

The Seeker

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

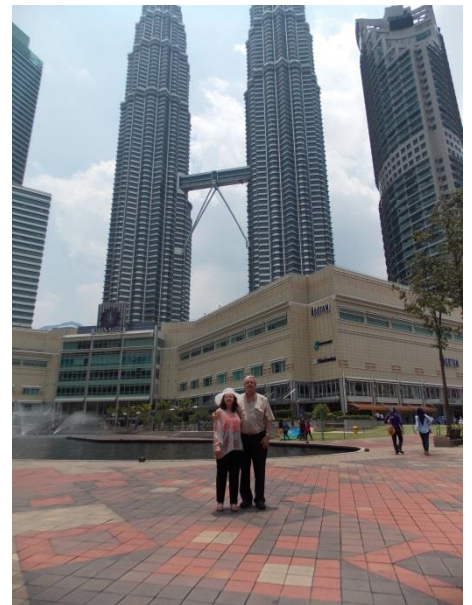
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Dear brethren,

Carolyn and I just returned from another mission trip to Malaysia & Singapore. While on this trip we had the privilege to visit 6 different congregations. We were at Klang, Subang Jaya, Ipoh, Meleka, Johor Bahru and Singapore. Malaysia has a population of around 27 million and is made up of about 60% Muslim, 19% Buddhist, 9% “Christian” or those in denominations, 6% Hindu and about 3% Confucianism, Taoism, other Chinese religions. I was able to speak at 29 sessions with 7 of these sessions lasting from one and a half hours to two hours. Some of these sessions were Gospel meetings and some were teacher’s workshops and one was a seminar on mission work. Carolyn was able to conduct 5 teacher’s workshops for the ladies. Before we departed on this trip we shipped about 200 pounds of Bible class materials to Malaysia to distribute between these 6 congregations. We also took another 80 pounds of material with us on this trip. These congregations were very happy to receive this Bible class material. While we were there we asked the congregations to give us a list of needed Bible class materials and we are trying to fill their request and supply them with their needed materials.



Malaysia is divided into 13 states each having the ability to make certain changes in their areas. In the state that Johor Bahru is located they have recently changed Sunday to a working day, meaning that schools and government jobs must be open on Sunday. The congregation at Johor Bahru now has services on Sunday morning and on Sunday evenings. It had been several years since I had visited the brethren at Ipoh and was Carolyn’s first time there. We enjoyed our visit with the brethren there. At Meleka after our Gospel meeting we had the pleasure to join them in their church camp. We had a very good time of fellowship with the brethren there. At the Subang Jaya congregation they are planning to start a new work in Myanmar,

which is just north of Thailand, and they wanted me to conduct a seminar on mission work.

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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While in Malaysia we had the pleasure of visiting with Roger & Donna Campbell. We appreciate so much the good work they have done for many years in the mission fields. Roger gave us several copies of a new book he has written and we plan to send them to several of the preacher schools we are working with in Africa.



In Singapore the brethren at Jurong had asked that Carolyn & I teach a 3 night teacher's workshop. While in Singapore we visited the good brethren at Four Seas Bible College.



We got to visit with Peter Chin and his good wife while we were there. We also had the opportunity to have dinner with Patrick & Chantelle Swayne. Patrick is also one of the teachers there at the college. We also had the opportunity to visit with our good friend Eddy Ee, long time preacher at the Jurong congregation and also teacher at Four Seas Bible College.



On Thursday night before our session began we took the time to present a diploma to brother Jedediah Yuan Shijie. He had completed his work for his BA in Bible and has now started on his MA.



We also got to meet in person another of our ICOTB student's sister Anna Chan, who is a member at the Jurong congregation.

There was one baptism while we were in Malaysia. The brethren at the Klang congregation had been studying with a young man who decided on Sunday morning during our meeting to put on Christ in baptism.

It is always a pleasure to visit and work with the brethren in Southeast Asia. Our goal is to try to teach lessons that will strengthen and edify the brethren there. We always enjoy our stay there with these good brethren and the great fellowship we have with them. These brethren are working under difficult circumstances and need our prayers and support in any way we can help them.

Our focus will now turn to our mission trip to Zambia in August. Funds are still coming in but we are still short of our goal for the needed funds this year. Most of the 100,000 gospel tracts have been shipped and the rest will be sent soon. We will also be sending several hard copies of our BCC lessons to several places in Africa and

several books for the preacher schools we are working with. We have ordered 6,000 NKJV New Testaments that should arrive soon. The brethren at Rock Valley will be putting two labels in each of these New Testaments. One is a tract on, "What Must I Do To Be Saved", and the other is a tract on, "How To Identify The New Testament Church". We had hoped that the New Testament that are being printed in India through bro. Jim Waldron would be ready but they are having some difficulty in getting the right paper for printing. In order to have the New Testaments there to hand out during our trip we must get them from another source this year. We hope the ones being printed in India will be ready for next year's trip. We had hoped to send 10,000 of these New Testaments for a cost of about \$12,000.00 including postage. However the ones we are now buying will have to be shipped from the USA instead of shipping them from India. We believe we can send 6,000 NT to Africa for the \$12,000.00. We will do our best and send as many as we have funds to send. It is not too late to help us on this trip. We would like to hear from many of you who have helped in the past and also new congregations to help us with the purchase and shipment of these New Testaments. We were very encouraged that 3 of the congregations we visited with in Malaysia wanted to help us with the purchase of these New Testaments and they gave us \$1,000.00 each. We appreciate these good brethren and their concern for getting the Word of God into the hands of those who are hungering for it! If you brethren reading this as congregations or individuals can help us please make your checks to Ronald D. Gilbert-Missions and send to Rock Valley church of Christ, Attn: Ronald D. Gilbert, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for "NT for Africa". A detailed financial report will be sent to those who help with this project.

We are currently working with 8 different preacher schools in Africa. These brethren are doing a great job in training gospel preachers. One of the greatest needs around the world is more faithful gospel preachers to preach the pure gospel of Christ to the lost. We are in need of funds to purchase books, Bibles, writing pads, pens, and other supplies for these schools. Some of these schools are part time schools and the students travel a distance to attend these sessions for one half a day and then they go back home. We are in need of funds to purchase corn and other food to feed these men before they walk home. I pray that we can find several congregations who would like to help support a preacher school in Africa and that they would be willing to send funds each month for this good work. We are also trying to complete a new church building in Siamafumba where the Siamafumba School of Biblical Studies meets. Our thanks to bro. Earl Alverson from Sparta, TN, who has worked hard in raising needed funds to complete this church building. We will have a report from the brethren at Siamafumba soon. Our thanks to Earl and all who have helped with this project.

Our thanks to all of you who keep us in your prayers and for the congregations and individuals who send checks each month helping us in our work. I want to place before you all again our budget for the mission trip to Zambia this August. Please help us if you can.

6,000 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 our 2014 Zambia trip	\$42,225.00

In Christ,
 Ronald D. Gilbert - Director of IBTM

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c/o Rock Valley Church of Christ
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Cookeville, TN 38506

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Things You Have Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	2,152
Restorations	2,449
New Congregations	68
New Schools of Preaching	3
Online BCC Students	13,076
ICOTB Students	317
ICOTB Graduates	52

Internet News

There wasn't any fanfare on April 21st yet something remarkable did happen. The IBTM website had its 500,000th visitor! 500,000 in just over 3 years! These visitors also read more than 2 million pages of gospel materials – fantastic!

May 2nd was a good day as well. Our 13,000th student enrolled in our online Bible correspondence course program.

The Internet portion of our work just continues to grow, and that makes for some very good days.

From the Inbox

“Thank you very much for the beautiful certificate. I am very happy to print it and show it to my wife. . . . The correspondence courses continue to open my eyes to the word of God.”

Student from Kenya

“All for the glory of God! Thank you so much for everything that I could learn from IBTM online course. Thank you for the teacher.”

Student from India

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Ron & Carolyn Gilbert added books in memory of *Elsie Luttrell*
Clara B. Mooneyham

Linda Hill added books in memory of *Clara B. Mooneyham*

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

Statistical News

We have recorded visits from people in 226 different nations of the world. But just how many nations are there? That list can vary according to who is listing and the day of the week. It seems there are always new nation names popping up in the news. But the US State Department recognizes 195 Independent States plus another 67 locations they call “Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty” making a current total of 262. Then there is Taiwan and places such as Palestine or Western Sahara, recognized on some lists and not on others. Getting a definitive total can be quite confusing.

Perhaps it would be simpler to say we have had online visitors from more than 9,000 cities in the world.

Linda Hill