

# The Seeker

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

A Publication of  
**International Bible Teaching Ministries**  
**International College of the Bible**

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As September came to an end IBTM finished our 10<sup>th</sup> year of work and started year eleven. This work could not be done without the help of many individuals and congregations. Our thanks to all of you for your help with the first 10 years of the work with IBTM. In reporting on the first 10 years of our work I want to breakdown our work in its 4 main parts and give a brief report on each of the areas of the work.



**African campaign group in 2010 – Ronald D. Gilbert, Jimmie B. Hill, Laura & Rusty Stark, and Earl Alverson**

## **IBTM and Campaigns**

It has been my privilege to take part in 48 foreign mission trips. During our first 10 years IBTM has completed 31 mission trips into 14 different nations. During these mission trips in the past 10 years 3,016 have been baptized into Christ and 1,823 have been restored. As a result of these campaigns 12 new congregations have been established. During the first 10 years Carolyn and I have tried to make 2 mission trips each year and some years we have made 3 trips staying each trip between 4 to 6 weeks. Much good is done on these trips. We have the opportunity to teach several days each week at preacher training schools and to conduct Gospel meetings. Our meetings are well attended. Last August the meeting in Malawi had over 5,000 in attendance and one of the meetings in Zambia had 2,149 in attendance.

## **IBTM and Preacher Training Schools**

Ten years ago we were working with 2 preacher training schools. In September of 2007 we had already helped to start the school at Siamafumba and we were working to build a dorm and other needed buildings. The Lord has greatly blessed and multiplied our work with preacher training schools. We have helped to start 7 new preacher training schools in Africa and are currently fully supporting 6 of these schools and helping some of the other schools as we can. We are working with 4 schools in Zambia, 4 in Kenya, one in Uganda, one in Ghana, one in Tanzania and one in Malawi. These 12 schools have a combined student body of 152 men. During our first 10 years we have helped 341 preachers to graduate from preacher schools. We have helped to build 4 new preacher



**Tanzania School of Biblical Studies in Mbeya, Tanzania**

training schools and plan to start 2 new school buildings in the near future as the funds can be raised.



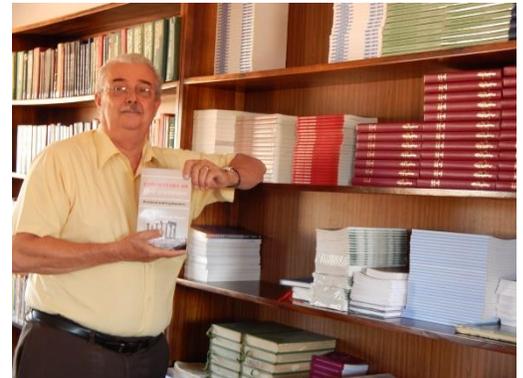
Some of the ICOTB graduates in 2015

With the 12 preacher schools we are working with each year there are several men who are turned down to attend these schools due to a lack of space and a lack of funds. For this reason we started a Distance Learning school, International College of The Bible. Our intent was to enroll some of these men who could not get in the preacher schools and train them by distance learning. We also wanted to encourage many of these young men not to stop at a 2 year preacher school but to go on and learn more of God's Word through a 4 year program and a Graduate program. Since it beginning ICOTB has enrolled 430 students from 40 different nations and has graduated 85 from 11 nations.

For the first few years I was the only teacher with our Distance Learning program. When we got around 100 students I realized I needed help! We have recruited 6 more faithful Gospel preachers to help with our students. Our staff now includes Dave Amos, John Chowning, Fred Clayton, Ron Gilbert (although we share the same name this Ron is the preacher in South Pittsburg, TN.) Eddy Gilpin, Charlie Hannah, William Howard, Garland Robinson, Bill Schwegler, Rusty Stark and Rod Rutherford. Counting me we now have 12 teachers.

### **IBTM and Resource Materials**

Another important part of our work is to help supply resource materials for schools of preaching and churches. We have supplied thousands of good books for preacher school libraries and for text books at these schools. A preacher school needs to have a good library so the students can read and learn while they are there as students. Students also need many books for text books as they are taking classes at the schools. We also try to give each student a few books to take with them so they can continue to study. I hope you can see the problem we are up against! With our 12 schools currently having a combined enrollment of 152 students if we are purchasing just one text book for each of these students at a cost of \$10.00 per book these books would cost \$1,520.00 and about another \$1,520.00 to ship them! We send Bibles and have sent over 1 million Gospel tracts to Africa. We have printed thousands of BCC courses and sent them to Africa. We have sent and carried over 3,000 pounds of Bible class materials, Much of this was for children's classes. We have printed song books in several different African languages. Tracts have been printed in different African languages and several thousand Bibles have been purchased while we were in Africa in different African languages. We have provided Gospel tracts to many different congregations of the Lord's Church so they could reach the lost in their area. We have helped to build over 10 different church buildings in Africa. Each year on our mission trip we leave funds with preacher schools so they will have fuel and food to take the students out and conduct Gospel meetings. Several new congregations have been started from these efforts.



One of the 12 preaching school libraries that we send books to. The JBH Memorial Library fund also helps with this vital need.

Also several congregations that have left the truth and gone into liberalism have repented and been reclaimed as faithful congregations from the efforts of these meetings. We have been able to purchase 410 bicycles for preachers and 6 motor cycles for instructors at preacher schools who were getting too old to ride bicycles to and from school each day. We are in need of 16 more motor bikes for these teachers. The cost for one new motor bike is \$1,500.00.

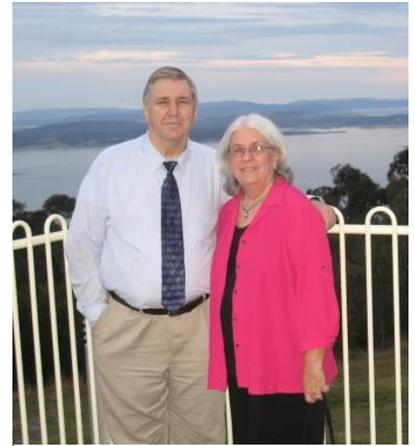
We also have a great resource on our [www.IBTMinistries.org](http://www.IBTMinistries.org) web page. There are around 100 Gospel tracts that can be used as study guides. At the bottom of the tracts you will find "Printable Version" if you click there the tract is ready to print in a PDF format with the art work on the tract. This is a good tool when you are

studying the Bible with someone and want to leave a good tract on a specific topic. You may print and distribute the tracts as you can. There are several good Gospel articles there also.

Another web page is our distance learning web page [www.ICOTB.org](http://www.ICOTB.org) on this page if you click on "Gospel Books" there are several hundred electronic copied of many books that are good resource material for Bible study. We have around 100 religious debates on this web page.

### **IBTM and BCC Program**

In 2010 Jimmie & Linda Hill joined IBTM as co-workers. Jimmie and I had worked together for several years on campaigns. We were so happy to have Jimmie & Linda join with us in this work as it was continuing to grow. Jimmie and Linda started another important part of our work - our online BCC program. In December of 2010 we got our first online BCC student. At the end of our first year our BCC program had 1,902 students. We lost Jimmie to cancer about 2 years after he came to work with us. Linda has remained as a valuable part of our work. She assigns the new students each month to our over 125 active volunteer teachers. She also trains the new teachers on how to be an online teacher. She does the work on our 2 web pages and does typing for the Newsletter and a thousand other things each month. We are blessed to have Linda working with us. IBTM currently has enrolled 30,018 online BCC students and we have 5,508 students by mail.



**Jimmie & Linda Hill on the South Pacific Campaign in 2011**

### **A Special Thank You**

There are so many to thank for the many accomplishments of IBTM during the first 10 years. I personally want to thank my wife Carolyn for her support and encouragement and being my traveling companion to some pretty rough and wild places. I also want to thank my sponsoring congregation Rock Valley church of Christ. These brethren have encouraged me so much and allowed me to be away on campaigns and away fund raising and reporting to churches. Not only have they been a great source of encouragement they have consistently been the largest supporter of this work each year. Rock Valley is one of the few congregations I know of that each year has given over 50 percent of its contribution to mission work. I want to thank Linda Hill again for all she does in helping with our BCC program. Thanks to James R. McGill for his help with preparing classes for our distance learning program. I want to thank Earl Alverson, field representative who has raised thousands of dollars for church buildings, preacher school buildings, wells and food relief. Earl has also made mission trips with us to Africa. A special thanks



**Ron & Carolyn Gilbert on a campaign to Malaysia/Singapore in 2014**

to Rusty & Laura Stark. No one has gone with us on more trips to Africa during the past 10 years than Rusty & Laura. Last August Barry & Jodi Gilreath went on the trip to Malawi and Zambia. This was Jodi's first trip but Barry has made several trips with us to Zambia - thank you, Barry. Thanks also to Dave Amos who not only teaches with ICOTB but also handles the Questions & Answers portion of our work. Special thanks to Garland Robinson for his great help in printing so much material for us. Garland has printed over one million Gospel tracts, thousands of song books in different African languages, sermon outline books and many BCC booklets. He has kept the cost down lower than we could get anywhere. Our thanks to the over 125 volunteers who help with our online BCC program. And we thank the congregations and individuals who help with the mailing of the hard copies. Thanks also to the 11 preachers who are currently helping as online teachers with our distance learning program. Thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement and prayers for our work. It is our prayer that we will have another 10 years to work for the Lord doing what we can to take the Gospel of Christ **"into all the world"**.

**Ronald D. Gilbert, Director of IBTM**

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### *Things You Have Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	8,611
Restorations	8,282
New Congregations	171
New Schools of Preaching	7
New Preachers Graduated	351
BCC Students	35,526
ICOTB Students	430
ICOTB Graduates	86
Gospel Materials Shipped Overseas –	
Bibles	56,363
Hymnals	19,964
Textbooks	23,008
Tracts	1,609,638

### *Office News*

When my husband, Jimmie, joined IBTM in 2010 Ronald Gilbert asked if I would be the webmaster for the new websites being planned. My first reaction was complete panic. My training as a computer programmer was back when computers filled a whole room and you talked to them through punch cards, so my head was spinning at the thought of learning HTML. Fortunately, I didn't have to because our volunteer programmer, Shawn Elliott, created a website and administration system that even I could manage. So in August of 2010 I began loading the new IBTM site with Bible correspondence courses, tracts, articles, and everything else that is there. That kept me scrambling until the end of January when I turned to the ICOTB site and started filling it as well. All the while I wondered if anyone would read any of it or enroll in the courses.

I needn't have worried. Our first online BCC student found us in December - quite by accident I'm sure, since things weren't finished yet. In January over 500 people from 21 nations came to read materials, and 6 more enrolled in the study. I was thrilled! But we were just getting started. In February those numbers more than quadrupled and the growth of the IBTM online missions has continued to be phenomenal. Now our average month brings more than 35,000 visits to our websites and close to 500 new online BCC students. And it continues to grow, so I am still thrilled!

Of course, the main focus of our IBTM webpage is our Bible correspondence course program and our teachers are a vital part of that. In fact, it would not work without them. Thus far we have had 193 wonderful Christian men and women volunteer their time to teach others the gospel via the Internet, and many others who use the printed courses with students. Sadly, some of our teachers have gone on to glory while others had life changes that necessitated their retirement. But the majority still teach daily and I greatly appreciate every one of them. I also greatly appreciate Dave Amos for the support he gives our teachers when they get those "hard" questions. It is awesome!

I am pleased as well that our teachers truly live up to our name – International Bible Teaching Ministries. While most of our online teachers live in the USA, Internet access has allowed teachers from Australia, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea to join us in this work

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this mission. God truly has blessed our work together.

Linda Hill