

# The Seeker

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



Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are currently involved in helping build 2 preacher training schools.



Building for storage and night watchman



Footer for the new school building

One of these schools is Solwezi School of Biblical Studies in the Copperbelt of the northwestern province of Zambia. We have dug the well, built a storage building to secure building materials and dug the footer and have made several blocks for the new building. We are getting reports on a weekly basis keeping us informed on the progress of the building project. We hope that we have raised enough to finish this building. This new school building should allow the school to take in 20 new students in January 2019. There are men who are turned away from preacher schools each year in Africa because of a lack of space and a lack of funds. We are trying to remove both of these obstacles.

The second school building we are trying to build is for Lilongwe School of Biblical Studies in Lilongwe, Malawi. There we have purchased just over 6 acres of land very near a paved road in an area that has not been developed much. A well has been dug and a storage building has been built and a water tower and water tank has been put up. A security wall is being built and blocks are being made for the new school building. This building will have 4 rooms that are 36 feet by 40 feet each. The estimated cost for this new preacher school building is \$100,000.00. This school is sponsored by the Jackson Heights church of Christ in Florence, AL. They are taking the lead in raising the funds to build this needed building. If you or the congregation where you attend would like to help you may send the funds to the Jackson Heights church of Christ, 1031 Hermitage Dr., Florence, AL. 35630, or you can send it to us here at IBTM. Please mark your checks for “Malawi Preacher School”.



Making your own concrete blocks is a lot of work

The new security wall going up

One of the reasons for building these new preacher school buildings is to be able to train even more faithful Gospel preachers in Africa. In order to increase the number of students at schools we need to come up with more funds to feed the students and purchase school supplies. We have calculated that at our existing schools where we already have some support coming in for the operation of these schools an additional 50.00 per month is needed per student to add more students. Would you consider sponsoring one or more students at a preacher school in Africa for 50.00 per student per month? We currently have 6 preacher schools that in January 2019 would like to increase their student enrollment for a total of 50 more students combined in these 6 schools if they had the funds to do so! Fifty students times \$50.00 per month is \$2,500.00 per month to train 50 more preachers at existing schools. If you would like to be a part of helping train faithful Gospel preachers in Africa send your funds to IBTM, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for “Preacher student support”. \$50.00 per month for 24 months would be \$1,200.00. This is a project that many individuals and congregations could get involved in! Why not give it some thought and prayers and consider helping us in this great work?



I think now you can see why we can't just say to the schools enroll as many preacher students as you can into your preacher training schools. Some schools



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would have over 100 students and most of them only have space and funds for 12 or so. In Africa it is not like many places here in the USA where schools struggle to get 4 or 5 students. In Africa most schools turn away more students than they enroll!

We are also working on a shipment of library books and text books that we hope to ship to Africa in October. The Lord is greatly blessing our work with many souls being added to the Lord. Please continue to pray for our work and consider putting our work in your budget for 2019. Help us take the Gospel of Christ "*into all the world.*"

In Christ,  
*Ronald D. Gilbert*, Director, IBTM

### *Things You Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	10,680
Restorations	9,224
Congregations Established	235
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	40,967
ICOTB Students	469
Preachers Graduated	361

### *Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library*

**Linda Hill** added books in memory of  
*Rose Ellen Rich*

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

### *Office News*

Spoiler alert! I'm about to talk numbers so if statistics are not your thing then cruise right on past this part. But in September we recorded our 2 millionth visit to our websites. 2 MILLION. That is a lot of folks stopping by to read the gospel materials there. And they have come from 236 nations, dependencies or special sovereignties. Right now our US State Department recognizes 262 of those. Of course, with the world's population at 7.6 BILLION we still have a tremendous number of souls to reach, but 2 million visits since January of 2011 is a pretty good start.

September also marked the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IBTM. Ronald D. Gilbert began the mission outreach of helping preacher training schools and giving brethren who could not reach a classroom the distance learning option of ICOTB. It has now been directly involved in the formation of 7 new schools of preaching while 361 new preachers from the 12 schools we aid have begun spreading the gospel. That is also wonderful progress!

I decided years ago as I listened to others about events that happened on foreign fields that missionaries have the best stories. I'm hoping to share a few from IBTM folks when space permits, so I'll start with one from me.

### *Tales from the Field*

It was 1983 and I was in Ghana, West Africa. It was my first foreign campaign so also my first experience with not understanding a single word being said around me, water rationing, cholera epidemics, seeing the effects of extreme poverty and famine, and other culture shocks. There had been an attempted coup right after our group arrived so we were also dealing with military checkpoints, government curfews, machine gun fire at night and death tolls the next morning. But I wasn't thinking of any of those things as I followed my translator through a dirt alleyway filled with tiny, clapboard kiosks and a small creek of raw sewage. This was the first time I had ever led a Bible study and I was terrified.

We stopped at the stall where a woman had said she wanted to study and got started in the only space available - right in front of her tiny store. At the end she declined the invitation to become a Christian, but then a young man spoke up. I had been so focused on the study that I had not noticed a crowd gathering but at least 25 people had been standing behind me listening. The young man, James, wanted to be baptized but said he couldn't leave his job at the kiosk next door so could we return tomorrow. We did and not only was James waiting, but so was his brother. James had taught him the gospel the night before!

I still think of this 6 week trip as the *Campaign to Gehenna*, but that was the campaign that convinced my husband, Jimmie, and I that we wanted to do mission work.

*Linda Hill*