

Religious Education

One of Jesus' last admonitions to his disciples was to instruct them to go and teach others. This was not a new directive to his closest followers. During the course of his three and a half year ministry he had spent much time teaching his followers, reminding his disciples that after he was gone, they would have to carry on the work.

An examination of the Gospels reveals that teaching was a central element in Jesus' ministry, and a close examination of the rest of the New Testament reveals it was central to the writers as well. Paul for instance taught in the Jewish synagogues, then when he was thrown out of there, he used any forum that was available to him. Even his writings, the epistles, are clear examples of teaching doctrine intended to strengthen the personal faith of the recipients.

The need for the teaching ministry is as constant today as it ever was. New converts as well as seasoned saints, and everyone in between, need the spiritual strength and renewal that comes from good solid Bible teaching.

Indiana Bible College students have an opportunity to minor in Christian education or to take a series of classes in the discipline. It is more than just preparing Sunday school and Christian school teachers, although that is certainly an important part of it. This department seeks to enable students to have their own effective teaching ministry. Since teaching (which established individuals in the faith) was such a vital part of the New Testament church, it must be reflected in the ministry of our graduates as well.

Any student seeking to enter ministry has to face the fact that teaching will be a main part of their work if he or she is to be an effective minister. Students at IBC have a number of classes they can take to help fulfill this ministry. These classes emphasize such things as principles of effective teaching, age and developmental characteristics of students, as well as teaching and learning methodologies for different age groups.

A number of our education courses have added a written curriculum component, meaning that students learn how to write their own Bible studies, which many students have in turn taught in their home churches. For students who wish to teach in Christian schools, we have partnered with Calvary Christian School, where students can complete their educational practicum classes.

Paul wrote to Timothy and admonished him in two different epistles to be, "...apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2; II Tim. 2:24). Paul understood and wanted Timothy to understand that it was through teaching that solid Bible truth is communicated. This is precisely why Indiana Bible College seeks to give our students a solid Bible education as well as equip them with the skills necessary so that they are *apt to teach*.



Bethany McConnell, IBC Graduate - The ability to affect a person's life through teaching is an incredible opportunity and not one to be taken lightly. Not only does IBC demonstrate this through its methods of spiritual training, it also sets the environment for young Christians to receive a Godly calling into their lives. I had a plan for my life that followed what I believed to be the best route for my future. It was only when I allowed God to take over my situation that I realized His plan could not be outshined by my own desires. It was through a vision that God showed me where He wanted to take me. This particular vision seemed impossible at the time, but it soon became clear that God was not going to let that vision fall to the dust. The goals that He has set for each of us to achieve will not only bring lifelong happiness but also allow us to share His Gospel with others. IBC has shown me that however impossible my spiritual goals may seem, if they have been set by God, they are achievable. I was raised by spiritual leaders and I am training to become a spiritual leader so I can help show those younger than I the importance of the Gospel. It is our turn to take the lead and teach God's Word to every generation.



Sheldon Robinson, IBC Junior - Coming to IBC was one of the best decisions I have ever made. It has been a life-changing experience. The impact on my life will echo throughout my ministry. Choosing to further your education is always a great decision, but when you couple that with a spiritual environment with an emphasis on ministering to the world around you the possibilities become numerous. When we realize the opportunity that we have to take that knowledge and train the next generation of Apostolic leadership, the possibilities are limitless. We know we can do all things through Christ. This is the focus of the Religious Education Department at IBC: to train ministers to fill the ever present need to teach. I have been equipped with tools that I can and will use throughout my ministry as I fulfill my calling to "Go... and teach" (Matthew 28:19).

