

The Seeker

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

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International College of the Bible

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. January was a very busy month for us at **IBTM!** It was a time of printing and shipping. Our thanks to Garland Robinson for his help with much of our printing. He is a great blessing to our work. We got 130,000 of the 200,000 tracts printed and shipped by the middle of January. We also got 18,000 BCC booklets printed and shipped several thousand. We were working under a deadline due to a price increase in shipping. By shipping this material out when we did we were able to save over \$2,400.00 in postage. In these 2 large shipments we sent 130,000 Gospel tracts, over 4,000 Bibles and New Testaments and over 5,000 BCC booklets. This material was sent to 12 locations in 6 different African nations. These 2 shipments weighed 4,466 pounds at a cost of \$17,775.60. But remember, by shipping them out by the deadline we saved over \$2,400.00. As you can see postage is a big part of our budget. We are always needing help with funds to print and ship materials.

Last month when we mailed our Newsletter to those of you in the USA, we also included a letter beginning our fund raising efforts for our Africa mission trip in August. If you recall our budget for this effort was \$60,000.00 for all the tracts, Bibles, BCC lessons, books for preacher schools, bikes for preachers, funds for preacher schools and other items as well. We are encouraging brethren to begin sending funds for this effort. We have already spent around \$28,900.00 for printing and shipping materials. We need your help, please send your funds for this mission trip. Make your checks to **Ronald D. Gilbert-Mission Fund** and send to **Rock Valley church of Christ, Attn: Ronald D. Gilbert, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN 38506**, and write on the check for “Africa mission trip”. Some have already send funds for our mission trip in August and we greatly appreciate you doing so.

One of the projects we were also working on in January was funds for a well for the preacher school in Ndhiwa, Kenya. Benard Kagaga is the director of the school of preaching there and they are doing a great work training faithful Gospel Preachers. Benard sent us pictures of the well and the tank to pump the water into and the stand where they will place the tank. The brethren there are very grateful to have a well supplying clean water for the school. We are working on funds for another well for the school of preaching at Siamafumba in Zambia. We were contacted recently by a brother in Christ who recently lost his wife of many years. He wanted to do something special in her memory. We told him of the great need for clean water in so many places in Africa. He plans to pay for the drilling of the well and putting in the pump so this school will have fresh, clean water. We are going to put a plaque on the base of the well honoring the memory of his beloved wife. What a wonderful, thoughtful and lasting way to remember a loved one! Our thanks to this brother and this great project he has agreed to fund. Others have also talked with us about helping drill a well in memory of their loved ones. This is a great project and will help many people to have fresh clean water for many years to come. We encourage others to think about doing this also. There is no shortage of needed wells in Africa. There is also a great need to replace a used van for the preacher school in Uganda. We hope to raise \$12,000.00 for this project. If you would like to help with this van let us know.

The time is drawing nearer for our mission trip to Malaysia. We plan to conduct 5 meetings while we are in Malaysia. Carolyn will be teaching some for the ladies and children. She will also be working with ladies who are Bible class teachers. They plan to work on special projects for their classes for children.

We are so thankful for all our supporters, individuals and congregations. Your help means so much to us. We could not do this work without your help. Please continue to keep our work in your prayers and please continue to help us as you can to take the precious Gospel of Christ *“into all the world”*.

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

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	5,855
Restorations	6,692
Congregations Established	145
Schools of Preaching Begun	5
BCC Students	22,697
ICOTB Students	393
Preachers Graduated	236

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Linda Hill added books in memory of
Tim C. Davis

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

Internet News

2016 started with a bang! In January we saw more than 28,000 visits to our websites and almost 700 new students began our Bible correspondence courses. We made major shipments of gospel materials (and printed more), learned about 5 new congregations being established by those who work with us, and rejoiced at the 226 baptisms reported to us – one of which was an online BCC student. What a great beginning!

We have had two additions to our part-time staff in recent months. **Carolyn Gilbert** and **Bronson Roper** are both helping with special projects. Carolyn assists with office and shipping projects while Bronson works in cyberspace creating and uploading new materials for the websites. It is wonderful to have them both on board.



Valiant Volunteers

Jerry Anderson is a resourceful man. I don't say this because he taught middle school for 38 years, although his ability to deal skillfully and promptly with new situations certainly would have been a plus while coaching football and track. I don't use this adjective because when he retired in 2011 he took on a new job as an Associate Minister. And I don't say it because Jerry and his wife, Kay (who is also retired from a career in education), both love working with youth groups – something that would keep any adult on their toes. I say Jerry is resourceful because when he heard about **IBTM** for the first time from David & Rita Barton, he reacted swiftly. Rita has been an **IBTM** online teacher from Tennessee since the beginning and even now that she and her husband enjoy traveling she continues with her students on the road. So, when they stopped to worship in Salem, Virginia, and Rita told Jerry about teaching students around the world, Jerry quickly joined our volunteer ranks. But then he did more. He put together information about this opportunity to be involved in the Great Commission and gave a presentation to the West Side Church of Christ one Sunday night. A few weeks later he mailed me a packet of 25 applications from members who wanted to become online teachers. 25! What a marvelous response!

I asked Jerry what he liked best about teaching online and he replied, *"It is very convenient. The IBTM program is organized so well it is easy to do. Once you get going in the program it is something you can do on your own. You don't have to attend meetings, do paperwork, depend on someone else . . . just go to your email and grade and encourage. It is personal. It is mine. I like that."* I also asked him if he had any advice for others and he said, *"You are not too young or too old to do this."* And the best thing to happen so far? *"This doesn't involve a student, but one of our teachers lives at the Veterans Care Center. I have enjoyed hearing him tell of the joy it brings him when he receives a new lesson on his email. Also, I have really liked the interactions with the other teachers hearing how things are going. I have sensed a feeling of accomplishment and happiness among them regarding their IBTM work."*

I'm happy that David & Rita Barton visited Virginia last fall, and that Jerry Anderson and all of the teachers from West Side have recently joined our team of Valiant Volunteers. As Jerry put it, *"I guess the best is yet to come."*

Linda Hill

We CAN evangelize the entire world in OUR lifetime . . . if we work together!