

The Seeker

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

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

November 2012

Volume 1, Number 3

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus. We had a good trip to Malaysia. I conducted two Gospel meetings and a one day seminar for young adults. Carolyn was able to conduct two teacher's workshops and I conducted one teacher workshop also. I talked with the elders at the two congregations where I held meetings about our project to send 5,000 NKJV New Testaments to Africa this fall and the two congregations gave \$1,000.00 each for this project. Also one other congregation gave \$100.00 for the New Testaments and another congregation said they will also help. The second meeting was at the Klang congregation. These brethren had been renovating the church building and putting in a new sound system. The building looked very nice.

Friday before the last meeting started I got sick and was able to preach but had to cancel the last teacher's workshop which was to be for two night sessions. I thought I had Malaria from the Africa trip but after finally getting some blood work discovered that it was not Malaria.



We were able to recruit a few teachers for our BCC program and hopefully pick up some new students while we were there. We had the opportunity to study with a man who is not a Christian and he came one night during the meeting. We also got to visit in the home of one of our BCC students and we had a good visit with her and her family. She came with her husband and son one night to the meeting also. We enjoyed our trip to Malaysia and getting to visit and teach for the congregations that we have been able to work with in the past. The brethren there face many challenges living in a Moslem country that we know very little about. They need our prayers and encouragement.

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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Our Visit to China

During the last few days of our trip we flew from Malaysia to Shanghai, China. We were visiting one of our former students who lived in Cookeville for two years. She now resides in Shanghai and teaches at a high school there.



A view of downtown Shanghai, China.



A local market, the man is pointing at salt cured dog.

I was thinking about the population of some of the cities we visited and passed through on this trip. Going over we landed in Seoul, South Korea which has 20,550,000 people. On our return we landed in Tokyo, Japan which has 32,450,000. We stayed in Shanghai, China which has around 25 million people. China has about 1.3 billion people. Perhaps no one really knows the true population of China because it is against the law to have more than one child with very large fines for having a second child. For this reason many in the rural areas have children at home but do not report the birth of the child. There are about 100 known New Testament Christians in Shanghai. It is against the law there for the Lord's Church to meet so they must meet in low profile. For obvious reasons we will not go into any details about the church there and who they are and where they meet. The city of Shanghai with its 25 million is about the same in population as the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia combined living in one city. These states in the USA have a combined membership of about 340,000 Christians while Shanghai has about 100.

Travel in Shanghai was very difficult for us since we do not speak the language. We met some very nice people and gave information to them about our web page and John Grubb's web page which is in Chinese. Some have sent emails thanking us for giving the web page information.

Our thanks to those who helped with the expenses for this mission trip. Please continue to pray for our efforts to take the Gospel of Christ "into all the world". As we draw near to the end of the year we are looking for congregations to consider putting our work into their monthly budget. We need your help in our work.

In Christ,
Ronald D. Gilbert



A Visit With One of Our BCC Students

One of our BCC teachers and good friend Ronda Kase asked Carolyn and I to try to contact one of her BCC students while we were in Malaysia. We were able to contact her and set up a time to visit with her in her home. Her name is Belle and she is a retired school teacher. She taught English so her English is excellent. We found out also that she is a famous cook in Malaysia having appeared on TV and she has written several cook books. Her husband retired from one job and now is a driver for a business man who is CEO of his company. They have two children, a daughter who lives in Australia and a son who recently graduated from flight school and is looking for a job with an airline as a pilot. Belle has two brothers who preach for denominational groups.

In our Newsletter we reported that we have over 5,700 BCC students from 151 nations and that is a lot of people but just looking at the number is impersonal. However, when you consider that one of these students is a very nice lady named Belle with a wonderful family and you get the chance to visit with her and her family that makes it very personal. Each of these 5,700 BCC students like Belle have families and many friends. If our BCC program can reach some of these and teach them more about the blessed Gospel of Christ and they in turn can teach their family members and friends just think of the impact this can have for the cause of Christ around the world.

We are happy to have over 5,700 BCC students but very happy to know one of them and to have been able to become friends with this good family.

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We are also happy to have so many hard-working, dedicated teachers with our online study program. It really would not work without them.

Thank you, Teachers!

Harvest Record

Baptisms	1,195
Restorations	1,193
New Congregations	36
New Schools of Preaching	1
Online BCC Students	5,736
ICOTB Students	207
ICOTB Graduates	42

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Internet News

Last month set a new high mark for visits to our websites – 15,439. And yet this amazing number is ho-hum in comparison to some truly exciting news. Three of our online BCC students became New Testament Christians in October! Equally exciting – other students told their teachers that they also want help to do the same! Now the search is on to also get them in contact with faithful brethren locally.

Contacts for students around the world can prove to be difficult at times. No one really knows the number of Christians today, but one estimate is about 2.5 million worldwide. Compare that to over 7 billion souls in the world and the Lord's church only makes up about .035% of the population. So, sound congregations are not always readily available in some areas. Such was the case for one of our students in October. In fact, the nearest contact we could find was 600 miles away. Thankfully, that did not deter our student at all. They hopped on a train and traveled the 600 miles to have their sins washed away in baptism. I found that very exciting!

In Christian love,
Linda Hill

Memorials

Donation given in memory of **Jimmie B. Hill**
Dale & Elizabeth Rowe

Donation to the **Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library**
Janet Randolph
Linda Hill

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From the Inbox

The opportunity for a Christian in rural east Texas to be able to teach the holy Word of God to someone in the middle of Africa or even further away in almost real time is amazing! The more we can use this new medium, the more souls will hear the wonderful Word of God and His plan of salvation, the gospel.

Loy Pressley, Online Teacher

The courses have provided me with a lot of knowledge in Bible. I really benefited from this study. God bless you & keep up the good work!

Graduated Online Student

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"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."
Philippians 1:3

It's the season for giving thanks and we are thankful for everyone involved in the work of IBTM.

Projects We Are Working on This Fall

We are seeking to get several things done now for our 2013 trip to Zambia. We are raising funds to:

- Print and ship 5,000 Tonga Songbooks to Zambia
- Purchase and ship 5,000 NKJV New Testaments
- Print and ship 100,000 Gospel tracts to different locations in Africa
- Purchase and ship textbooks to the preacher training school in Siamafumba, Zambia

The total cost for these projects will be around \$18,600. We will be sending out letters in the next few weeks and the songbooks are being printed now. We have ordered 3,000 of the New Testaments already and hope to ship them by the end of the year.

Another project is raising funds to build a new church building at the preacher training school in Siamafumba, Zambia. We have already given \$2,500 to the brethren there and the project is under way. Special thanks go to our brother Earl Alverson for his help in raising funds for this church building. He has already raised about one third of the \$15,000 needed to build this church building. We appreciate Earl and his help with this and other projects.

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