

The Seeker

“Seeking the Souls of Men and Pointing Them to Christ”

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are still getting reports from our preachers in Africa for the month of May. At this point reports show 242 baptisms, 86 restorations and 2 new congregations have been started. We have had a busy month in May trying to get several projects completed. One project was shipping several boxes of needed materials to 6 different preacher schools in Africa. We shipped 39 boxes weighing 1,366 pounds at a cost of \$8,892.66. In these 39 m-bags we sent: 969 Bibles, 1,568 booklets, 14,350 Gospel tracts, 100 books, 600 BCC booklets, 14 song books and some other printed materials. These items are going by ship and should arrive in 8 weeks or so.

We are still working on another container for Africa. Several congregations are helping with this effort by supplying good used clothing for the containers and other items as well. Recently we went to the Fairfield Glade congregation and tried to get all the items in a pickup truck, back seat and truck bed, but was unable to get it all in the truck and one of the brethren loaded his SUV and brought the rest with us to our house. Thanks to the brethren at Fairfield Glade for all the nice items they donated for the container. The Mt. Della congregation in Pikeville, TN. is helping us again this year by boxing up 100 boxes for us. We appreciate their help very much. If there are other congregations that would like to help with this container contact us and we will let you know what we need for you to do.

The work in Africa is growing so fast and so many good things are taking place we are excited about this growth. The work in Malawi continues to grow and much good is being done by the preacher school in Lilongwe and the graduates of this good school. One new congregation that was started about one year ago continues to grow. Recently we got reports that they had 58 baptisms in one day. Last Sunday June 11th they had 13 more baptisms.

I decided to ask bro Vinjero the Director of the school in Lilongwe why he thought this congregation was growing so fast and he gave me a very detailed report. The following is his report: It is the dedication of the members, each member is encouraged to tell at least 2 people each week about the church of Christ or if they can't manage to teach someone they should identify a prospect to the church each week. The church now has a preacher who they help support and when a member identifies a prospect the preacher and other members take over. So almost every week more than 10 members identify someone whether a neighbor or family member and they are contacted. This way every member feels that he has identified someone. Since most of the members are contacting people each week they want to learn more about the Bible so they don't miss Bible study on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Also when a member faces a problem almost every member is there to help. This really encourages members and non-members to become members. The behavior of members is very important also. There are times when people can teach the truth by their lifestyle but problems occur when the lifestyle is contrary to what they teach. Recently we have baptized some men that became Christians because of the change in their wife's lifestyle. There is another family that all became Christians because they had a son who came to the preacher school looking for work. He was given work and after a few months of Bible study the young man became a Christian. The son had been a heavy drinker and smoker. His parents saw a big change in their son and this moved them to find out who the people were that had helped their child. The son encouraged his parents to come to services and after many Bible studies they also became Christians. Many members are trying their best to be the salt and light of the world. Many who have come for a 5 day classes are coming from very poor families, every day they have to work to find food, but they have sacrificed that just to study the Word of God. Not an easy thing to do. (Brethren I think many in America could learn a great deal by following the example of these brethren in Africa.)

Recently a seminar for new converts was conducted at the preacher school in Malawi and 39 new converts came to the school for a 5 day seminar. They were taught many Bible lessons and grounded in the faith. They were taught about worship and even how to make unleavened bread. They were taught how to baptize a person and they were given booklets, tracts and Bibles to take back to their home congregations.

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Will You Help Us Do Good unto All Men?

Once while travelling in Africa, I had opportunity to visit a small village in rural Zambia to preach to local villagers. As we gathered in a little hut made of homemade bricks and thatch, I remember thinking that the local preacher couldn't have been more than about 20 years old. He, his wife, and small children lived in a hut close to where we assembled. Like others living in that barren land, he was poor and struggled to sustain his family, battling the drought and famine that were all too common. His dirty clothing was torn, and it bore witness to the hard times that he and many others faced each day. At the conclusion of our service, the invitation was extended, and two ladies responded to be baptized. As we made our way to the bank of the river on foot, locals searched for a suitable pool of water for the baptisms to take place. The young preacher prepared himself by removing his old and worn-out shoes, revealing socks that were hardly there. The rags worn on his feet were basically covering just his ankles. He gently laid his footwear to the side and stepped into the water to immerse each woman into Christ. The names of two souls were added to the Lamb's Book of Life. As I was planning to leave for the day, I reflected on the great conclusion to the gospel being proclaimed. I rejoiced for two new sisters in Christ. Yet, I also felt a sense of remorse at the physical plight of those around me. I could not leave without offering something to the young minister who was so acquainted with poverty that most will never know. I took off my shoes, my dress shirt, my tie, belt and yes, my socks too. I gave them to the young man who was elated at receiving clothing that he so desperately needed. I left the village with less than I brought. Yet for certain, I also left with far more than I had given. Our 2023 Africa campaign is less than eight weeks away and we will surely be presented with opportunities to do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith. Those travelling from the States will do what we can with what we have in our hands. So, please consider sending a financial gift to IBTM to assist with the pressing needs that will be presented as we preach the gospel abroad. Even a small amount given will have a major impact in a part of the world where extreme poverty is the norm. Barry Gilreath

We are currently helping to build a new church building a new church building for the Nyanga congregation in Malawi. In Zambia brethren have made their bricks and are getting ready to build another church building. There are so many good works going on in Africa and many souls are being brought to the Lord through the efforts of IBTM and our workers in Africa and our supporters here in the USA and in Malaysia. Please 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

Things You Helped Accomplish since Sept. 2007

Baptisms.....	41,430
Restored.....	39,006
New congregations started.....	786

New convert class Malawi



Tanzania- 6 waiting to be bapt.



Staff house Siamafumba

