



# The Seeker

*"Seeking the Souls of Men and Pointing Them to Christ"*

February 2024

Volume #13, Number #2

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are still hearing from some of our preachers in Africa who are reporting on their work for the last 6 months of 2023. In January of 2024 they have reported 1,534 baptisms, 838 restored and 19 new congregations started. These preachers are doing a great work reaching the lost with the gospel of Christ.

We are happy to announce that we had great success with our project to raise \$30,000.00 for Bibles in local languages for Africa. We raised \$32,700.00 for these Bibles. The following shows the amount and places where we sent these funds: Sierra Leone-\$2,000.00, Ghana-\$1,000.00, Nairobi-\$1,000.00, Bomet, Kenya-\$3,000.00, Tanzania-\$2,200.00, Malawi-\$13,000.00, Livingstone-\$1,000.00, Siamafumba-\$4,000.00, Kisumu, Kenya-\$2,000.00, Ngwezi, Zambia-\$1,500.00, Solwezi, Zambia-\$2,000.00. The reason for sending so much to Malawi is because they have baptized so many people there. These Bibles cost between \$12.00 to \$15.00 each so we were able to purchase around 2,515 Bibles.

Our thanks to those who helped with these Bibles. In order to see the great need for Bibles, there were 11,268 baptisms in connection with our work in 2023. Most of those who were baptized did not have a Bible. In order to purchase a Bible for all those that were baptized last it would cost around \$146,484.00. So as you can see our \$32,700.00 helped but did not supply all the needed Bibles. We will have another drive for Bibles later in the year. This is a need we have all the time, funds for Bibles!

We have just finished another new church building in Malawi. It is the Nansato congregation in Malawi. This congregation is less than 2 years old and they have been averaging 120 in attendance. On Sunday February 18 they meet for the first time in the new church building and they had 301 present. This congregation is very active in evangelism and we are so glad to see them in their new church building. We are building small church buildings for around \$10,000.00. The local brethren make their own bricks and do much of the work on these church buildings. We have several more church building projects we hope to start in 2024. We are finishing up the new administration building at the preacher school in Siamafumba and just starting a new staff house at the school in Solwezi. We are also finishing up a new church building at the school in Bomet, Kenya and hope to start a new staff house there sometime in 2024.

Carolyn and I are planning a trip to Singapore and Malaysia coming up in a few weeks. It has been a few years since we have been able to visit our brethren there and we are looking forward to seeing them again.

Our trip to Africa is just a few months away. We try each year to get started early planning and raising funds for this trip. At this point we have 9 planning to go. We will be divided up into groups. Some plan to go to Solwezi and Ndola, Zambia then on to Livingstone, while others will arrive in Zambia and meet up with us. Some will be going home about the time 2 more are arriving in Zambia and then 4 of us plan to fly to Malawi and end our stay from there. I have sent out some letters seeking to raise support for this trip. We have already purchased our tickets and are needing to start printing some materials. For the past few years our budget for this trip has been \$50,000.00. These funds are used to ship materials to Africa, purchase Bibles and bikes while we are there and many other things. Many of you have helped in the past with our trips and we appreciate you very much. If your congregation can help or you as an individual please make checks to Ronald D. Gilbert-Mission fund and mail to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for "Africa Trip". As always when we return we will mail out a financial report to those who helped with this mission effort. Please pray for our trip and send funds to make this trip possible.

International Bible Teaching Ministries  
C/o Rock Valley church of Christ  
PO Box 49494  
Cookeville, TN 38506-0494

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cookeville, TN  
Permit No 15

## Understanding Our Responsibilities

The story is told of a young man who applied for a position at a theater as an usher. The interview was going great, and the young man was confident he was about to be offered the job. *“One final question”*, the manager said. *“In the event of a fire, what is the first thing you would do?”* The young man quipped, *“Oh, don’t worry about me. I am extremely fast and could get myself out of danger in a matter of moments”*. When the interview was over, to the young man’s surprise, he was not given the job. When he asked why the position was not offered, the theater manager told him it was because he did not understand the most basic requirement for an usher. *“In the event of a fire, an usher is not to be the first one out of the theater. An usher must help others flee the danger of destruction.”* Unfortunately, the young applicant didn’t understand the responsibilities of the job for which he was applying.

As Christians we must understand the important role that we have been given in our service to the Lord. God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18). Our responsibility is not to simply escape the fires of damnation ourselves, but to shine the light of truth, helping others to do the same. Christians who do not put forth efforts in soul-winning, simply do not understand the most basic requirements of the position for which they have assumed.

International Bible Teaching Ministries is spreading the Gospel of Christ throughout the world. Through the combined efforts of individual Christians and congregations of churches of Christ, we are spreading the saving message of Jesus to a lost and dying world. Please consider taking part in this great work. Contact us today to explore the many avenues in which you can assist in this important evangelistic effort. Barry Gilreath

Our BCC work has slowed down but we are still getting new students. We are in the process of writing a 7<sup>th</sup> booklet in our series. This one will be designed for new converts. We hope to have it ready in 2024.

Giving Bibles Malawi



New church building Nansato



Malawi meeting 16 baptized



A publication of **International Bible Teaching Ministries**  
Sponsored by **Rock Valley church of Christ**

Websites

[www.IBTMinistries.org](http://www.IBTMinistries.org) • [www.ICOTB.org](http://www.ICOTB.org)

Contacts

[RDG@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:RDG@IBTMinistries.org) • [INFO@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:INFO@IBTMinistries.org)  
[ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org)

Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	46,680
Restored.....	42,802
New churches started.....	828
ICOTB students.....	556
Preachers to graduate.....	878