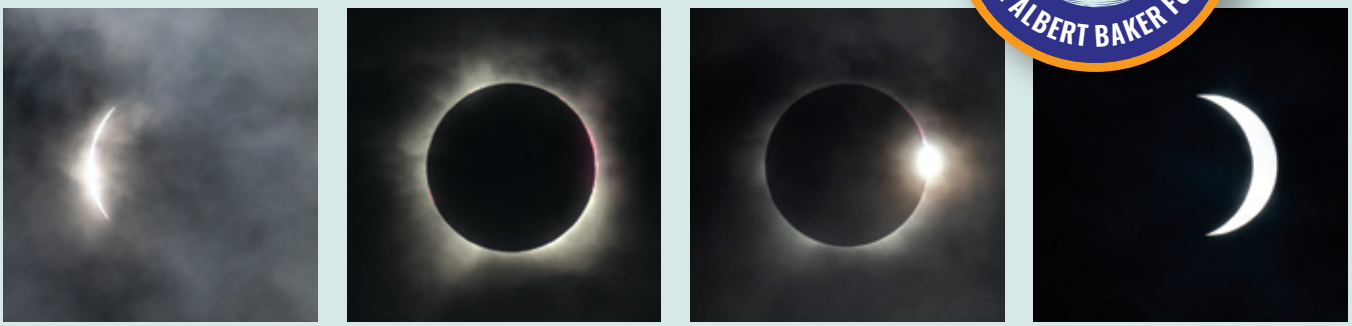
The Albert Baker Fund Fall 2026 Newsletter



Photos © Rafael Ramirez Photography

ABF Global Travel: Visions of the Solar Eclipse

For two remarkable weeks, over 40 adventurous friends of The Albert Baker Fund set sail on a Northern European voyage full of discovery, community, and breathtaking landscapes. Conceived nearly two years ago as a pilot program to connect our community on a deeper level, this journey was grounded in a shared purpose, a unified desire to support ABF's core mission: *to serve the Cause of Christian Science and humanity by providing resources for the education and development of Christian Scientists.*

Our voyage set a scenic course starting in Copenhagen, winding west through Oslo and Scotland before heading north for a weeklong cruise around Iceland. While the dramatic Scandinavian fjords and volcanic landscapes were truly breathtaking, the real heart of the adventure was how naturally our group came together. From lively morning catch-ups over breakfast and cozy afternoon teas to friendly board game battles onboard and memorable daily excursions in port, every moment offered a chance to build lasting friendships and expand our community of dedicated supporters.

As travel rarely goes exactly as planned, we were prepared for a few surprises along the way. When unexpected weather conditions forced us to cancel a couple of scheduled port calls, we suddenly found ourselves with bonus time at sea. Far from being a setback, this became an unexpected gift—giving us extra time over meals to share stories, laugh together, and feel just like one big family onboard.

The biggest highlight of our trip was our final full day in Iceland. After a lovely morning exploring ashore, thick afternoon clouds began rolling in, threatening our view of the highly anticipated solar eclipse. Fortunately, smart scheduling had all passengers back onboard by 1:30 pm, giving our captain and crew the perfect window to hunt for clear skies. Diverting over 50 miles northwest into clear water—where ours was the only ship in sight—we successfully found an opening in the clouds. Standing together under clearing skies to witness the awe-inspiring beauty of a total solar eclipse was truly unforgettable. The moment was made all the more special by astrophysicist Dr. Laurance Doyle, whom we brought on as our special guest to share his astronomy insights for the eclipse.

While the adventure was unforgettable, our shared purpose remained the true anchor of the trip. The deep relationships and connections built among our travelers truly supported The Albert Baker Fund's mission to bless Christian Science students through education. We are so grateful for the success of this pilot program and eager to see the good that continues to unfold. Though we are still deciding on our next steps, our scholarship recipients will always be at the heart of everything we do! As one traveler beautifully put it: "Thank you to all you dear angels who participated in this journey together. Your support was so kind and proof of our love for The Albert Baker Fund mission and each other. It has been a great adventure. A once-in-a-lifetime experience, wrapped in God's everlasting arms of Love."

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Scholarships for Christian Scientists

Spotlight on Recent ABF Graduates

As we enter the fall season, we are looking back with deep gratitude for all of our Albert Baker Fund scholarship recipients who graduated from their colleges and universities earlier this year! Completing a degree is a major milestone, and we could not be prouder of the dedication, grace, and spiritual focus our students brought to their academic journeys.

Along with financial support, ABF offers a vibrant community where students stay connected throughout their time in school. Through monthly Zoom calls, the ABF Student Learning Community provides students a way to connect with one another to discuss a variety of topics (i.e., Christian Science, life in college, academics, relationships, career questions, etc.). It is an opportunity to talk with other Christian Science peers, supporting the journey through college and graduate school. These connections foster a strong sense of fellowship that lasts long after graduation day.

With the start of a new season, our graduates are stepping out to make their mark on the world. From launching careers in national security and public service to continuing their education or serving in their local branch churches, their commitment to living Christian Science illuminates everything they do.

While we wish we could feature every one of our remarkable graduates, here is a special look at what a few of them are doing and aiming to accomplish next, along with how your support helped pave their way.



Rhett Anderson

"The Albert Baker Scholarship provided me with the resources to further my academic studies through college. I am incredibly grateful for all the support I've received through The Albert Baker Fund, not just financially but also through the learning community meetings once a month that share such impactful and beautiful ideas…I intend to take these lessons with me into my final year of college before becoming a commissioned officer in the US Space Force."



Chris Carlson

"By completing my degree, I am obtaining practical skills for the workplace, which I will transfer into the career path of firefighting. In conjunction with attending Grand Canyon University, I am also taking steps to further my career in firefighting by completing EMT school, and recently I have become a nationally registered EMT. My relationship with God is one I lean on daily and can credit for all success I have had."



Carson Oleksy

"The Albert Baker Scholarship provided me with the resources to further my academic studies through college. I am incredibly grateful for all the support I've received through The Albert Baker Fund, not just financially but also through the ABF Student Learning Community meetings once a month that share such impactful and beautiful ideas...I got to spend my summer in New York City working as an intern for SLAM *magazine. It was an experience I will never forget, and I am so grateful to God for putting me right in that spot."*



Shawn Zinn

"Receiving this scholarship had a meaningful impact on my life and my educational journey. From a practical standpoint, it helped reduce the burden of tuition costs and lessened the amount of student loan debt I needed to take on...As a first-generation college graduate, earning my MBA is a milestone that carries deep meaning for me and for my family. Your generosity helped make this achievement possible."

Kim Hedge

"I just graduated from seminary with my master's in divinity where I loved digging deeper into the Bible and exploring more of its practical applications through pastoral care. While my Christian Science practice is primary, I am excited about facilitating Bible study workshops through my Reading Room and continuing to support the food ministries and other outreach programs for the unhoused population in St. Louis. Thank you again for your much needed support during these years of study and growth."



the Albert Baker fund
Scholarships for Christian Scientists

111 WOODMERE ROAD, SUITE 210, FOLSOM, CA 95630
(916) 594-9513 ADMIN@ALBERTBAKERFUND.ORG
ALBERTBAKERFUND.ORG

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ABF Global Travel: Visions of the Solar Eclipse Photos







Photo © Rafael Ramirez Photography



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1. ABF Global Travelers celebrating on deck
2. Group photo after dinner with Dr. Laurance Doyle
3. Puffins, Faroe Islands
4. Godafoss Waterfall, Iceland

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111 WOODMERE RD, SUITE 210
FOLSOM, CA 95630