

The Seeker

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

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are making preparations for our mission trip to Malaysia in just a few weeks. I am scheduled to conduct 6 meetings back to back during our trip. I consider this to be a great privilege and not a chore. I do get amused from time to time when some well-meaning brother asks when we return from a trip, “Well, did you enjoy your vacation?” Please keep us in your prayers as we travel on this trip that much good can be done and that we will be safe.

We are also well on our way toward our Zambia mission trip in August. We have sent out our letters seeking to raise the needed funds to accomplish our goals this year. We are thankful that funds have already started coming in and we are working on several projects. We are planning to print and ship 100,000 Gospel tracts to several different locations in Africa. We have about half of them printed and folded and ready to ship. These tracts are so very important to the brethren in Africa. They are hungry for the Word of God and Gospel tracts are taken with great gratitude and read by several different people. We are also working on printing some hard copies of our BCC courses to be used in Africa and other places where they are needed. Several of the preacher schools we are working with plan to hand out our BCC lessons in their areas and the people will fill them out and return them to the schools to be graded with no postal expense. I want to keep our goals for our mission trip to Zambia before our readers so they will know what we are trying to do and perhaps they can help us with these goals:

10,000 NKJV New Testaments.....	\$12,000.00
Print & ship 100,000 Gospel tracts.....	5,725.00
Print & ship BCC lessons.....	3,000.00
Purchase & ship several text books for preacher schools.....	2,500.00
Purchase 30 bikes for preachers.....	3,000.00
Purchase 300 Bibles different African languages.....	2,500.00
Benevolence , food for needy.....	1,500.00
Funds to operate preacher school for one year.....	12,000.00
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Budget for 2014 mission trip for Zambia	\$42,225.00

This is just a small increase over our goal last year and thanks to your help we reached that goal. We are confident that good brethren will hear of our goals to help spread the Gospel of Christ in Africa and will come to our aid and help provide these needed funds.

One of the greatest needs in the Lord’s church around the world is to train more faithful Gospel preachers. We are currently working with 7 different preacher schools in Africa. These schools are located in 5 different African nations. Some of these schools are fully supported by good brethren in the USA. We are working with them trying to help get books in their libraries and to send them Gospel tracts and other printed materials such as song books, literature and BCC lessons. One of these schools we fully support and some of the others we are the only ones who send some funds to operate these schools. Some of our graduates from our distance learning program in Africa are planning to open 2 other schools that hope to have students in the next few months as part time schools. We hope to be able to raise funds to operate these schools and help train faithful Gospel preachers in these areas. These schools will only need about \$500.00 per month to cover the expenses as part time schools. If any of our readers would like to sponsor one of these schools please let us hear from you. Brethren, I believe that helping train faithful Gospel preachers is a very important part of the “Great Commission”. I also believe that the most efficient way to do this is not to bring these men to the USA for training but to train them in their local areas. Last year 67 men graduated from the 7 schools we are working with, including our distance learning program. Many of these men are young men and will probably have 40 years or more to preach the Gospel of Christ. Think of the good that can be accomplished by these

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men in the next 40 years, men who live in Africa and speak the language and work for the Lord preaching and teaching the pure Gospel of Christ.

One of our new students in filling out his application was asked concerning his past work and he reported that he had established 7 congregations and helped other brethren to establish 8 more. This brother has already finished a two year preacher school and his BA in Bible and now has enrolled in our MA program. He is a very faithful and sound Gospel preacher. He has started a small preacher school in Kenya and we are sending books for the school library. He was also telling me about helping 11 congregations stop liberal practices. Many denominational practices have crept in at many congregations but faithful gospel preachers can have a great impact for truth among good and honest brethren. Helping train sound, faithful Gospel preachers is one of our greatest needs in the mission field and around the world.

We are getting another shipment of books together to send to several different preacher schools in Africa. We plan to send these along with our shipment of 100,000 Gospel tracts and BCC lesson books. Some of these books have been given through the Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library Fund.

Thanks, brethren for your help.

Ronald D. Gilbert - Director

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Marlin & Betty Howard added books in memory of *LaVonne Floyd*

Ronald & Carolyn Gilbert added books in memory of *Walter Pigg*

Donations to this library should be sent to:

**New Hope Road Church of Christ
PO Box 1334 • Dacula, GA 30019**

Valiant Volunteers



Carla Carlson hails from Indiana but headed south for college. She earned a BS in Social Work from Freed Hardeman then later a MS in Early Childhood Education. Still, living in the South has not changed her loyalties – she remains a big Indiana University basketball fan! Currently she works as a teacher with Computer Explorers where, as she puts it, she gets paid to play with kids. Her husband, Richard, was a gospel preacher for more than 26 years but died unexpectedly in 2010. Her son, Adam, now preaches at a small congregation in Tennessee and her daughter, Leah, is set to graduate from FHU in May with a degree in Social Work, so obviously Richard and Carla did something right. But the thing I like best about Carla's resume is that she has been one of our IBTM online teachers since March of 2012.

Carla told me that she likes the convenience of online teaching and reading where her students are from, although communicating with the foreign students can be a challenge at times. She also told me, “*My absolute greatest memory of being an IBTM teacher occurred last summer. One of my students in South Africa obeyed the gospel! He is currently enrolled at OABS.*” When asked if she could offer advice to other teachers she replied, “*I suggest allowing “self-learning.” If one has read Muscle and a Shovel, while Randall taught Mike, he still allowed him to self-discover. My student who was baptized last year, near the end of his studies, he said ‘I have been misled.’*” Also, “*Keep learning. We are so blessed with so many great resources out there.*”

Finally, Carla recommended that we “*cherish each moment. Life is hard often times. I do not know how anyone gets through tough times without the Lord.*” And Carla knows something about tough times because she has been battling ovarian cancer since May 2011.

Carla Carlson is an inspiration to me. We are blessed at IBTM to have her as one of our Valiant Volunteers.

Linda Hill