

The Seeker

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

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International College of the Bible

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have just started our 10th year at IBTM. Much has happened during the past 9 years! The Lord has greatly blessed our work. Consider these fruitful stats during the past 9 years:

7,502 Baptisms	407 ICOTB Students/39 nations	1,139,200 Tracts Printed
7,840 Restorations	83 ICOTB Graduates	1,285,638 Tracts Shipped to Africa
156 New Congregations Started	6 New Preaching Schools	53,975 Bibles Shipped to Africa
27,918 BCC Students/192 nations	291 Preachers Graduated	20,951 Books Sent to Preaching Schools in Africa
27 Mission Trips	352 Bikes for Preachers	

These stats are not given to boast but to share with you the great results we are getting through our work for the Lord. Currently we are working to complete 6 very needed projects connected with our work:

1. Building a school building for the new preacher school at Ngwezi, Zambia. During the past two weeks we sent the remaining \$4,000.00 needed to complete this project.
2. We are completing the church building at Siamafumba. We have raised the remaining \$8,000.00 needed for this project.
3. We are seeking to raise funds to build a staff house at the new preacher school in Solwezi, Zambia. We have just purchased 2 acres of land and need around \$8,000.00 to build a small house to have one of the instructors living there on the school property.
4. We are seeking to raise funds to purchase 10 motor bikes for teachers who teach at different preacher schools in Africa. These bikes cost \$1,500.00 each. We have raised fund for one of these bikes.
5. We have helped start a new preacher school in Malawi, Africa in the capital city of Lilongwe. This school will need around \$1,000.00 per month to operate. We are looking for a church or churches willing to sponsor this school and help train faithful Gospel preachers in Malawi.
6. We are getting together a large shipment of books to send to 9 different schools of preaching in Africa. This shipment will be around 3,000 pounds of books, much needed books for these schools. Many of these books have been donated and we will need around \$15,000.00 to ship them. At this point we have raised \$5,000.00 of the needed \$15,000.00.

As you can see brethren, we need help to complete these projects. We have also just completed a very important project of drilling 2 wells in Africa at preacher schools. Our thanks to the 2 families who gave the funds in memory of loved ones to drill these 2 wells. The gift of water is a much needed gift in Africa and a lasting gift.

Exciting things are happening with many of the 11 preacher schools we are working with.

- In Tanzania we recently finished building a staff house and now the director of the school has moved with his family to the new property. We already have a church building there and they are using it for the preacher school. Last week they had a graduation and graduated 16 preachers. Also 9 women went through the program and graduated. This is wonderful to be able to train Christian women in the Bible also. These 16 men will be able to help evangelize the Mbeya area which has over 2 million people. They are also running a Christian school for orphan children and had the first class to graduate and will take in another group of orphans. There are many orphans in Africa They are doing a great work caring for these small children.
- The school in Solwezi, Zambia is growing and we now have land purchased for a permanent home for the school. We hope to start building a staff house soon.
- The new preacher school in Ngwezi should be just about completed.

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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While we were in Africa in August and September we learned that there are areas in Zambia and in Malawi where they experienced a drought during the last growing season. For this reason millions are in danger of starving. We left some funds to purchase relief food but with so many in need our funds will not go far. We received some pictures back from Malawi where the drought seems to be the worst. They were giving out enough maize to only do a few days to each family. One 25 kg bag of maize cost about \$6.00 and will feed a family of 6 for about 2 or 3 weeks. It will be November before they can plant the next crop. We would like to hear from several churches and individuals who want to help feed many of our brethren who are in need. We send the funds to the preacher schools to the men we know and trust and they purchase the maize and get it to the brethren who are in need. The maize is given to non-Christians as well but it is delivered to local churches for them to distribute.

We are already underway for our 2017 mission trip to Africa. We need to print 200,000 gospel tracts and ship them and also purchase several thousand Bibles to send to the preacher schools. We try each year to have these items ready to ship in January so they will be there when we arrive in August.

We are coming to the end of 2016 and some of you will be thinking about making a donation to a church or a mission work for tax purposes. Please consider helping us with the works we are doing. You can make a check to IBTM or to Rock Valley church of Christ and send it to PO Box 49494 Cookeville, TN. 38506. You may choose which area of our work you wish to help by writing that on the check.

As our work continues to grow we are in need of getting more help with our office work. Linda Hill and I are the only two full time workers with IBTM. We are growing to the point that we are going to have to have more part time help and even a full time helper in the future. We are asking congregations to consider putting our work in your budget for 2017.

Thanks so much for your support and your prayers for our work. The Lord truly is blessing our work with much success thanks to your help. Please continue to pray for our work

and help us as you can to take the precious Gospel of Christ "*into all the world*".

In Christ,
Ronald D. Gilbert - Director



Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Donations to this library should be sent to:
New Hope Road Church of Christ
PO Box 1334 • Dacula, GA 30019



Internet News

Earlier this week I revamped our online ad that tells Internet searchers about our Bible correspondence course. We have only had a study program since 2011 and I continue to be amazed at how quickly it has grown, but much of that growth has been due to the online ads. We currently average about 28,000 visits per month to our websites, but 4,000 of those come directly from our ad. So, advertising is an important way to let searchers know that we are here.

Can you help us advertise for souls? It does not have to be a formal ad paid for somewhere – although some of our teachers have purchased ads in their local newspapers to tell prospective students about us and that is wonderful! But there are also other ways. Just a few suggestions –

- Ask that information about our IBTM study program be mentioned in your congregation's weekly bulletin.
- If your congregation has a website ask that they add a link to our correspondence courses.
- If you have a personal blog or website add a link to our IBTM website.
- Add a signature to your emails that advertise our online courses.
- Print an invitation to study the Bible with our program and leave them in public areas.

And probably the best is word of mouth – just tell others about us.

Thank you for being a part of this work!

Linda Hill