

Advancing the Legacy of Albert Baker

Building Community

ABF grant recipients at the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church: Connecting with the greater Christian Science Movement

Due to a generous donation from Tiffany Lovett of the Isabel Foundation, ABF was able to provide travel for 33 of our ABF grant recipients to attend the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church with ABF staff.

In addition, the Isabel Foundation also funded a dinner that ABF hosted for 85 participants at Fogo de Chão on a Sunday evening. This was a highlight of the trip because donors, grant recipients, and partners all joined together to break bread and build community. We had four major donors, six partners who work at The Mother Church, seven guests from Camp Bow-Isle, 15 guests from CedarS Camp, three guests from Crystal Lake Camp, and 10 students who are Sunnyside Scholarship recipients. According to the post-Annual Meeting survey we conducted, this energizing dinner at Fogo was one of the highlights of their weekend.

When asked what the most valuable aspect of the weekend was, 90% said personal growth, followed by meeting ABF staff (84%) and connecting with other young Christian Scientists (84%).

Some comments that capture the sentiments of all participants were:

“I’m so grateful for the friends that I have made on this trip. Sometimes when you’re not surrounded by a lot of Christian Scientists who are your age, you can feel lonely. So being able to connect with more Christian Scientists was such a blessing. Thank you so much for this opportunity!”

“I would not have been able to attend the Annual Meeting without support from The Albert Baker Fund, and I could not be more grateful that I went. I loved every minute of the weekend. This year’s Annual Meeting was significantly more vibrant with young Christian Scientists, largely due to the support of The Albert Baker Fund.”

“I loved being able to see the beauty of Boston and the inspiration of the Christian Science Movement, how younger individuals can be more involved, and how different activities sparked meaningful conversations.”



Annual Meeting of The Mother Church

ABF students and staff gather in front of The Mother Church in Boston.

Donor Profile: The Isabel Foundation

Being the “sprinkles on the cupcake”

What does Isabel Foundation President Tiffany Lovett find exciting about philanthropy?

“The opportunity to be responsive, so when someone has a great idea, we can say, ‘Yes, let’s do it!’”

For Tiffany and Isabel Foundation’s Programs Director Caroleen Scholet, philanthropy is all about collaboration, which results in enabling organizations that help young Christian Scientists find creative solutions. Providing needed funding through philanthropy requires less red tape and allows for cooperation, innovation, and a willingness to take risks. Tiffany enjoys seeing the Isabel Foundation be the **“sprinkles on the cupcake”** by not only making things happen but also by allowing those projects to be special by being well funded.

A case in point is the Isabel Foundation’s gift to help 33 ABF students travel to Boston to attend The Annual Meeting of The Mother Church this past June. The Isabel Foundation also funded a dinner hosted by ABF that brought together ABF students, donors, and staff, as well as several CS camp counselors for a dinner event that all participants thoroughly enjoyed. (You can read more about the students’ responses in the previous article.)

Tiffany reported that, “first walking into the restaurant and seeing the students’ energy and enthusiasm was really special. I sat between two students and really got to connect with them. It was a great networking event that let me learn about the students’ different career and school paths, and to see firsthand their sincere appreciation for The Albert Baker Fund.”

She also shared that, “it was actually Joe (The Albert Baker Fund CEO Joe Ritter) who suggested we bring all the students together for the Annual Meeting.” Being an independent foundation meant that the Isabel Foundation could fund the student travel and group dinner and be the “sprinkles on the cupcake.”



Dining at Fogo de Chão

Tiffany Lovett (second from the right) at the student dinner event sponsored by the Isabel Foundation and hosted by ABF.

The Isabel Foundation has a long history of supporting Christian Science youth through the CS camps, The Mother Church and Longyear Museum internships, and Principia College, as well as international programs such as the CS schools in Africa.

Caroleen added, **“What’s so exciting about ABF is their vision of reaching out, networking, and building connections. ABF is always listening so they can help students achieve success in schooling and careers and keep them connected.”**

“Philanthropy is all about being at the table of collaboration, listening, taking initiative, and working with other organizations to help the Movement. Philanthropy is generosity of spirit, sharing ideas that multiply the good; why would we hold back?”

ABF Mentor Program Highlight

Connections that help guide

In the inaugural year of ABF's mentor program, we are thrilled to share the incredible impact the mentor program has had on both mentors and mentees alike.

This innovative initiative pairs volunteer mentors with eager students seeking guidance and support.

Since its launch this fall, we have successfully matched 35 mentor-mentee pairs, fostering valuable connections and facilitating personal and professional growth.

Our mentors have generously dedicated their time and professional expertise to assist mentees with various aspects of their academic, professional, and spiritual journeys.

From providing résumé reviews and professional networking assistance to practicing job interview skills and offering metaphysical support and ideas, our mentors are dedicated to empowering and encouraging their students. Through a focus on listening and allowing the student to guide the relationship, mentors have cultivated an environment of trust and support.

During their initial call, one of our more experienced mentors told her mentee, "I am not your mother, and I am not your practitioner," thus clearly establishing the groundwork for an open and collaborative relationship revolving around learning, friendly support, and professional development. Mentors have reported witnessing remarkable growth in professionalism and communication skills among their students, highlighting the transformative impact of mentorship on both mentors and mentees alike. In addition to the growth in these skills, mentors have also witnessed tangible fruitage in their mentees' journeys.

Lisa Mietchen, one of our dedicated mentors and ABF board members, shared an inspiring story of her student's progress. Throughout their mentorship this year, Lisa's mentee (a college senior) felt comfortable

and empowered to reach out and request assistance whenever needed. Together they worked diligently on refining the student's résumé, even revising it four times until it became significantly stronger.

Lisa noted that her mentee demonstrated humility and receptiveness to criticism and input throughout the process. As they progressed, they shifted their focus to job interview preparation, with Lisa's student having an exciting first interview on the horizon. Lisa, drawing from her extensive and successful career, offered invaluable guidance and support to her mentee. She and her mentee maintained regular contact, with Lisa providing advice on effective communication with the company and offering tips for her student's upcoming interview. Lisa's mentee consistently sought her advice and guidance, underscoring the trust and rapport cultivated in their relationship. Lisa particularly appreciated the opportunity to authentically share Christian Science encouragement, drawing from her own experiences of prayer and reflection on employment throughout her career. We are happy to report that this student just received a job offer that they have accepted!



Lisa Mietchen
ABF Mentor



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

Albert Baker Fund Board of Trustees: Chair, Alistair Savides; Vice-chair, Lisa Mietchen; Secretary, Katie Stanley; Treasurer, Craig Donaldson
Members: Dr. Joan Bernard Bradley, Hilary Harper-Wilcoxon, Trudy Palmer, Phoebe MacKenzie Smith, John Strout, Ray Thompson, David Westphal
Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Joseph (Joe) M. Ritter

ABF Global Travel

Come sail away with us! North Sea crossing and total solar eclipse

We are excited to announce our first-ever excursion hosted by The Albert Baker Fund (ABF)!

Join us July 29 – August 13, 2026 (yes, that's right, 2026), on a cruise from Copenhagen to Reykjavik with stops in Sweden, Norway, Scotland, and Denmark. Along the way, you'll not only experience the sights and sounds of these amazing countries, but you'll also get to **meet face-to-face with some of our international ABF students who are attending university in Scotland!**

You'll get the chance to witness the total solar eclipse in Reykjavik, Iceland, on August 12. Look for more information, including when you can register, sometime this fall. We hope you can join us for this thrilling adventure!

