



The Seeker

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

January 2024

Volume13, Number 1

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord blessed us with a great year in 2023! So many things were accomplished with God's help in Africa last year. We want to thank all who helped with our work. We appreciate you so much and your prayers and support. Looking back on 2023 we had 11,268 baptisms, 11,436 restored, 81 new congregations started and 41 preachers to graduate from preacher schools. We now have 878 preachers who have graduated from preacher schools. These men are doing a great work for the Lord.

The 17 students at the school in Malawi are back from their break of about 8 weeks. They were able to go home and be with their families and help plant their crops for this year. While these men were home on break they were busy planting other seed! The Gospel of Christ! During their break these 17 preachers baptized 102 individuals and helped to restore 71 unfaithful Christians. The seed was sown and a great harvest was gained. We thank God for this good news and these good men.

In 2023 we were able to send \$47,450.00 to different locations in Africa to purchase Bibles in local languages. These funds were able to purchase over 3,000 Bibles. In our last newsletter we made an appeal to raise \$30,000.00 for Bibles in Africa. We are happy to report that many churches and individuals responded to our plea and have sent funds for Bibles. We have almost reached our goal but there is such a great need for funds for Bibles we will never have too much for Bibles. If we raise more than our goal we will still use the funds you send for Bibles. In 2023 we sent \$31,300.00 to Africa for Gospel meetings which supplied funds for 104 meetings. For the month of December our preachers reported 468 baptisms and 45 restored with 9 new congregations started. We are getting great results with these Gospel meetings. With your help we were able to purchase 132 bikes for preachers and 3 motor bikes for teachers at preacher schools. We sent funds for 9 church buildings to have roofs and to build 8 new church buildings. For the benefit of those who have not been to Africa and do not know the economy there consider the following. In Malawi average annual income is around \$300.00 per year. In order to roof a small church building the cost is around \$3,000.00. If ten men were making \$300.00 per year that would be \$3,000.00 in income for one year. In Tennessee if the average man makes \$40,000.00 per year, then ten men making \$40,000.00 per year would be \$400,000.00. Would the average congregation of 30 members here in the USA be able to roof their church building without help if it cost them \$400,000.00? This is just for the roof! In most places in Africa \$10,000.00 is what we have spent to build a small plain church building. This would be by comparison over a million dollars to build here in the USA!

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Most congregations of 30 members here in the USA could not build a million dollar church building. This is why we are helping these brethren with roofs and to build small church buildings.

In 2023 we were able to send \$44,354.00 to different locations in Africa for food relief. Part of this was due to Cyclone Freddy in Malawi where thousands lost their lives and homes. Many of our brethren were killed. We sent funds on 3 different occasions to help feed and house those who lost everything due to this cyclone. We drilled 2 wells at preacher schools. We were able to build 3 staff houses at preacher schools.

We helped purchase a printer in Malawi so the brethren there could print their own tracts and materials. We hope by next August when we are there they will have over 100,000 Gospel tracts printed and ready to hand out at the big meeting.

We have several projects we hope to be able to accomplish in 2024. We need your prayers and continued support. We have other staff houses to build at preacher schools and several more church buildings. Thanks again for your prayers and support. Please continue to help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ “into all the world”. Ronald D. Gilbert-Director

Bibles Solwezi



New church building Maunga



Meeting Tanz 18 bapt. 34restored



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Websites

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Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms.....	45,146
Restored.....	41,964
Congregations started.....	809
ICOTB Students.....	555
Preachers to Graduate.....	878