

# 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. We are off to a great start in the new year. During the month of January we were able to send 5,000 Tonga song books to Zambia, 50,000 Gospel tracts in two different African languages and over 494 books to preacher training schools. We received \$850.00 from the New Hope Rd church of Christ which was funds given to the Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library Fund and we were able to purchase 45 text books, most of these were books pertaining to Greek. These text books were sent to Siamafumba School of Biblical Studies in Zambia, Africa. We plan to use the funds that are given to this memorial library fund to purchase text books and books for preacher training school libraries and place them there in memory of Jimmie. We also encourage anyone who would like to place books in these schools in memory of any of their loved ones to send funds and we will send the books. What better way to remember a faithful Christian than to place books in preacher school libraries and class rooms for text book use. We have a nice color label we will use in the front of the books with your loved one's name mentioned there. We can use individual books or books that come in sets. Any amount from \$20.00 upward can be used. Anyone sending funds for books in memory of their loved ones will receive a letter informing them of the books that were sent and where they were sent.

We are also working on our mission trip to Malaysia & Singapore which will be in April. Carolyn & I plan to be there for the month of April. I will be conducting Gospel meetings and teaching workshops. Carolyn will be teaching ladies. We always enjoy working with the fine brethren in Malaysia. We have been trying to ship Bible class materials to several congregations in Malaysia and Singapore as well. We are looking forward to this trip. Please keep us in your prayers that we might be able to do much good and be safe. In January we enrolled 4 new students in our Distance Learning Program. During the past few days we sent out our annual fundraising letter for our mission trip to Zambia, Africa each August. For those of you who are new at receiving our Newsletter we try to raise funds for our "Work Fund" which comes in on a monthly basis. However, once each year we try to do several things for the work in Africa which is above and beyond our monthly work. These projects require extra funds. Our thanks to congregations and individuals who have been so good to help with this good work. These extra funds allow us to do many wonderful things for the cause of Christ in Zambia and other places in Africa.

### **Other projects we hope to be able to accomplish in Africa include the following:**

Purchase & ship 5,000 NKJV New Testaments ( 3,000 sent).....	10,220.00
Print & ship 5,000 Tonga Song Books.....(sent).....	5,074.00
Print & ship 100,000 Gospel tracts.....(50,000 sent).....	5,725.00
Purchase & ship text books for Preacher School.....	3,500.00
Purchase 30 bikes for preachers in Zambia.....	3,000.00
Purchase 300 Bibles in local languages.....	2,500.00
Benevolence , food for the needy.....	1,500.00
Funds to operate Preacher School in the bush for one year.....	<u>10,000.00</u>

Goals for this year \$41,519.00  
Funds already raised - \$13,000.00

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Leaving a balance to raise of \$28,519.00

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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With you help brethren we can again this year reach our goal. Please consider helping us reach this goal. Many souls can be won to the Lord with your help. Last year counting our campaigns and hearing from some of our distance learning students there were 842 baptized into Christ, and over 300 restorations and 34 new congregations of the Lord's Church established. The Lord is richly blessing our work and with your help much good can continue to be accomplished.

Ronald D. Gilbert, Director – IBTM

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### Thank You So Much:

There are so many people that make IBTM a work that is having great success. We want to thank each congregation and each individual for their support, prayers and words of encouragement they give for our work. A special thanks to our over 100 volunteer teachers who work so hard with our BCC program. Also thanks to sis. Linda Hill for her many hours of work each week in keeping our BCC teachers assigned with new students and showing our new teachers what they need to know to help with this program. And for the many other things she does to help with our work. We also want to thank bro. Dave Amos for his work in answering the many questions that are sent to him each week. Many times we get applications from men who are members of various denominations wanting to be enrolled in our distance learning program. Rather than just sending them an email turning them down, we usually forward their email to Dave and he tries to engage them in a Bible study. Dave sends me a copy of each reply he has with these men. Many times he writes pages of material for these men to study. Much good has been done by bro. Dave. He also helps when our distance learning students have questions. He is very patient and takes the time to listen to the students and then he give them answers from the Bible. We are fortunate to have bro. Dave Amos volunteering his time and talents to our work here at IBTM.

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### *Valiant Volunteers*

The outreach of IBTM is huge but the staff is small. We could not begin to accomplish the work we do without the efforts of some wonderful volunteers. Every volunteer is vital to this effort, so from time to time we want to introduce some of them to you.



**Shawn Elliott** is one of our IBTM online teachers, but he is also a major reason we even have an online program available. In 2010 when Jimmie B. Hill joined IBTM he asked Shawn to create a website for the Bible correspondence courses – and Shawn jumped right in. Lucky for us Shawn is not only a computer programmer by profession, but he also lists programming as one of his hobbies. Even luckier was the fact that Shawn was an experienced online teacher with the program at TFTW and he used that working knowledge to come up with some wonderful ways to make the job of online teaching easier.

It took Shawn four months to design everything and write the code. Then he created a sister website for ICOTB. In the process he also designed a management system that allows me to maintain and edit both websites, and he helped upload the course materials. Then as soon as the websites were active he and his wife, **Rebecca**, signed on as some of our very first teachers. I asked Shawn what he liked best about online teaching and he responded, “The opportunity to teach students who really are excited about learning the Bible.” He also told me that his most gratifying experience as a teacher was “meeting one of my students who obeyed the Gospel when I traveled to San Antonio.” Shawn, Rebecca and their three children – Jacob, Gabriella, and Destiny – live in Louisiana and attend the Cenla church of Christ.

IBTM has truly been blessed to have Shawn Elliott as one of our valiant volunteers.

Linda Hill

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