

Smoke Signal

Getting to Know Us

Usually the articles in our newsletters consist of updates from our various ministries at the mission. This addition is a little different. We wanted to give you the opportunity to get to know our staff a little better.

Executive Director: Leslie Solliday & BM / MT: Angela Solliday

I am originally from California. I grew up in Tustin (south of Los Angeles) and my family attended a Christian Church in the area. I was baptized when I was ten. When I was in High School my family moved to Mariposa near Yosemite National Park. I learned to appreciate God's beautiful creation while I lived there. I attended Christian Heritage College in the San Diego area. The college had a good missions program. I went on several mission trips to Mexico while I was there. In 1994 I went to Anderson Indiana and that is where I met Angela who would become my wife about a year later. We moved to Abilene, TX where I worked as an aircraft technician for five years. While there our son, Daniel and our daughter, Rachel were born. In 2000 I became a youth minister at a church in Virginia and later for a church in Kentucky. Eventually, I became the Associate Minister at Dayton Christian Church in Oregon. In the summer of 2012 I became the Executive Director of AICM. I manage the mission, promote AICM at churches and Bible conferences and work with the Board of Directors. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to help Native Americans know Christ.

Angela grew up in Anderson, Indiana. Her family attended Bethany Christian Church in Anderson. She went to Jonson University in Tennessee. She was on a music team that performed at several camps all over the East and Midwest. She graduated with a teaching degree and over the years taught preschool and third grade. She has been my partner in life and a great mother. She is currently the Business Manager and Ministry Team Coordinator at AICM. She Loves the Lord and shares my passion to help Native Americans know Christ as their Savior.

AICM Announcements

1.) We are currently looking for an Operations / HR Director for AICM. This person will be responsible for managing staff and will assist the Executive Director. We would like to fill this position by January or February of 2018. See our website for more details and an application, click on the "ABOUT US" tab and then "Employment". You can call me at: (928) 537-5912 or email: executivedirector@aicm.org for a job description and salary information.

2.) AICM will have a booth at the ICOM Mission Conference in Peoria IL, November 16th – 19th, 2017. If you plan to attend, please stop by our booth (# 1702).



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School Principal: Alex Garrett & wife Becky

I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was baptized when I was 14 years old. As I got older, I had a desire to have a deeper relationship with Him. I studied God's Word and spent time in daily prayer asking how I could serve Him with my life. It was at that point that He called me to the ministry. That's when I began my studies at Louisville Bible College. I have served at several churches in several positions: youth ministry, preaching, teaching, associate ministry, and even once leading songs. I now serve at AICM as the principal of the school, as well as teaching Bible and Social Studies classes. I love my job and getting to work with the kids and other staff at AICM. I am married, my wife's name is Becky and we have a daughter named Karen.



Teacher: Lorraine Pierce

In 1998 the Director of AICM did a presentation at our home church, Emmanuel Christian Church, in Stoneboro, Pennsylvania. My husband, Willie Pierce, wanted to help the children at AICM in some way. I was a certified teacher in Physics and General Science. I thought a design for the new science lab might help if it came from a teacher, and sent one, along with a mention that I would be available if they needed a science teacher. The Principal contacted me, and I found myself on the way to Arizona while Willie was selling our home and small farm.



I have witnessed countless blessings, both large and small since that day. I wouldn't know where to begin. We have been blessed by meeting some fantastic people who have come here to AICM to serve the Lord, some of whom are very dear to us. Perhaps the greatest blessing of all, though, is almost daily watching our students grow and learn. Some of them have graduated from high school, married and have had children of their own. Others are working to graduate and move on to productive lives. That is just a huge blessing that lifts me up to the mountain top. I know of one who is on track for a degree in medicine. Others have joined the military.

Favorite Verses: Isaiah 40:31, 1 Peter 5:7, 2 Timothy 1:7, and Philippians 4:13

Teacher: Courtney Millsap

I My name is Courtney Millsap and I am the 3rd/4th grade teacher. This is my second year teaching here. I am originally from central North Carolina in a small town called Kernersville. During the summers of 2012, 2013, and 2015 I came out to AICM on mission trips. When I returned home in 2015, I felt a need to return as quickly as possible. Of course that was God calling me to return. I had never taught this age group, as I was used to teaching preschool age but God had another plan for my life. I sent in my application & trusted God. In January 2016, I received a call for an interview. Within two weeks of that call, I had received the job. I made the journey out here in the middle of July and I am happy to continue this journey that God placed on my heart. I am so happy to be here teaching these students both academics and the love of Christ. One thing I have absolutely loved about being out here is pouring into the children and watching them really grow into young men and women.



Teacher: Amanda McGinnis

Hi, my name is Amanda McGinnis and I teach the fifth grade class. This is my first year teaching here at AICM. I graduated from Cincinnati Christian University in December of 2016, with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I am originally from Richwood, Ohio, but have spent the past five years studying and living in Cincinnati. In 2012 I came on a mission trip to Arizona and then spent the next two summers serving the people of the White Mountain Apache Reservation as an intern with another local ministry. During this time, I was able to work alongside AICM in various ways. From a young age I knew that I wanted to be a teacher, I did not have any idea as to where I would end up teaching. Last spring while driving home from work one day, God reminded me of my heart and passion for the Apache Children, and laid it on my heart to return long-term to teach. Over the next few months God opened a lot of doors and I was offered the teaching position here at AICM. I am so excited to be a part of the AICM family and to be able to teach these students both academically and spiritually. The highlight of my time here has been building deep relationships with all of my students as well as several others from the school.



ACC Blue Bus Ministry: James & Leslee Holloway

James and I came to AICM in October 2016 from Fort Worth Texas. We have 3 boys: Christian is 15 and is in 10th grade, he loves Basketball and Choir. Nicholas is 13 (soon to be 14) and is in 8th grade, he loves football, basketball, wrestling, band (plays the trumpet) and Choir. Benjamin is 8 and is in the 2nd grade and he loves baseball. Our boys also love to go out on the bus and has started building friendships on the reservation. James has worked in the area of maintenance at 2 different churches since 2004. He loved to help get everything ready for whatever the church needed. I got my CDL in 2002 to work for a local school district after driving a school bus off and on for several years, God called me to start driving for him. So I started driving the Church bus and after awhile he called us to do a Bus Ministry for our church. James and I enjoyed working with the bus kids and their families. We loved sharing Christ with each of them and it became our passion. During the spring of 2016 we felt God leading us to full time missions and doing bus ministry for AICM. It was great working with the Ministry Teams this summer, as they shared Christ with the kids on the reservation. I loved watching the kids interact with the teams and get to know them each day. Not only did we meet spiritual needs this summer we also met physical needs by bringing food to the kids. We love to help meet the needs of those on the reservation, whether its for prayer, food, or just an ear for listening to them.



Boy's House Parent: Thomas Brown

I am in my fourth year as the boy's house parent at the American Indian Christian Mission. Some of the boys in my care have been here for three years, with the rest now starting their second year at the school and in the boy's dorm. Before coming to AICM, I worked for over 3 years with men that had drug and alcohol additions. Prior to that I was a national speaker, filmmaker and educator on the subject of school bullying. I've also been a feature documentary filmmaker, a radio announcer, a published film critic and I worked with court-ordered children in residential care for 12 years. Combined I now have 17 years experience working with children in residential care. I have seen a lot of growth in the boys I have worked with, and not just physically, but academically, emotionally and spiritually. Some boys have done dramatic turn-arounds both academically and in their behavior at school in the dorm and at their homes. I am truly blessed to have witnessed these changes first hand.



Girl's House Parents: Jeff & Jeanne Curtis

Jeff is a 1989 graduate of Johnson Bible College and has served in churches as Youth, Associate and Sr. Minister positions in churches in Indiana, Georgia and Virginia. Jeff served as Minister of Community Christian Church in Dublin, VA for the last 5 1/2 years. Jeanne served as Children's Minister at the same church for two years. Jeff and Jeanne have always wanted to devote their lives to full time missions and after a mission trip to AICM for their 20 year wedding anniversary, they fell in love with the mission of AICM and with the Native American people. They recently accepted the position for the girls dorm parents at AICM (started in Sept.) and they hope to show the girls Jesus in a deeper way.



Librarian & Kitchen Helper: Florabel Packard



I am starting my 32nd year at AICM. I was born and raised near Bertha, Minnesota. I received a degree in education from Westmar College in Le Mars, IA. The Lord called me to missions when I was sixteen. I taught in New Mexico for 2 years. Then I worked at a mission near Holbrook Arizona. After several years there the mission closed for a year. The Lord then led me to AICM, where I have ministered as a teacher, cook, librarian and at times helped in other areas. I am now the librarian at the school and volunteer as a cooks helper and help put together food boxes for needy families.



Maintenance Director: Scott Alkire / CSP & Nurse: Cindie Alkire

We moved from Covington, Indiana at the beginning of this year to join the AICM team. We have three beautiful daughters, Siarra (16) who is a junior in high school, Mykaylah (12) is in 7th grade, and Emylie (10) is in the 5th grade. Scott Alkire is the Maintenance Director. Scott has always been in the maintenance/manufacturing field, most of his life. He has gone from fabricating and building forklift trucks, railroad cars, farm augers, to facility maintenance and leadership opportunities. This is his first mission position and he is looking forward to what God has in store for his future. Scott is currently busy getting the grounds and buildings ready for winter. Our pool has been drained and some much needed repairs have been done to it. Each of our buildings are in need of repairs and they are taking place as the funds are available. Scott and the maintenance staff have also been working on the drainage and sewer lines at staff housing.



Cindie: I am the Child Sponsorship Director. I send out biographies and updated pictures of each student to the child sponsors. I also deliver to the students, the letters, cards and gifts from their sponsors. I love to see the expression on their faces when I deliver these items to them. In these next couple of weeks, I will be working on getting Christmas lists of wants and needs, out to all the sponsors. I am also the staff/student/mission team nurse for AICM. I have been a nurse for over 14 years, and started out in long term care and then moved on to OB/GYN. Before we moved to Arizona, I was working in a Cardiology clinic, running stress tests. This is my first experience as a school nurse. It is my desire to help students feel well again and bandage their scraps and bruises. I love them all, and treat them as if they were my own. The Lord has placed us here, in Arizona, to help those in need. We want to help with both physical and spiritual needs (to be healthy and help them know Jesus). We look forward to the future, and what He has in store for our family. God is Good!!

Maintenance Assistant: Milt Hendrix

I was born on November 10th 1958 in Phoenix Arizona. I graduated from Chandler High School, AZ in 1976. I moved to the White Mountains in Arizona during the winter of 1979. I worked as a locksmith for 20 years. In 2007 I got married and moved to Colorado Springs for a short time. I came back to Arizona during the summer of 2007 to help with AICM. Later, I permanently moved to Arizona after my divorce in 2011 and have worked at AICM ever since. I work as a Maintenance Assistant, helping with building projects, do grounds keeping, cleaning and repairing things that break down.



Maintenance was recently done on the pool & it was painted.



Janitor & Maintenance Assistant: Timothy Hill “Tim Boy”



I am a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. I grew up in Whit-river. I got baptized three years ago and attend the White Mountain Apache Christian Church. I use to work at Sunrise Ski Resort on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation for two yeas in the area of lift operations. I now work at AICM as the Janitor and Maintenance assistant. I clean the office, school etc. and help with projects. I got married three years ago. My wife's name is Frieda, and we have a son named Treavon. I am glad to be apart of the team at AICM.

Kitchen Manager: Margaret Whittlesey

Many people call me “Grandma” at the mission. I am from Grandview, Missouri. I had worked at a hospital for thirty years. I enjoyed working in the medical field, but because of heath reasons I eventually had to leave. An opportunity opened for me to come to AICM, so I came to Arizona. My first position was being a house parent. Later, I moved to the kitchen and eventually became the Kitchen Manager. This is my 10th year at the mission. Some other minis-tries I am involved in include: operating the Food Bank, and helping with a Bible study for woman at the White Mountain Apache Chris-tian Church. I am encouraged to see that the number of ladies that attend the Bible study has grown, and that they have grown spiritu-ally. I must say that have been blessed as much or more then the ones I am ministering too. I am so thankful for the oppoportunity to serve the Lord here in Arizona. It is His grace that keeps me going.

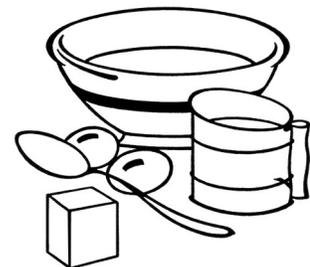


Kitchen Assistant: Faith Kee



Yah-eh-Teh (Hello in Navajo Language)

My name is Faith Kee. I have been working at AICM for 6 years now. I work in the kitchen as a cook’s assistant. I come from a small town call Pinon on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona. I have one son and two grand daughters. I was baptized on April, 24th 2011. I am happy to be a daughter of God.



Outreach Director: Hayden S. Anderson

Hello, my name is Hayden S. Anderson. For the past two years am have been the Outreach Director for the American Indian Christian Mission (AICM) . I consider this employment as a true blessing, especially with the way it came about; it's miraculous. When I was barely coming back to my sobriety walk, again, a close friend of mine strongly encouraged me to attend a men's group meeting, which was held every Tuesdays at the White Mountain Apache Christian Church (WMAACC). I went and eventually started attending the church. As my spiritual walk developed, I was very fortunate to receive an opportunity to apply for this current position. Now, I am a member of both the mission and WMAACC.

Before I came to AICM, I worked for the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) for many years in various positions, such as: the Acting Adult Probation Officer for the Tribal Court, Eligibility Worker/Indian Child Welfare Case Worker for the Tribal Social Services, Purchasing Agent for the Office of Business Operations & Business Development, Program Coordinator for the Healthy Nations under the Tribal Health Authority, and Sales & Marketing Director for the Fort Apache Timber Company. Currently, I am a school board member for the Whiteriver Unified School District #20. I will remain on the board for the next three years. I also served in this capacity 16 years ago for two terms or eight years. In addition, I am a board member for the White Mountain Apache Timber Company (WMATCO).

On a personal note, I was married and have six children. We were divorced many years ago; however, I now have a good standing with my children and with their mother. I truly enjoy being with my children.

I thank the Lord for second changes and for the opportunity to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.



1 Samuel 12:24 (ESV)

*Only fear the LORD
and serve him
faithfully with all
your heart. For
consider what
great things he has
done for you.*



American Indian Christian Mission Contacts

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Principal - Alex Garrett

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Blue Bus Ministry - James Holloway

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Maintenance Director - Scott Allire

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Cibecue Christian Church - Robert Williams

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Child Sponsorship Program - Cindie Alkire

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Ministry Teams - Angela Solihday

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Kitchen Manager - Margaret Whittlesey

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General Contact

(contact@aicm.org)

Needs List:

AICM General & School: 7-8 passenger vehicle, Copy paper, loose leaf

paper.

Maintenance: Industrial size drivers, rakes with metal handles, snow

brakes for roofs, painting supplies.

Kitchen: Dish towels, disposable pans, electric grill, aprons.

Blue Bus: Bubbles, scooters, nail polish & remover, baby wipes.

Dorms: Liquid hand soap, hand lotion, paper product, hygiene

Supplies.

Office: Blank DVD R+, DVD labels, printer cartridges, copy paper, stamps, self-seal envelopes #4 and #10.

Cibecue Christian Church: Communion table, drywall, game tables.

Psalm 37:5

"Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it."

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