

November 13, 2006

Dear Alumni and Former Students,

Warm greetings from Phoenix!

I want to tell you a story. I serve as a full-time youth pastor at my church. I have been taking our teens through a study of 1 Thessalonians. Recently, I was speaking to them about what it means to be a church and a youth group. I was telling them how important it was to be obedient to the exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13:

“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.”

As I told them how imperative it was to treat their leaders in the church with respect and love, I saw many of them turn and glance at their leaders. Right then I was blessed as I realized that they were looking at a staff comprised mostly of college students who had all previously been teens in our youth ministry themselves and now are pursuing ministry training at IBC! I am so thankful for the College partnering with our local church to train the next generation!

These are exciting days at IBC. The college enrollment is growing. The faculty and staff are outstanding. The future is here! The recently constructed Singleton Hall is a tremendous first step towards what will soon be, Lord willing, a new campus. It’s hard to believe that students are residing there right now. Let’s face it; our college is changing! God is blessing and it is wonderful to be where the Lord is working.

This summer I visited a friend who also attended the College. We both shared how delighted we were at the positive improvements that have been made at IBC. My former dorm mate commented to me how encouraging it was for him to see our college stepping into a new era.

Please let me hear how our association can be an encouragement to you, your family, and your ministry. Take a moment and log on to www.ibconline.edu and check out our alumni page. While you’re there, complete the brief alumni registration and you’ll receive an *Alumni Appreciation Pack*. It’s our way of saying “Thanks” for staying connected and being part of IBC.

May the Lord bless you and continue to grow you in every way to be like Christ!

For His Glory Alone,

Joshua Matteson

Joshua Matteson
IBC Alumni Association President

P.S. The leadership at the College would like for me to ask you to keep the school in your prayers as many more projects need to be completed. Please pray that God would work through the many friends and partners of the College to meet the financial obligations that accompany the future vision of the school.