

SMOKE SIGNALS NEWSLETTER



The American Indian Christian Mission

924 MISSION LANE SHOW LOW, ARIZONA

*“EVANGELIZING AND EQUIPPING
NATIVE AMERICANS FOR CHRIST”*

Volume 04

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2010 GRADUATES!

8TH GRADE: CHRISTIAN PETE, DOMINIC KNIGHT, WAYLON JOE,
CHALCEY ANTONIO, AND SHERIDAN ANTONIO

12TH GRADE: JACKIE NEZ





It is so hard to believe that school is finished and we have graduated yet another student, Jackie Nez. Man how time has flown this year. On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, I want to thank all of you for your countless prayers and support throughout this year. God has blessed us with so many good things.

We started off the year with so much excitement and joy as we welcomed in the students for another year of growing them in the LORD. Little did we know that so many were going to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. More on that later. Our year was filled with struggles (financial, family deaths (students) and victories. But most importantly, our year was filled with you the supporter praying for us, sending the students gifts and providing financial support for us to feed these beautiful children as well as keep them warm.

From our perspective God has truly blessed us this year with students who really want to understand what it is to be a Christ follower. From August, I had asked the students every week was what the most important decision they would ever make? Do you know what their answer continued to be week after week? Accepting Jesus Christ as their personal LORD and Savior!! Every week it was expressed that this would be the most important decision and wouldn't you know...by the conclusion of this letter, we have had 11 baptisms!! Praise the LORD all you saints. God has been doing some great things here despite the enemy trying to thwart what is happening. As a supporter you can be assured that we are spreading the Gospel and God is moving within this campus.

But it cannot stop there. We feel very compelled to reach the parents and families. Starting next year we will be taking the Gospel to homes through Bible studies. We want to be able to minister to our children's families. There is a great need to begin to evangelize not only the children that the LORD brings us, but to evangelize the parents that He has also put into our path. So while we continue to minister on campus, know that we will be taking the Gospel to other territories to further His kingdom!

So, as we prepare for what the LORD has in store for us next year, would you continue to pray for the AICM and those that are being ministered and the lives that are being changed? We continue to ask for your prayers as the battles continue, we still are always being attacked by the enemy. Secondly, would you prayerfully consider what you can do for the cause this year financially. We have been effected tremendously by the economy. We have seen a big drop in giving on a monthly basis. We need you as a supporter to continue to support us financially so that

we can effectively minister and provide a basis for these children to grow in the LORD. Times are tough, but our God is big enough to handle anything that comes our way. So prayerfully consider what you can do, continue to do or even prayerfully give more. It is all very much appreciated.

So sit back and enjoy the Smoke Signals. Look and read at what great things the LORD is doing. God bless you and the American Indian Christian Mission. I know many of you haven't received a Smoke Signals for quite some time. I personally apologize for that. We have been trying very hard to cut back on expenses. Please accept this apology. We are trying to be very diligent with the monies that the LORD provides.

Annual Reports will be available in July. If you or your team would like a copy, please call the office at 928.537.5912

BOARD OF DIRECTORS A.I.C.M.

Dear Supporters,

As we close out the 2009-2010 school year, I offer congratulations to Jackie Nez on her graduation from Show Low High School. Jackie has been a student at AICS for 12 years. We wish her success and God's blessings as she begins a new chapter in her life.

The summer months at AICM are a contrast to the school year. Visiting ministry teams will participate in four weeks of summer enrichment camps, reaching out to approximately 150 Native American children. Maintenance projects will be completed at the AICM campus and on the Apache Reservation. The number of people visiting the campus and working along with the staff will change from week to week. We are always so thankful for the many ministry teams who volunteer their time and energy to make the summer months exciting for the children on the campus, as well as reaching the children via the Apache Christian Connection Bus ministry.

Finances, or lack thereof, continue to be the limiting factor as we strive to move ahead with our mission statement of evangelizing and equipping Native Americans for Christ. The current financial environment has affected schools and missions around the world and we have not been exempt from that. We have been called to be good stewards of the resources God puts at our disposal. Our current income level demands close examination of spending so that programs can be maintained and expanded when necessary. Please prayerfully consider partnering with AICM through a one-time gift or on an on-going basis. I thank all those who have already shown support for AICM through financial gifts as well as personal visits to the mission.

I would like to acknowledge the years of service as board members for both John Hanks and John Hayes. These men are stepping down after many years of faithful service. Special recognition and appreciation

for serving as Board Chairman goes to John Hayes. His Christian leadership and example has been a blessing to me personally as well an essential contribution to the work of AICM.

Ron Schlatter, Chairman

FINANCES

First and foremost we want to thank each and every one of you who support us and have supported us over the years.

We are grateful. Your support is the only way financially, that we have and can continue. Your prayers go beyond that.

It is evident that ministry has been and will continue to take place. We have had 10-15 students change their lives and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

It has been somewhat of a rough year, with the finances fluctuating due to the status of our economy.

We are operating beyond our means and have had to make staff reductions and various other changes without damaging the function of the school and ministries. These decisions are very difficult to make, but we must be obedient, pay for services rendered, and operate in our means. As of May, our fiscal year is completed and the budget for the next fiscal year has been approved by the Board.

We received \$98,000.00 with the Arizona Tax Credit which was a great help to catch us up and get us through for a couple of months. May the Lord continue to bless you and be gracious to you. Continue to cover us in prayer and again thank you for being so dedicated and trusting in us.

Sherry Brenneman, Business Manager

ACC

Apache Christian Connection continues its ministry in spite of financial drawbacks. A few less trips, but we strive to reach all areas still. It is great to work

with visiting teams, as well as our staff and students on the bus aiding us. Servanthood is such a privilege. Our prayer is that those doing ministry are growing in their own walk, as well as young lives continuing to hear the word.

The young kids we serve are the ones who will make a difference in their homes, families, and on the reservation. We are striving to help the kids understand this by getting to know Christ, who He is, be obedient, and make better choices. This will produce a major effect on the reservation as a whole. Making it a better, safer place to live and to care about.

Please lift us up in prayer as we strive to plant seeds and encourage lives to accept Christ, helping them to understand commitment and follow in obedience. Pray that God's word is life-changing. Pray that they discover God's undying love for each of them.

We want to express our gratitude towards the teams, their assistance and willingness to serve, and for the donations provided. We can't continue without you--our supporters!

Gene and Sherry Brenneman

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

It is time to take off the insulated coveralls and put away the snow shovels; and now time to put on sunglasses, brimmed hats and to get out the chainsaws. The seasons may change but for the men of the AICM maintenance work doesn't stop. We have been through a longer winter than usual with a lot of snow plowing and shoveling days. Now the weather is changing with high winds and warming days. We've been replacing a lot of roof shingles these past weeks with all the high winds sometimes reaching into the 70 mph range. With all the snow melted we are doing work back in our wooded acres. Trees are down due to the heavy snow, ruts and wash outs need to be filled and downed barb fencing need



to be mended. The Maintenance Department is blessed to have Godly men like Milt Hendrix, Erick Barkman and Bill Reynolds dedicated to the tasks.

Marty Etsitty, Maintenance Director

STUDENT LIFE

Student Life this year has been marked by many changes. These include our high school students attending Show Low High School, dorms shifted, split and remodeled, schedules altered, plans made and revised. The most exciting change, though, is within the hearts of the students. We have a group of believing students who are maturing and growing in Christ. We have children claiming Christ





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who will be baptized by the time you receive this. We have had students literally seeing and feeling the presence of demons on campus and in their homes, that too has been changed through the power of Christ. God is the Almighty, our Rock, Fortress, and Redeemer, unchanging in all of His ways, faithful to the end. Thank you for your support and encouragement in our trying times.

Brennae Lewing, Student Life Director

SCHOOL

What an amazing year we have had watching our Lord God Almighty working through our students and our staff! We continue diligently to implement the Readers' and Writers' concept while focusing on very specific reading strategies. This year we took the Aims test for the first time. Our kids did great. Many students Meet the Expectations and several Exceeded the Expectations. The rest were all Approaching the standards and very close to Meeting the Expectations. This is totally awesome and God ordained. The teachers and students are open to learning new things and implementing them. Praise God for He is wise and understanding. God bless all of you for everything you do.

Karen Slack, Instructional Leader

