

Hill Mission Report

*International Bible Teaching Ministries
International College of the Bible*



Dear Brethren,

We have not issued a newsletter since February and I do apologize for the delay. Many things have been happening, both good and bad, that have kept us distracted from reporting. However, Linda continues to keep our **Hill Mission Blog** updated frequently so you can always check there for the most current news. You can also sign up on the blog site for email alerts when she adds a new post.

My work with the **IBTM** online Bible correspondence course students is beginning to show fruit in a wonderful way. One of the things I do frequently now is get online students who request a personal study, baptism or a congregation of the Lord's church in touch with faithful brethren in their area. Depending upon where they live that may be easy or extremely difficult, but I try in each case to get someone to them. The month of April was particularly busy with such requests so let me tell you about a few of them.

Margaret from Kenya enrolled in the courses last June and was assigned to **Tara King** as her teacher. David from Kenya enrolled later in December and was taught by **Bill Schwegler**. But we did not know Margaret and David were husband and wife until they were baptized together on April 3, 2012, and **Benard Kagaga** (another one of our **IBTM** teachers) sent us pictures.

Daniel in Malawi joined the online program in February 2012 studying with **Ted J. Clarke**. It did not take long before he realized that he was in the wrong church and requested help because there was not a single congregation of the Lord's church anywhere near his village. I contacted **Isaac Banda** whom I had worked with many times in Lilongwe, Malawi, and he went to Daniel, baptizing not only him but two of Daniel's friends on April 8th. Daniel began a new congregation in his home – and now has eleven more wanting to become Christians. Unfortunately, when they went to the river it had shriveled up due to the dry season. I have written Daniel with alternate suggestions for creating a baptistry and am waiting to hear the rest of the story.

Samuel in Sierra Leone started the online courses last November and was also a student of Bill Schwegler. Samuel completed the entire series of lessons and graduated March 15th without converting. A few days later he requested to enroll in the **International College of the Bible** but since he still claimed membership in two denominational churches Linda wrote to him rejecting his application. This appeared to astonish him for he stated that he thought he was a part of the church of Christ. After a short series of emails Linda asked **Ronald D. Gilbert**, director of the college, to study with him, and he did. April 21st Samuel was baptized into the Lord's body and on April 22nd he withdrew his denominational membership where he was also the pastor and church secretary. He has now begun a congregation in his home since there was not one in his area and enrolled at **ICOTB**. But his story also touches another **IBTM** student because one of **Mark McWhorter's** students wrote to him requesting a local congregation. I received this request and news of Samuel's baptism on the same day, and noticed they lived in

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“Let your light so shine . . .”

Matthew 5:16

the same town – so I wrote each to get them together.

But not all news from students is what we want to hear. We have had many quit the courses because they did not like Bible answers that contradicted their denominational ideas, or because they were disappointed when we declined to send them expensive gifts. But one student of **Mark McWhorter's** who quit in April was heart-wrenching. He was from a Muslim-ruled nation, part of a zealous Muslim family yet when he compared the Bible to the Koran he realized that his religion was wrong. He secretly enrolled in the study program but was agonizing over becoming a true Christian. In one message to Mark he wrote:

“how can i confess my belief to Jesus to men and to be baptized while in my country there is no freedom of religion? if i do so i will lose my job and even my life. i love Jesus and i try to obey him, isn't that enough to be a christian and to please Jesus?”

After several days of despair he suddenly broke contact because he feared that his email was being monitored.

Brethren, please continue to prayer for these people as they strive to find Christ. Thank you for your support of our work together with our Lord.

In Christ Who Saves,

Jimmie B. Hill

Notes from the inbox

“Thank you for this study. I have read the bible before but the understanding i am getting now is awesome.”

Active student from Zimbabwe

“This section was quite interesting and i really learn much from which i never knew about God work and what God needs from us for us to be saved”

Active student from Cameroon

Greetings from Georgia!

So much has happened since our last report . . . but the biggest news was Jimmie's CT scan on March 30th. He had been steadily improving so it came as a shock to learn that his cancer had quietly grown. The change was slight but the doctor immediately changed the protocol for his treatment. The side effects of this new chemo have been harsher, although taking it is easier since it is a daily pill. The scan also revealed that the increased pain Jimmie started having in his chest is from a series of blood clots in his lungs rather than pleurisy this time, so he is also on a daily injection to thin his blood.

This was definitely an unexpected setback. The doctor won't do another scan until Jimmie has completed two full rounds of this new chemo so we won't know until the end of June if it is having an affect on the cancer. That is also likely when we will learn if it is still possible for Jimmie to go on the Zambia campaign. Your prayers for both Jimmie's health and the Africa campaign will be greatly appreciated.

Your prayers for our daughter will also be welcomed. Julie is just a few weeks away from giving birth to our second grandchild. We are eager to find out if Pudigi Liberty (a temporary name conjured jointly by Jimmie and Cole) is a boy or a girl.

In the meantime, we continue to stay busy. April was a record month for website visits with 13,080 . . . but March wasn't far behind it. So far during 2012 we have averaged 392 visits daily to our websites with 11 of those precious souls starting the online Bible study. Currently, we have almost 3,500 students enrolled from 137 nations. Since this work began in September of 2007 it has aided in the formation of 1 new school of preaching and 27 new congregations, and rejoiced in the baptism of at least 831 new Christians. More than 24,000 Bibles have been shipped overseas, plus another 24,000 biblical textbooks and hymnals, and some 540,000 Gospel tracts and booklets. God has certainly blessed this work. It is exciting to be just a small part of it.

In Christian love,

Linda Hill

Contributions to this work may be sent to:

**Hill Mission Fund
New Hope Road Church of Christ
PO Box 1334
Dacula, GA 30019**

Pending Needs

Monthly:	<i>Work Fund</i>	\$2,100
One-Time:	Zambia 2012	\$6,000

A tax-deductible receipt is sent for every donation. Thank you!