement to me and I was blown away at the fulfillment of His own words. To see God manifesting himself through the lives of the student body involved in this trip was amazing as He worked in and through each individual to reach out into the Apache communities we were engaged in from McNary, to Linden, and down to Whiteriver. In the end we were not disappointed and neither were we discouraged—by the littlest efforts we saw God working and we saw it revealed in our changed hearts and perspectives... not only were we challenged greatly but we went through a Christ-like transformation that left us humbled and united.”* (Kyon Yazzie, junior)

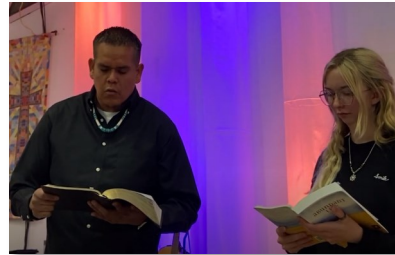


In March, twenty IBC students and three staff traveled a few hours southeast of Flagstaff to serve the White Mountain Apache tribe in McNary, Whiteriver, and Linden, Arizona. Each day we divided into small groups to go in different directions. A small group went to American Indian Christian Mission in Linden to serve as teachers' assistants. Another small group would serve at an after-school program called “The Kennel” in Whiteriver, and the remaining would help clean up the campus grounds of Alcheyay High School. As the week went on, opportunities came up for IBC students to share their testimonies, teach, and come alongside IBC graduate, Ammie Palmer, in her work with local high school students.



Wherever the Lord is going to send His people, there will be resistance and hardships. Amazingly, God does not take away these challenges. Instead, He draws us closer to Him and to each other. In this way, His Spirit is manifested in us to do His work. The work that was done may have been small, our teams were small, the ministries we worked with were small, but within the small amount of time we were there, God did BIG things. *“MIT pushed the students' patience, emotions, and physical and spiritual limits. However, despite our limits being stretched I saw the Holy Spirit throughout MIT in the hearts and attitudes of the students to keep them pouring out in every event that took place. The Holy Spirit took the lead and I was very encouraged, thankful, and joyful to see the students obey and submit to Him so they could be instruments of God.”* (Cenovia Dayzie, junior)

This MIT was an amazing opportunity to serve the White Mountain Apache people. The trip was planned for the spring of 2020, but we all know what took place that year. The desire was still there and we believe this was the year the Lord wanted us to be there. *“I saw God work in, through, and all around the entire student body to leave His mark upon the lives we were all privileged and blessed to be a part of. All credit, honor, and glory belongs to Him who sent us!”* (Tim Key, junior)



We would like to thank McNary Fellowship Ekklesia Church for their hospitality and for housing us for the week of MIT. We also would like to thank Calvary Bible Church and Grace Community Church in Flagstaff for supporting us through our fundraisers. Also to all of you who continue to support the students of IBC through donations and your continued prayers—you were very much a part of this trip. Thank you.

*Written by Aaron Betselie, Student Body President*

To see highlights from the Ministry Immersion Trip, go to <https://youtube.com/watch?v=u4WENWorFCU&t=22s>

# New at Indian Bible College

## The Indian Bible College Museum of Christian Missions to Native Peoples

IBC's on-campus museum project began in 2022 with the intent of providing the public - and people of faith in particular - access to resources and information detailing the history and outcomes of Christian missions to Native peoples in North America. This ongoing project aims to honor the stories of Native people where they have often been overlooked, as well as illuminate a path forward for Christians desiring to listen, learn, and contribute conscientiously to the restoration of Native communities. We are excited to announce that as of April 2024, tours of the museum are now available to visitors!

The IBC museum project creates opportunity for visitors to gain a better understanding of the historical and social contexts of their Native neighbors. One of our primary goals is to facilitate cross-cultural conversations about the opportunity to empower Native Christian leaders for the future of the church. Tours will be available on Tuesday mornings throughout the year (followed by chapel and a shared meal with students and staff). To schedule a tour, please call 928-774-3890 or email [info@indianbible.org](mailto:info@indianbible.org).



## Campus Community Garden

Here in Flagstaff the first signs of spring are starting to emerge (in between snowstorms) and our excitement is building for our first season of growing crops in our campus community garden! The garden, which offers nearly 1,000 square feet of growing space, is the product of many hours of community investment and will hopefully become a means by which IBC students and staff can pour back into our community here in the Sunnyside neighborhood.



In the fall we partnered with Flagstaff Foodlink to make the apple tree in our garden space available to the community for gleaning through the Flagstaff Fruit Tree Project. Local volunteers picked apples for themselves and local food charities, and were even kind enough to pick a big box for our students! We hope that the garden will continue to open new avenues for meaningful engagement with our neighbors in the future. Currently, plans are underway for partnering with local organizations to offer gardening workshops to our students who plan to stay over the summer and work in the garden.

We were thrilled to receive a \$2,100 Neighborhood Sustainability Grant from the Flagstaff Sustainability Office in December 2023 to help fund further development of the garden space. Grant funds will be used to install an irrigation system, develop a seed library, and integrate composting into our campus food system. We are deeply thankful for the investment of volunteers, local organizations, and partners like you who have made this project possible. We look forward to seeing how it connects our students with creation and the community in new ways!

## Summer Overseas 2024

As part of our commitment to equipping Native believers for biblical ministry and spiritual leadership to their people and the world, we are launching our second Summer Overseas! Staff, students, and alumni of IBC will be ministering in France, Spain, and Mexico this summer. To learn more or see how you can financially support these trips, visit [indianbible.org/summer-overseas-donate/](https://indianbible.org/summer-overseas-donate/).

# Prayer Need:

## Pray for Prospective IBC Students

*To protect the privacy of the individuals mentioned in this article, names and identifying details have been altered.*

God is opening up doors for the gospel all around the United States. Billy Graham once said of Indigenous peoples in America, “The greatest moments of Native history lie ahead of us if a great spiritual renewal and awakening should take place. The Native American has been a sleeping giant. He is awakening. The original Americans could become the evangelists who will help win America for Christ!”

The Enemy, Satan, knows the potential Native American Christians have for living and sharing the gospel. I think that's why recruiting students to Indian Bible College can be challenging at times. Take Lena for example—Lena attended a conference and felt God's calling in her life to learn and grow in His Word. She heard about IBC and started the application process. Lena was officially accepted and was only days away from moving onto campus when financial responsibility for her entire family was suddenly shifted to her. At 18 years old she was asked to provide financially for her mom, grandma, and siblings. Lena felt the pull of cultural responsibility to care for the family and abandoned her aspirations for pursuing a biblical education. Ethan is another story—Ethan was four years sober and focused on making a difference in his community. After being accepted to IBC, he prepared to fly to Arizona to start the school year. The night before his arrival he stayed with some friends and discovered alcohol in the cabinets. The temptation was too great and Ethan fell off the wagon. He went missing for days—even his family didn't know where he was. Ethan never made it to IBC as a student. The Enemy robbed his calling.

Lionel is another man who felt called to IBC with his wife and kids. He wanted to become a pastor in his home community. He had been in the application process for months and was about to be accepted as a student. Lionel shared with his church and community that he was going to Bible college, expecting affirmation and encouragement. Instead he faced intimidation, threats and discouragement. Some said, "Why are you leaving your community?" Others said, "Those Christians are the ones who brought abuse to our people." After months of hearing this, Lionel withdrew his application and left the church. Most recently, Lisa was excited to bring some prospective students to IBC for Preview Days. This was an opportunity for these high schoolers to learn more about IBC as they prayed about their next steps following graduation. The night before the event, Lisa's brother, who lives with her, went on a drinking binge and began to threaten others in the house. Lisa was afraid not only for herself but for her brother as he threatened to take his own life. Lisa didn't sleep that night. By the time an uncle managed to take the knife away from her brother and calm him down it was already morning. Lisa was unable to bring the high school students to IBC and was deeply disappointed with the lost opportunity.

The journey from prospective student to full-time student is not an easy one. The Devil is a roaring lion. Many prospects face threats, temptations, deaths in their families, and cultural pressures to fulfill. The staff at Indian Bible College is praying for a student body of 75, including full-time and part-time students, by 2025. Please join Daniel (Director of Admissions) and the Admissions Counselors (Aaron & Karen) in praying for prospective students. May God keep these potential students and their families safe. Thank you for being an advocate for these men and women by joining us in prayer.

*Daniel Esplin,*  
Director of Admissions



**IBC Admissions Team**  
**Daniel (Director of Admissions),**  
**Karen and Aaron (Admissions**  
**Counselors)**