



The Seeker

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

November-December 2023

Volume12, Number 8

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the month of October there were 145 baptisms, 531 restored and 1 new congregations started in connection with our work in Africa. This report was from several different preacher schools. There were 22 Gospel meetings that we sponsored at several locations which resulted in many individuals who confessed sins and were restored. We are still getting reports from November but at this time 102 baptisms have been reported.

IBTM started in September of 2007 so our year is October through September. During this recent period our preachers in Africa reported 13,036 baptisms and 14,962 restored and 115 new congregations started. This is an average of 1,086 baptisms per month or 36 per day or more than one per hour every hour during this 12 month period! We give God the praise for these many souls who obeyed the Gospel during the past 12 months. We also had 138 more preachers to graduate from preacher schools during this 12 month period. There is power in the Gospel of Christ, Rom. 1:16.

A few days ago we got news from Malawi that their dollar, they call Kwacha, was devaluated from 1,180k to \$1.00 and now it is 1,700k to US \$1,00. That is about 40% loss on the value of their money. Most stores closed for a few days so they could change the prices on everything. One example is that the preacher school to purchase a case of paper to print Gospel tracts, the cost went up 13.00 US dollars per case. This means that the current funds being sent to train faithful Gospel preachers and other projects will need to be increased a few hundred dollars each month just to make up for the loss on the exchange rate and the devaluation of their money. Malawi is one of the poorest nations in the world.

The school in Malawi is doing a great work in training faithful Gospel preachers and evangelizing many areas. They have taught and baptized thousands of individuals. One of the problems we are facing in Malawi is a shortage of Bibles for new converts. I think we can all agree that every Christian needs a copy of the Bible in their own language so they can understand God's will for them and how they are to live. The Bibles in their local language has also gone up in price now selling at \$21.00 each. However, if they are purchased in lots of 100 the price comes down to \$18.00 each. Currently there are still several hundred new converts that do not have a Bible. We are asking congregations and individuals as we come to the end of 2023 to consider helping put a Bible in the hands of these new converts. Consider 10 Bibles for \$180.00, 20 for \$360.00, 50 Bibles for \$900.00 and 100 Bibles for \$1,800.00. Malawi is just one of the African nations we are working with that needs Bibles. We need Bibles also for Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania. The Bibles there range from \$12.00 to \$15.00 each. Barry and I are seeking to raise \$30,000.00 for Bibles for Africa. As an individual can you help us with Bibles? As a congregation can you send funds to help us purchase Bibles? If so please make checks to IBTM and mark for "Bibles-Africa" and mail to IBTM C/O Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN, 38506. Or you can send funds to Jackson Heights church of Christ, 1031 Hermitage Dr. Florence, AL. 35630-3625. How blessed we are as Americans to have never been in a situation of greatly desiring to have a copy of the Bible but not being able to afford one. We hope you will consider this urgent need for Bibles and respond as soon as possible to our request for help.

We are currently involved in a few building projects in Africa. In Bomet, Kenya we are building a church building on property that joined the preacher school property. This will provide a place for the students at the

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school and the new congregation there to have a place to worship. We are also building a staff house at the preacher school in Solwezi, Zambia and an administration building at the preacher school at Siamafumba, Zambia. We are currently building a new church building at Maunga in Zambia. The walls are going up this week. We hope this project will be finished soon before the heavy rains start.

As we come to the end of the year many congregations are planning their budgets for the new-year. We ask that you consider including IBTM in your budget either monthly support or a onetime donation for the year. There are so many projects that funds are needed for our work in Africa. Please pray for our work and help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ "into all the world." Ronald D. Gilbert-Director IBTM

Keys to Evangelistic Success

How can evangelistic success be achieved in the eyes of God? Consider the following essentials for evangelism that pleases our Lord.

- Make sure the foundation of evangelistic efforts is grounded in the truth of God's word. If truth is forsaken by compromising the message, Bible evangelism is not the product produced (1 Tim. 1:3; 4:16).
- Remember that biblical success for the Christian is in sowing the pure seed. God will give the increase based upon the kind of soil His seed is spread upon (1 Cor. 3:5-9; Matt. 13:1-9).
- Biblical evangelism is best practiced by a lifestyle rather than occasional events related to soul winning (Acts 17:2; 17:17).
- New Testament evangelism requires whole-hearted commitment as opposed to half-hearted initiatives (Lk. 9:59-62; Acts 8:4).
- Preaching and teaching Christ requires that we preach and teach the doctrine of Christ in all things (Acts 5:42; 17:2-3; 8:35-36).

I once saw a bumper sticker that read, "If you love Jesus honk". Another one I saw said, "If you love Jesus wave". Many have just been honking and waving when the Scriptures instruct us how to show our love for the Lord. If we love Him, keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15). We need to get to work to fulfill the mission Christ has given through these five biblical based principles for evangelistic success. Barry Gilreath

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Websites

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Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	43,870
Restored.....	41,502
New congregations started.....	796
Preachers to graduate.....	878