

April 15, 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters of American Indian Christian Mission

I want to tell you about the good things that are happening at American Indian Christian Mission, and the plans we are making for the 2009/2010 school year.

Last week was Spiritual Emphasis Week at AICM. The program was a Vacation Bible School dealing with Rome and Paul. If you haven't already seen it, you should go to AICM's www.aicm.org web site and click on the [VBS Photo Album Online](#). There you will see the happy faces of the kids and staff involved the program activities.

Executive Director Patrick Lester has been visiting supporting churches in Arizona, California and Georgia to introduce himself and give assurance that ministries to Native American children through American Indian Christian Mission have not been interrupted by the recent financial difficulties and change of leadership. He will visit some of our supporting churches in Florida this month, and some of our supporting churches in Colorado in May.

Funding is always an issue, but with God's blessing and your faithfulness we are paying the bills, and are beginning to restore the savings and special accounts which were misused last year to pay operating expenses of the Mission. A special thanks goes to the 187 Arizona families who used the Tuition Tax Credit provisions of the Arizona State Income Tax Laws to give about \$120,000 to AICM to help pay the tuition costs for Navajo and Apache students that attend the AICM School.

For the past four years AICM has been offering a quality high school program for those students who want to continue their high school education at the Mission after their graduations from AICM's elementary school. The problem has been that high school age students want the sports and extra curricular programs that larger high schools are able to offer. For this reason it has been difficult for AICM to keep teenage students at the Mission. Therefore, AICM's Leadership has recommended, and the Board has approved, a plan for bussing our high school students 10 miles to the Show Low High School beginning in the Fall semester this year. There they will be able to participate in the academic, sports and extra curricular programs which the Show Low High School can provide. While attending school they will continue to live in the Christian home environment on the AICM campus, and receive the Bible training courses which AICM provides.

We are also planning to start a vocational training program on campus for our high school students to help better prepare them for lives and careers on the Reservations. We have the materials on campus for construction of a large metal building that can be used for vocational training purposes – auto mechanics, welding, etc. Ron Schlatter, one of our Board Members is taking the

lead in getting this building erected this summer, and outfitted for vocational training purposes.

I also want to tell you that at the March 14, 2009 Board meeting, Lucille Hammans joined our Board. Lucille is a retired teacher/school administrator from Tularosa, New Mexico, and a member of the Alamogordo Christian Church. She has had many years experience in teaching children, including Native American children from the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation in New Mexico, and will be a valuable addition to the AICM Board of Directors.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of American Indian Christian Mission. We are truly blessed to have supporters who, even in these difficult economic times, remain faithful to AICM's mission of equipping and evangelizing Native American children for Christ.

John Hayes, Chairman, AICM Board of Directors