



February 20, 2009

To Our Faithful Supporters of the American Indian Christian Mission I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We at the AICM are so excited about what God is doing and how he is orchestrating this ministry. He has been ordering our steps in such a way that it literally at times is overwhelming. I can tell you that we are thriving despite the attacks that the enemy is pushing on us. But, I believe that God is not done with us yet.

Two months ago, the Leadership Team and I met for a Strategic Planning Meeting. It was our desire to come away from the meeting with a concise direction in which we felt that God was taking us. I had asked the team to be in prayer roughly three weeks prior to this meeting. Our prayer was that God would take our thoughts, actions and motives and turn them into His thoughts, His actions and His motives. The first thing that we came up with are three goals in which we as a ministry will be and are striving for. They are as follows:

1. *To nurture the Spiritual Welfare of our student body and staff.*
2. *To provide an Adequate, Biblical and Spiritual education for our students.*
3. *To solidify and enhance partnerships with our supporters.*

As Executive Director, I want to encourage you, the supporter, to pray that God would continue to empower His people as we strive to make this mission a mission that is His!

The second thing that we decided by the direction and prayer of the Lord was not an easy decision. This was a decision that produced lots of tears, frustration, stopping in the middle of a conversation and asking God to move in our hearts. This decision has come about because we feel that we need to do what's best for our children and we are simply asking for your continued support and prayers.

With the approval from our Board of Directors we at the American Indian Christian Mission will be changing our High School Program (9-12 grades). We feel that the Lord is calling us to continue to serve our High School children, but to afford them the opportunity to go to a school where they will be able to participate in many more things than we at the AICM can offer, such as a diversified academic program and extra-curricular activities. We as a mission will still house our High School students providing

them with Bible studies, devotions and a Christian perspective on the world in which we live. We are simply giving them the opportunity to go to Show Low Public School during the day, then returning back to the mission for their normal evening activities.

We came to this decision with two things in mind. First, we want our kids to be able to have the same luxuries that other students have by having a choice of electives and participating in the Navitt Program. Secondly, we simply can't afford to do the things we have been doing in the past. We have not been living within our means and tough decisions have had to be made. We simply cannot afford to have 5 High School teachers right now. If our income were higher, then we certainly would hire the necessary teachers.

In ministry, this would be the opposite of what is normal. Some folks might say, "taking a few steps back aren't you?" Well I would answer that by saying, "We are looking at it as taking steps forward." This is a very positive move that will have great benefits to all our High School students. We believe that God is calling us to take this step as a step of faith as well as a step in progress towards our three goals. With your trust and continued support, I am asking that you would prayerfully embark on this journey with us.

The Leadership Team and I have put a budget together that has considerable cuts, but cuts that will not be harmful to any of our children. I encourage you to trust us as we strive each and everyday to *Equip and Evangelize Native Americans for Christ*. In my Smoke Signals for the spring season, I will devote much of the newsletter to this matter and be as detailed as I can in regards to questions that you might have. If you do have questions, please contact myself or the Board of Directors. We are here for the children and for you the supporter. Thank you for your continued support and trust that you give.

In Him,
Patrick Lester
Executive Director