Investing in the Education of Christian Science Students

An Ever-Expanding Reach

The mission of The Albert Baker Fund (ABF) "to serve the Cause of Christian Science and humanity by providing resources for the education and development of Christian Scientists" is structured to support students around the world.

ABF's three basic pillars support the following:

1. **Postsecondary Students in the US and Canada**;
2. **International Postsecondary Students;** and
3. those studying to become a **Christian Science Nurse** or a **Christian Science US Military Chaplain.**

So far this academic year, ABF has awarded 265 scholarships in the US and Canada, 187 international scholarships, and 75 scholarships for Christian Science nurses and Christian Science US Military Chaplains.

Postsecondary Students in the US and Canada

The Albert Baker Fund is well-known for its scholarships for postsecondary education for US and Canadian students. In addition to the many undergraduate college students ABF supports each year, ABF also supports graduate and doctorate students. **Pete Paciorek** was able to obtain a doctorate from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, which you can read more about in the article below.

Part of this scholarship program includes our **Student Mentoring Program,** which consists of one-on-one mentoring, and the **Student Learning Community,** a peer-to-peer program. You will be able to read more about these programs in our upcoming fall newsletter!

Continued on page 3

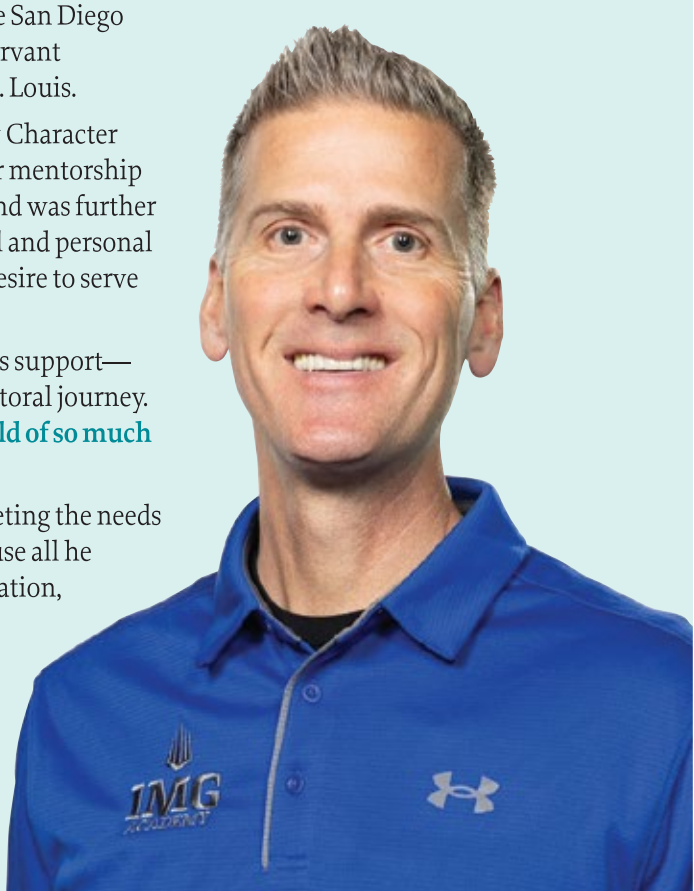
A Call to Go Outside Yourself and Serve Others

Dr. Pete Paciorek, a baseball coach and former professional player for the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers, recently completed his doctorate in servant leadership and character education from the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Upon graduating, Pete was hired as the inaugural Head of Leadership & Character Development at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Pete's passion for mentorship and leadership was nurtured throughout his 25-year coaching career and was further fueled by his Christian Science faith, a central aspect of his professional and personal journey. His doctorate program, completed in 3.5 years, amplified his desire to serve as a Christian, help the youth, and make a positive social impact.

Pete expressed deep appreciation for ABF, noting how the organization's support—both financially and emotionally—played a pivotal role during his doctoral journey. Reflecting on the value of servant leadership, Pete says, **"In today's world of so much focus on ego, it's a call to serve others and go outside yourself."**

For Pete, ABF perfectly embodies the concept of servant leadership, meeting the needs of Christian Scientists looking to grow. Looking forward, he aspires to use all he has learned to continue influencing the youth positively through education, sports, and coaching. He is eager to "pay it forward" by serving as a mentor for the ABF mentor program.



Pete Paciorek
EdD Graduate in the United States

Investing in the Education of Christian Science Students

"Love Is Reflected in Love"*

De Neil Bibilas, living in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, is currently embarking on her first year of studies in hotel and restaurant management. She acknowledges the integral financial assistance she's received from ABF in pursuing this career path. In her studies, De Neil cherishes team spirit and building strong connections with customers; these aspects really bring her joy. This foundation has filled her heart with compassion, inspiring her to commit daily acts of kindness and to live out the lessons she is learning in Sunday school.

De Neil's relationship with ABF started when a fellow Sunday school student introduced her to the Fund, which subsequently provided the essential financial support for her dream career in hotel and restaurant management. The practice of Christian Science has profoundly influenced De Neil's approach to her studies, nurturing her drive to warmly welcome and serve individuals in alignment with Christ's teachings. De Neil offers heartfelt gratitude for the role ABF is playing in her life, viewing the organization as a divine grace that propels students such as her forward. De Neil shares, **"I am so grateful to Christian Science and ABF for all they do for me and for us. I don't know how to thank ABF enough. As it is written, 'Love is reflected in love.'"***



**Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,* Mary Baker Eddy, 17:7

De Neil Bibilas
International Student

Finding the Pearl of Great Price

Tyler Flavin is a Christian Science Nurse (CSN) at Broadview in Los Angeles, California. His path has been an unconventional one. After graduating from college, and with the uncertainty of the pandemic at that time, Tyler found himself at a crossroads. While his original plan was to pursue music and acting, the summer after graduation he worked at the Christian Science youth camp, Owatonna. After a summer filled with prayer and listening, the thought came to explore becoming a CSN. He recalls thinking, "How could I do something like that? It was so far off the spectrum from what I thought I could do." The more he prayed about it, the more it felt right, so he jumped in headfirst, trusting God's direction. Tyler accepted a nine-month CSN Youth Service Corps paid internship.

During the past two years of CS nursing, there have been numerous experiences that reaffirm Tyler's decision to enter the field. A standout moment for him was the first time he was alone with an agitated patient who needed immediate help. Through prayer and reading together, he helped the patient calm down, find peace, and sleep. Tyler shared: **"Nursing has been everything that I needed and what I was looking for. I wanted to get to know God and help my neighbor. It has fulfilled me in every way."**

In his words, he found the "pearl of great price" that will forever remain with him. Tyler is filled with immense gratitude for support from ABF, which has been instrumental in both his career and spiritual growth.



Tyler Flavin
Christian Science Nurse

"To Be That Light"

Susie Ledbetter is a mom, grandmother, teacher, and an active supporter of ABF. She is passionate about creating opportunities for Christian Science students **"to be that light of God's loving kindness. And that's going to make a difference."**

Susie's support is based on the Fund's mission statement to provide actual, tangible support that leads to the students bringing harmony and stability to any educational environment, whether it be in the classroom or online. **"The Albert Baker Fund goes beyond just prayer for young people to expand their potential; it puts prayer into action in tangible ways."** She feels the financial support reflects the sense of generosity that comes from an understanding of God's endless supply of good.

The seed that inspires Susie to support ABF was planted when she took Christian Science class instruction from Joseph Heard. Mr. Heard was working as the Manager of the College Organization Division of The Mother Church and was actively involved in supporting Christian Science students. He went on to contact several friends in order to establish The Albert Baker Fund. Mr. Heard's example led Susie to see the value of supporting young people. As she puts it, "They deserve that kind of practical support."

Her experience as an art history teacher and college guidance counselor at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale was the foundation for her current jobs — teaching art history on Principia Lifelong Learning trips and at their Summer Session program, and reading admission applications for New York University. Her knowledge of the current college landscape adds to her appreciation of what The Albert Baker Fund achieves.

The Fund's support of adults seeking advanced degrees, which allows Christian Scientists to "re-skill and upskill," is of particular interest to her. "An undergraduate degree is fundamental, but in order to advance or change careers, a graduate degree or professional certificate is needed." The Albert Baker Fund can help there too.

Susie believes in seeing the potential in students of any age and feels the chance to support educational opportunities is "vital and important. The Albert Baker Fund is right on the front line, putting representatives that are seeking a sense of 'loving thy neighbor' on all these campuses and putting that into practice. Why would we not want to support them? They can be a beacon of light wherever they are, and ABF can help students realize that. We want that healing thought to be shared and to attract and guide others to the Truth."



ABF event at Susie's house.

An Ever-Expanding Reach *(continued from page 1)*

International Postsecondary Students

During the past two decades, The Albert Baker Fund has expanded its financial assistance to include international scholarships for Christian Scientists. In 2004, we began offering scholarships for college, graduate school, and vocational education in several African and European countries. We expanded to provide scholarship assistance in the Philippines.

ABF currently provides scholarships in 11 African countries. Our Africa Program helped support **De Neil Bibilas** from Brazzaville in the Republic of the Congo. In this newsletter, you can read about how her studies in hotel management and Christian Science go hand in hand.

Students Studying to Become a Christian Science Nurse or a Christian Science US Military Chaplain

By providing scholarships for chaplaincy and nurses training, our ABF scholars can bring a spiritual light that Christian Science provides.

You can also read about how actor/musician **Tyler Flavin** is pursuing a different kind of art in learning about Christian Science nursing at Broadview in Los Angeles.

2023 IMPACT REPORT

437 Scholarship Recipients
$1,600,000 Scholarships Awarded

United States/Canada
$1,320,000 Awarded
205 Students
$5,000 Typical Undergraduate Award

Africa, Europe, and the Philippines
$130,000 Awarded
146 Students
$890 Average Scholarship

Christian Science Nurses
$150,000 Awarded
86 Christian Science Nurses
$1,745 Average Scholarship

For information regarding donations to The Albert Baker Fund, please contact
Chief Advancement Officer, Sue Ellen Coughtry, at sueellen.coughtry@albertbakerfund.org.

The ALBERT BAKER Fund
Educating Christian Scientists, Blessing the World

111 Woodmere Road, Suite 210, Folsom, CA 95630
(916)594-9513 admin@albertbakerfund.org
albertbakerfund.org

Albert Baker Fund Board of Trustees: Chair, Adam Messer; Vice-Chair, Lisa Mietchen; Secretary, Katie Stanley; Treasurer, Craig Donaldson **Members:** Hilary Harper-Wilcoxen, Daniel Herbert, Trudy Palmer, Alistair Savides, Phoebe MacKenzie Smith, John Strout, David Westphal **Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Joseph (Joe) R. Ritter