

The Seeker

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



Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are excited about the good work being done by the preacher schools in Africa we are currently supporting and working with. IBTM and supporters are supporting seven of these schools. Sometimes we send funds for fuel so the students can go out and conduct Gospel meetings. These men at the schools are very dedicated. In many of the schools the students sleep in dorms in bunk beds with very little room for personal items. The food at the schools is normally toast and tea for breakfast sometimes porridge. For lunch they may have beans and rice or rice and cooked cabbage. For dinner at night they may have nshima which is ground corn meal boiled and served with greens and a small piece of chicken or beef. The teachers receive a small salary for teaching most get between \$30.00 and \$50.00 per month. The single students get \$10.00 per month for deodorant, soap, tooth paste and shaving supplies. The married students get \$20.00 per month of that amount they keep \$10.00 and send the other \$10.00 back to their families for needed supplies. While they are in school they receive this support but after they graduate these funds are stopped. We do not give funds to the preachers after they graduate. We are not saying that those who do things different than we do are wrong we are just saying this is the way we do it!

Bible tracts are a very important part of our work in Africa. For the past few years we have been printing and shipping 200,000 Gospel tracts to Africa. Many of these tracts are in English but some are printed in different African languages. We ship these tracts to the 12 preacher schools we are working with and they distribute them to the faithful congregations in their area. These tracts are given out during their Gospel meetings and in their personal evangelism efforts. In many areas in Africa one tract may be read by a dozen or more people, they are hungry for Bible tracts and printed materials. On Friday March 2 we shipped over 2,000 pounds, 92 boxes of tracts, BCC lessons and text books to several of the preacher schools we are working with. It costs about \$10,000.00 to print and ship 200,000 Gospel tracts. That comes to about 5 cents per tract. I wish we had the funds to print and ship 400,000 or even one million tracts to Africa each year! There are over 1 billion souls in Africa and brethren, we need to be thinking big in our soul saving efforts! The Lord's church could send 1 million tracts to Africa for \$50,000.00 and this would be a small effort based on our abilities!

We also send Bibles to Africa each year. We send 3,000 to 5,000 NKJV Bibles and New Testaments to Africa each year. We have some supporters that each year send us a check marked for “Bibles” and we use all of it for purchasing and shipping Bibles to Africa. We try to have Bibles there so when someone becomes a Christian we can give them a Bible to study and grow in Christ. Some of the Bibles we purchase are in the local languages. We can only purchase them while we are in Africa. We try to take \$4,000.00 or more each year for these Bibles in different languages.

For the past few years we have tried to print several thousand of our BCC booklets for use in Africa. There are 6 lesson booklets with about 15 lessons in each book. There are also 6 test booklets that the students fill out and turn in for grading. We send these BCC booklets to the preacher schools and they distribute them to congregations in their area. Then the local Christians hand them to people in their village who want to study the Bible. They are graded by the local churches and hand delivered back to the students. This way there is no postage for the student to pay or postage for IBTM to pay to get these BCC lessons mailed to Africa. We recently printed 8,000 of these booklets and have shipped about 3,000 of them. We are getting more requests from Africa than we can fill for these BCC lesson booklets. I wish we could print 10,000 each of these booklets which would be about 120,000 booklets. It would cost close to \$50,000.00 to print these 120,000 BCC booklets.

So many people around the world are dying without the Gospel. Many of these souls are crying out for tracts, Bibles and BCC lessons. Please hear their cry and answer by helping get the Gospel of Christ to them before it is too late! Please help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ *“into all the world.”*

In Christ,

Ronald D. Gilbert

Direct of IBTM



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Office News

I love adding nations to our statistics so when a web visitor from Niger enrolled in our BCC program recently, I was thrilled. We now have students in 197 nations! But reading about this West African country I became even more excited. Niger's population of 19.5 million is more than 98% Muslim so I know that the gospel of Christ is not likely to be welcome there. I love that the Internet can go where missionaries cannot.

Niger must be a difficult place to live. Among nations it is ranked 2nd for the least developed, 6th for infant mortality, but 1st for total fertility rate since the average woman there has about 7 children. Sadly, life expectancy is only 56 years. Niger is also one of the hottest places on the planet since 4/5 of it is Sahara Desert. About half of its people have a cell phone but only 4% have Internet, so I am really glad that one of them found our courses. Please pray that more will soon.

Linda Hill

Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	9,803
Restorations	8,537
Congregations Established	204
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	37,899
ICOTB Students	438
Preachers Graduated	361

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Ronald & Carolyn Gilbert added books in memory of **Stan Smith**

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

India Campaign



Matt & Dave Amos with a group of orphans

Seven of us from the Woodstock Church of Christ, Rick and Pam Reynolds, Reg and Kathy Berry, Terri Hall, Matt Amos (our preacher and my son) and I began our 30-day India effort at the Atlanta, Georgia International Airport on January 8, 2018. We were scheduled to depart on British Airways at 8:00 PM to Hyderabad, India through Heathrow Airport in London, but spent a restless night in the Atlanta airport because allegedly the scheduled flight crew did not have sufficient rest to undertake the nearly nine hour flight to London. We finally boarded the aircraft the next day and flew to London where we were all put up by British Airways for a night in a nice local hotel to accommodate a revised flight schedule.

The following day we finally boarded the flight for nine plus hours to Hyderabad.

Our preaching and teaching schedules were rearranged and the men began preaching the next day to varying size crowds, while the ladies began their busy schedule of teaching many lady's classes. We traveled over some trails (said by some to be roads) by auto, three-wheel cabs, and even via motorcycle, as well as by air to many other cities and villages, preaching to many, including those of the denominations, to large gatherings of denominational preachers, holding classes for large groups of Church of Christ preachers, teaching orphaned young folks, and preaching to a group of fifteen lepers. Last year there were ten lepers present with all being converted! We worked with Ron and Karen Clayton and Kyle and Sony Clayton who have been missionaries in India for several years and who in recent years have been associated with the Woodstock church.

It was our fifth trip to India and, preaching nearly non-stop, it was, perhaps, our most tiring effort, but one of the most rewarding. Most of our group (excluding the 85-year old guy, Ha!), experienced some sickness while there, but all have since recovered and are back to the work. During the 30 days, God gave the increase of 580 souls responding for baptism, 24 of which were denominational preachers, set to go back and convert their own congregations! Thanks so much for prayers on our behalf!

Dave Amos