

The Seeker

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

June-July 2023

Volume12, Number 5

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the month of June there were 206 baptisms, 46 restored and 2 new congregations started in connection with our work in Africa. This report was from several different preacher schools. Some of these reports are still coming in for the month of June. We rejoice to hear this good news!

We are hearing from schools in Africa concerning the shipment of Bibles, tracts, BCC booklets and books that we shipped a few weeks ago. We sent 39 boxes that weighed 1,366 pounds at a cost of \$ 8,892.66. This material was sent to 6 different preacher schools. Some of this material we will give out during our Gospel meetings when we arrive there in a few weeks. We continue to have great success from the Gospel meetings in Africa that brethren here in the USA are sponsoring. Meetings in June showed good results: Malawi-41 baptisms, Kenya-6 baptisms, Tanzania 3 seminars-108 baptisms, Zambia-55 baptisms. We are averaging over 100 baptisms each month from these meetings. The cost of a meeting is \$300.00. We thank the churches and individuals who send these funds each month for the meetings. Please continue to pray for these meetings and help sponsor them.

The staff house project in Zambia at Siamafumba school of preaching is almost finished. One of the teachers should be able to move into the house and be at the school full time soon. We have started another church building project in Zambia. They are about ready to start up with the walls. We helped put a roof on a church building recently in Malawi. We are also helping brethren in Tanzania to purchase a church building. They are coming up with half the funds and we hope to give the remaining funds.

Our mission trip to Malawi and Zambia will be coming up soon. There will be 7 from the USA going on this trip. There is much to do to get ready for this trip. This year we had several Gospel tracts and booklet to send to Africa before our trip and to put on a container. Our thanks to Garland Robinson for giving all this printed material this year. This was a great help to our work. One of the booklets he printed for us was a booklet on The New Birth by Perry B. Cotham. This is a very fine 24 page booklet that will be a great help to the brethren in Africa.

Recently the brethren in Malawi decided to have a marriage seminar inviting couples to come for a one day session. They started out at the church building by the school with around 500 couples but soon had to move it to the preacher school and conduct the session outside. They had 2,200 in attendance. This is a much needed topic in a country where polygamy is wide spread and women are often treated as property.

Marriage seminar 2,200 present



Gospel meeting Kenya 6 baptized



10 new bikes in Zambia for June



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Reasons To Evangelize Abroad

Overseas evangelism should be an exciting aspect of the overall work of a local congregation. Yet there are occasions in which brethren are less than enthused about supporting missions abroad. Though the reasons vary, one objection centers around the assertion that there are plenty of souls to evangelize in our own backyard. *“Why spend resources on foreign missions when there are lost people in our own community?”* Consider why a congregation ought to be broad-based in evangelistic efforts.

A congregation should be broad-based in this respect because of the realization that we are the beneficiaries of the overseas evangelism of others. The blessings that we enjoy today are due to the sacrifices and willingness of others who once travelled to this continent and shared the gospel. The birth of the church was in Jerusalem not in America (Acts 2). Because foreigners and migrants evangelized our continent centuries ago, generations of souls in our homeland have since had opportunity to make application of the gospel message.

Secondly, a congregation should evangelize abroad because the fields are especially white unto harvest (John 4:35) in certain portions of the world. Generally, churches in America do not see the local evangelistic results that are observed in some parts of the world. It is not uncommon to hear reports of many souls being baptized into Christ in localities overseas. Certain types of ground will bring forth a better result than others (Luke 8). Many factors can contribute to the receptiveness of people in particular geographic localities, but it is paramount that churches of Christ seize the opportunities presented around the world and are good stewards of the resources that God has placed in our hands.

Thirdly, we should evangelize abroad because Jesus said to do it. The Great Commission teaches us to go “into all the world” (Matt 28:18-20). The early church in Jerusalem grew because they spread the message as instructed (Acts 8:1). They did not focus only on their backyard in Jerusalem. They spread the message far and wide, turning the world upside down (Acts 17:6). This ought to be the goal of every local church as they seek to influence the lost at home and abroad.

World evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian in every congregation. Certainly, we must not neglect the local evangelistic field in which we live, but neither can we neglect the fruitful fields that are far from home. Barry Gilreath

Thank you so much for your support of our work at IBTM. There are so many good things going on in different places in Africa. Many souls are being brought to the Lord through the Gospel of Christ. Faithful Gospel preachers are being trained in 13 different locations. Please continue to keep our work in your prayers and help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ “into all the world”. Ronald D. Gilbert-Director

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Websites

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Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	41,636
Restored.....	39,052
New congregations started.....	788
Preachers to graduate.....	849