

# The Seeker

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



Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord. We want to thank you for your support and prayers for our work. I want to go back and review some of the things concerning our work in 2017. In January Carolyn and I departed for a mission trip to Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. In Tanzania we worked a week at the new school south of Mbeya. They were in the process of finishing up the church building which is also used as the preacher school. I taught at the school each day and preached for the congregation on Sunday. We had the opportunity to visit with the orphan children that we are helping to support. The Benton Harbor congregation in MI sends funds to help support this school for the orphans. From Tanzania we flew to Uganda and met up with Jerry Sullins and had a good visit with the brethren at East Africa School of Biblical Studies. This school is located in Busia, Uganda and is sponsored by the Kansas Expressway congregation in MO where Jerry serves as one of their elders. They were in the process of completing the new school building there and they were building 2 new church buildings in the area.

We had a good visit with Jerry and the brethren at EASOBS. Carolyn and I then traveled to Kenya and worked with Benard Kagaga who is the director of the preacher school at Ndihiwa. Benard also helps as one of our BCC teachers. We had a good stay with Benard and Dorothy in their home. Benard and the other teachers are doing a good job training faithful Gospel preachers. His work is overseen by the church in Munford, AL. They plan to build a new preacher school building there soon.

In May Carolyn and I were in Malaysia and Singapore on another mission trip. We enjoyed getting to teach and visit with the good brethren in Malaysia. We stayed with our good friends Eng Boon and Sue in Malaysia. Eng Boon has taken care of us on these trips for many years. We ended our trip with a week in Singapore with the Jurong congregation and preacher and longtime friend Eddy Ee. While there we also got to visit with Peter Chin and the good brethren at Four Seas Bible College.

In August our IBTM team went on another mission trip to Malawi and Zambia. Rusty and Laura Stark along with Barry and Jodi Gilreath did a good work on this trip. There were 105 baptisms and 118 restored during their Gospel meetings. In Lilongwi there were over 5,000 in attendance for the meeting. In Zambia at Siamafumba there were 2,149 present for this Gospel meeting. In Ngwezi, Zambia the new preacher school building was completed and at Siamafumba the new church building was used for the meeting. Thank God for so many great things that happened in 2017:

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|---|---|
| <b>254,000</b> Gospel tracts shipped to Africa                  | <b>931</b> baptisms                     |
| <b>3,000</b> pounds of books sent to preacher schools in Africa | <b>218</b> restored                     |
| <b>5</b> new teachers were added to our staff at ICOTB          | <b>13</b> new congregations established |
| <b>45</b> men graduated from preacher schools in Africa         | <b>1</b> new preacher school began      |
| <b>24</b> graduated from ICOTB                                  |   |

Indeed the Lord richly blessed our work for Him in 2017! Our thanks to all of you who helped make these things possible.

Now we want to focus on the future 2018! Each year about January we begin our fundraising efforts for our Zambia trip in August. Here is a list of our budget for this year:

Printing & shipping 200,000 tracts.....	\$12,000.00
Books for preacher schools.....	4,000.00
Printing & shipping BCC booklets.....	10,000.00
Preacher school support.....	4,000.00
Travel, hotel, food and fuel.....	2,000.00
Ben. For schools and needy.....	2,000.00
Bibles in local languages.....	4,000.00
Bikes for preachers.....	4,000.00
Help schools supplies, cooking gas	
office supplies, maintenance at schools...	6,000.00
Repairs on van & truck, tires.....	<u>2,000.00</u>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>



January 2018

Volume 7, No. 1

A Publication of *International Bible Teaching Ministries*  
Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cookeville, TN

As you can see these funds are not just for our air fare but for much needed work we do each year in Zambia. Please help us reach our goal again this year. If you can help please make your check to Ronald D. Gilbert-Mission fund and mark for "Zambia trip" and send to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494. Cookeville, TN. 38506. We always send out a financial report after the trip to the congregations and individuals who help.

In 2018 we also hope to be able to raise the lacking funds to build the new preacher school in Solwezi, Zambia. We are currently about 10,000.00 short of the needed funds. We also hope to be able to drill 2 new wells at preacher schools so they can have a good clean supply of water. These wells costs 5,000.00 each. We also hope to be able to purchase 5 more motor bikes at a cost of 1,500.00 each for some of the older men who teach at preacher schools who have difficulties riding bikes. We are planning to purchase more NKJV Bibles and New Testaments to send to Africa. Bibles cost around 3.00 each and about 5.00 to ship one Bible. The New Testaments cost about 1.30 each and about 2.00 to ship to Africa.

There are many people in Africa and other places around the world who are hungry for the truth and searching for the truth! Will you join us and help by sending funds to reach lost souls with the Gospel of Christ? Please pray for our work and help us to take the Gospel "*into all the world*".

In Christ,  
*Ronald D. Gilbert*  
Direct of IBTM

### *Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library*

Ronald & Carolyn Gilbert added books in memory of *Janet Randolph*

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

### *From the Inbox*

"I want to sincerely thank you so much that The Lord chose to use you to help me understand His word much better and what I am required to do after the beautiful lessons."  
- BCC Student from Kenya

### *Things You Helped to Accomplish*



Baptisms	8,676
Restorations	8,289
Congregations Established	172
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	36,819
ICOTB Students	430
Preachers Graduated	361

### *Office News*

In many ways 2017 was a difficult year, particularly with the shock of Ronald D. Gilbert contracting GBS. Yet God continued to bless our work in wonderful ways. I had to get more involved in the ICOTB side of our work, which turned out to be very interesting. The traffic to our websites increased again with people from at least 11,111 cities located in 225 nations coming to read materials there. And we recorded a new high for our online Bible study program with 5,626 new students enrolling. So now that things are getting back to normal I expect even greater things in 2018.

Here at the start of 2018 the world's population is estimated to be almost 7.6 billion people, but that number is constantly growing. By the end of this year another 83 million is expected. More than **7.6 billion precious souls** . . . and they all need the Gospel of Christ. Our job of evangelizing the world just keeps getting bigger. The Lord's church is truly in need of more missionaries.

Isn't it wonderful that we can all be missionaries? After all, a missionary is simply someone who has been sent on a mission. There are many ways you can do that, but getting involved in a work such as IBTM is a great one. That is one of the things I really appreciate about our Bible study program. It allows our teachers to reach out to this growing world, even when they cannot travel there in person. We currently have BCC students in 193 nations, and a teacher involved in teaching each one of them. But we could use more in 2018. If you would like to become a missionary with our study program contact me at [info@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:info@IBTMinistries.org).

Linda Hill