

“EVANGELIZING AND EQUIPPING NATIVE AMERICANS FOR CHRIST”



SMOKE SIGNALS

APRIL/MAY 2011

Graduate's of 2010 - 2011

12th Grade

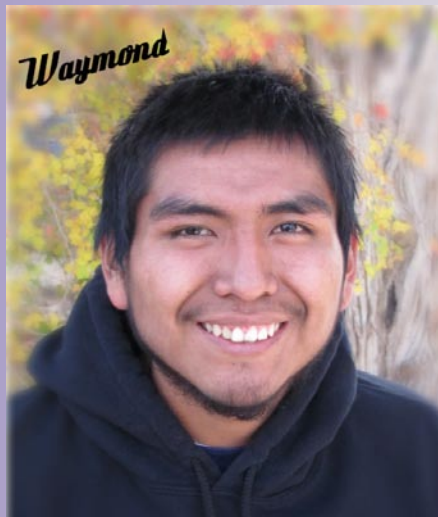
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DIRECTOR

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Waymond



Marie

8th Grade



Marquet



Brett



Alex



Hello. My name is Marc Silliman. I count it a privilege to be more involved with the ministry of AICM since late February this year. Having helped a bit in the business office a while back, I was able to see God's faithful provision for AICM through the many supporters he has used over the forty plus years of our existence.

My background is rooted in business management, both my own and that of the golf course owners that I served in my former life and religion. I became hooked on the game of golf as a youngster, gained a job in that business, and never looked back. There was a short time that I attempted higher education at Mesa Community College but my focus then was the school golf team and not much on education. When that didn't work out I took the opportunity to assist the golf pro at Payson Country Club and launched out into the religion of golf as a livelihood. I earned membership in the PGA of America in 1979 and was given my first Head Pro job by the City of Casa Grande, AZ at their nine hole golf course in 1982. Three years later I moved my young family to the Show Low area to initiate operations at Silver Creek Golf Club at White Mountain Lakes. Back then it was my dream come true to be a club golf professional in the beautiful White Mountains of AZ.

Then, in 1996, God worked his miraculous plan to save me from the religion of Golf. He opened my eyes to my sin against Him and showed me the way to salvation through Jesus Christ by using an illusionist/evangelist at a magic show and some dear saints at Calvary Baptist Church in Show Low.

Since then I have been growing in knowledge of who God is and what He has done since the beginning. Oh what grace He pours out. More grace was given to me in 2002 when God gave me the faith to resign from my golf job and trust Him for my livelihood. That involved our buying a service contracting business that serves the construction industry in the Northeastern sector of Arizona. Recently He has allowed that industry to slow down enough where I find time to serve Him at AICM.

I now thoroughly enjoy the gift God gave me in a wife, Cindy, forgiveness from her and my two adult children for my neglecting them while practicing my former religion, and two grandchildren who live in Hawaii with our son and daughter-in-law. Our daughter and her husband live much closer in the valley of the sun.

I bring with me, by God's grace as well, a passion for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, an appreciation for and a focus on God honoring resource management, both monetary and human. I have much to learn from the faithful servants God has planted at AICM. I pray His Glory will be magnified through our obedience to His divine command found in Matthew 28:19-20.

Laboring together for the Kingdom of Christ,

Marc Silliman
Executive Director

APACHE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION (BLUE BUS)

Putting It All Together

In 2006, the Zospah Family living in Cibecue (White Mountain Apache Tribe) received a small trailer that was purchased with the help of AICM, Bible Christian Church (Garden City, KS), Eastview Christian Church (Martinsville, IN), and the White Mountain Christian Church (Show Low, AZ). The AICM found the Zospah family through the ACC (Blue Bus) ministry nearly 5 years ago. At that time, the small trailer was all we could afford and provided a better living situation than the open shack that they were living in.

Recently, the Zospah family was given a bigger double wide trailer, and help was needed to put it on the supports and tie it together. With the efforts of other local help and AICM staff, Gene Brenneman and Donald Dameron, this task was completed. ACC has purchased a wood stove for the family and delivered it along with some wood. It is wonderful to see people work together for a good cause and we at AICM give God the glory that we could help again in some small way. We have known this family for quite some time and they are dear to us.



MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

We've had a good year so far, with no major emergencies. In recent years we have dealt with water main breaks, major remodels and other larger projects that always cost time and money. So far in 2011 we have been dealing with small repairs and general maintenance and this has allowed us to put more time into fixing up our shops and other maintenance buildings around campus. Mr. Barkman and Mr. Peterson have been organizing and sorting through tools and hardware in the main shop and in the barn. We are also remodeling the barn to make it more convenient for us to use as an auto and wood shop

The return of spring also means a return of ministry teams around the country coming to our campus. Teams are starting to arrive and they are helping the maintenance department as well as our other departments in lending a much needed hand. We thank God for all who send teams out to come along side us as we serve the White Mountain Apache Tribe. With the return of the teams we also have need for materials such as paint and shingles that the teams need to help us do the work. Below are some items we need in maintenance as we head into our busy summer season.

General hardware: Paint (interior and exterior), roof shingles, various screws and fasteners, doors, water hoses, paint brushes, wood stain, lighting, carpet shampoo, safety glasses, dusk mask, work gloves, circular saw blades, window screen parts, 9 V batteries for smoke detectors, LED light bulbs for gymnasium and compressed air for cleaning computers/electronics.

Larger items: set of Porter Cable cordless tools (drill, circular and reciprocating saws, light and vacuum), full set of standard and metric socket sets, safety lanyard, set of wood, metal and concrete drill bits.

Biggest items: Backhoe or trac hoe, newer 4X4 maintenance truck, utility tractor, donations for gravel for our roads, ATV or 4 wheel Mule preferable w/ snowblade.

Most of all we ask for your daily prayers,
God Bless and thank you,

Marty Etsitty, AICM
Maintenance Director



AMERICAN INDIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We are thankful to God for such a blessed year. What a gift to watch the children grow academically and spiritually. Bible was taught by Mr. Marty Etsitty, a Navajo Pastor. He is a great asset to our school. He makes the Bible come alive.

Ms. Minott, Mrs. Pierce and Ms. Rosie were back with us again this year much to the joy of the children. The third and fourth are grouped together while fifth through eighth are in the middle school format.

In Math, the 4-8 grades have become independent learners, challenging themselves to compete against themselves. It is an exciting thing to observe. We are truly preparing them for high school and beyond.

Again this year we have had clubs on Tuesday afternoons. Drama, Native American Arts, and Art are offered. We have made drama presentations at Christmas for families and for supporting churches. The kids love it!

This April, we participated in the "Academic Meet" at the Sun Valley Academy in Holbrook, AZ. Every year Christian Schools in Northeast Arizona get together for competitions in Bible Knowledge, Bible Memory, Art, Spelling and much more.

Last year, the results of the AIMS test were excellent. Our children never cease to amaze us. We are looking forward to them taking AIMS this year.



Over one-half of our students have been on the honor roll since the First Quarter. I am hoping you can see the results of your support for these children. It is truly amazing watching God working in these children.

Karen Slack,
Principal

Pictures are from the student and staff spelling bee's.



STUDENT LIFE

Spring time at the mission brings many different emotions. Excitement as teams come in and invest their energies working and spending time with students on campus. Apprehension about the closing of the school year and saying goodbye to those we have been sharing our lives with. Wondering if students will return, if their foundation in Christ is secure, can they stand strong in the face of temptations? Trying desperately to enjoy our last 4 weeks of school investing all we can in our students. It is scary to let students go and trust that they will be ok. Realizing they will survive without our daily influence. For staff it means evaluating our call to the ministry and recommitting or moving on to another chapter in life. For me spring is also a time of reflection on the workings of the mission. What went well, what we can do differently, ideas for next school year start coming together to be refined during the summer months.

This year we have not been able to celebrate the many baptisms and commitments to follow Christ as we did last year. At first this seems very sad, but as I look at individuals I see growth, most of our students have previously given their lives to Christ. They are now embracing what that means. As I look at our students I have to say, this is the strongest group spiritually that I have seen at the mission. I am very proud of the growth that has occurred in our staff and students. I ask each of you to join me in prayer for continued growth that hearts would be fully set on following God and revealing His goodness to others.

To come to this point has taken years of investment in students. The majority of our student body has been attending the mission for at least 3 years. Our staffing has also been more consistent with little turn over in the last few years. We have established relationships built around love, acceptance and nurture each child and youth on campus. Knowing our students better we are able to take them to the next level.

This is done through day to day interactions, devotions, encouragement and rebuke as needed, knowing the students families and living situations. Observing needs and meeting those, discerning what lessons are most important and setting up learning experiences that will result in growth. It is a mix of challenge, excitement, fun, quiet and comfort.

This year student life has engaged in serving others on campus, and serving our community by feeding the hungry, visiting the nursing home, passing out food boxes, and in ministering on the blue bus. We have interacted more with ministry teams coming out, developed a thrift store, spent time with Apache elders, and challenged ourselves in team building as well as countless other activities.

Brennae Lewing



HOPE HOUSE (HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS) SPRING BREAK TRIP

Hike to Fossil Creek

The Spring Break Adventure Trip went very well, especially considering the weather reports that forecasted rain and snow, and that we were camped on a flood plain. Our big hike took us down to Fossil Creek, a place of amazing beauty and a great backdrop for devotions and life lessons. There were definitely challenges to overcome! Marie, Sheriden and Anna did a great job in spite of injuries and a very long uphill stretch that we weren't even sure would lead to our destination. We also had to make an emergency stop in Payson for two new tires, probably due to something sharp on the rough road to Fossil Creek. At the end of our trip, each participant was able to vocalize a personal challenge and how they were able to overcome it. Our hope is that these lessons will transfer to everyday life and that the girls will be ready to step up and conquer the challenges that regularly confront them.

Rachel Hergenrath, House Parent

What the Trip Meant to Me!

"Well to me, the trip brought me closer to Joe and Rachel, and to God. I loved being there with them and learning more about God and myself. It pushed me to go beyond the point that I wanted to quit. That's what it meant to me."

Anna Rose Riley, High School Student





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The AICM CLOSET

We actually did it; AICM has put together a thrift store! The students, staff and ministry teams worked this year to organize and display donations. We are not yet able to open daily; in fact our goal is to open one weekend each month. The funds we receive are used to provide for the needs of Student Life providing money for activities and outings that we have not had before. In addition to this we are better able to meet the needs of families that are struggling in two different ways. First a portion of funds are being set aside for benevolence, second we are able to give out of our abundance in the store to families in crisis.

If you are anywhere near the Show Low area I encourage you to come see what has been done, and drop off any unwanted but still usable items. We are also looking for volunteers to help maintain and operate the store.

AICM NEEDS

The following is a list of some items or projects that we are hoping to obtain or accomplish

Buildings

- Insulate the back of the chapel (the main part is done)
- Paint for interior and exterior of buildings
- Energy efficient upgrades
- Metal roofing

Programming

- Thrift Store Items
- (We have a lot of clothing. Other items like electronics and furniture would help draw more people)

Office

- Copy paper and ink

Kitchen

- Food and Cleaning Supplies
- Bar Towels for cleaning

Maintenance

- Tractor/Backhoe
- Tools
- Dump trailer
- Floor wax
- Funds for pool supplies

If you or your church would like to help fund, or complete any of these needs, please contact our office for more details.