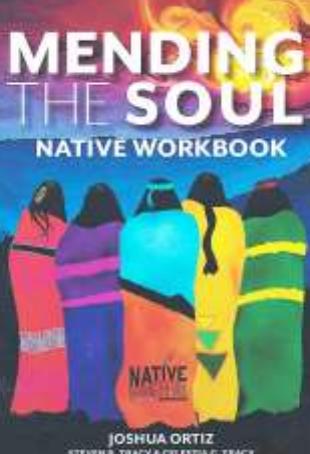


The Castagna Connection

Accelerating the Spread of the Gospel Through the Power of Media
August 2025

Indigenous Bible College



“Dear Brothers & Sisters from all tribal nations, Our Native and First Nations people have suffered for generations. Our stories of heartache, trauma, abuse, historical trauma, colonization and tragedy have haunted our people. Jesus said He came to seek and save that which was lost. We have lost much, but if you are here, entering into this healing journey, there is hope and there is healing.” (From the introduction to *Mending The Soul/ Native Workbook*)

For the past decade, the Indigenous Bible College staff has been using the original version of *Mending the Soul*. The authors graciously allowed the staff of IBC to create a native version of their book; the new book cover is pictured above. This version is way more apropos for native believers. Now that it's complete, they want to add video content to help hurting native peoples heal.



I (Matt) was recently in Flagstaff, AZ filming testimonies of native staff and students. Their heartbreakingly stories will become part of the NMTS online curriculum.

Peace Making



2025 Pioneers Mid-Americas staff conference

No matter which mission agency, do you know the number one reason missionaries quit and return home from the field; inability to get along with other missionaries. Yep! You see, we missionaries can be quite strong-willed and stubborn! This comes in mighty handy as we pioneer new outreach opportunities, but it also has its downsides.

During our biennial 4-day staff retreat in the mountains above San Diego, we completed 10 sessions on Peace-making. Conflict resolution is a critical skill for ministry longevity. I'm in my 50th year of missionary service and I've seen many schisms and have been a part of my fare share of disagreements. Only by God's grace are we still serving!



I filmed all 10 sessions, which after many impending hours of editing, will be used to train new missionary candidates.

Disharmony has been such a hindrance to the spread of the Gospel that Pioneers is mandating all 3,000+ of its missionaries go through the course. For one thing, it gives us all a common language and process through which we can work to try and reach mutual agreement on matters of dispute.

Well, now that the cat is out of the bag, missionaries aren't perfect, you'll know how to pray better for your missionaries and for Leslie and I! Satan LOVES to cause division, the exact opposite of what Christ told us should set us apart from others: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another".

Our Golden Girls



Lammotts: Recently, we were able to spend a week taking care of Mandee and Kyle's three kids in Wichita while their parents were away on a week-long vacation in Cozumel, Mexico. Kyle's sabbatical is just about up and the trip was a last hurrah!

One of the things we did with the kids was drive to a nearby Mennonite community for breakfast. The restaurant there served these amazing and huge cinnamon rolls! Owen, being all boy, had to tackle the challenge...he was successful! We're glad we are not paying Mandee's monthly grocery bill!



Margosians: Speaking of sweet tooth, Timothy and Joshua also love sweets...I wonder where that came from?

The boys are in their third week of school at *Peace With Christ Christian School*. This is their 3rd year of attending the school. They both have excellent teachers this year! We plan to build a two-person push cart with some odds and ends that Popeye (what all the grandkids call Matt) has out in his shop.



Larsons: Judah is going to have a new brother in November! Nonna and Popeye are ecstatic! Lori has a minor complication with her pregnancy. Prayers are appreciated!

You will NOT impact the world by faithfully going to church. You WILL impact the world by faithfully BEING the church when you go out into the world.

Author unknown

Leslie's Life



Leslie's Costa Rica team from May, with four of the girls rescued from human trafficking.

I (Leslie) along with my co-teacher, Tamara (pictured above in the red blouse) have been asked to be the main speakers at a women's conference in Honduras this October. The conference topic is God's grace; something the women in the marginalized area of Comayagua struggle to understand.

Matt will be accompanying us to film some of the conference as well as to create a promo video for the ministry we are working with. Pray for the hearts of these women to grasp and believe the truth of God's grace.



PRAYER ALERT

"Prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for Satan." -John Bunyan

- † Pray for Lori's pregnancy.
- † Pray for our October trip to Honduras.
- † Pray for Matt as he edits both the IBC interview interviews and the 10 sessions of the Personal Peacemaking seminar.
- † Pray for Kyle and Mandee as they reenter fulltime ministry in early September.
- † Pray for parental wisdom for our kids and their families.
- † Pray for health for the Margosian family.
- † Pray for stamina and good health as we age.

BECAUSE YOU PRAYED

- † We've enjoyed many miles of safe travels.
- † We are still able to serve our needy world with you!

Serving with you, *Matt & Leslie*