

# 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. At the end of March 2018 we recorded 10,030 baptisms associated with IBTM. These baptisms occurred in the past 10 years from our graduates, students and IBTM campaigns. Truly the Lord has blessed our efforts with a great harvest of souls. As I thought about the 10,000 baptisms I was thankful for these precious souls but also thought of the billions, not millions but billions of souls that are still lost without hope in their sins unless they hear and obey the Gospel of Christ, II Thess. 1:7-9. Brethren, let's pray for these lost souls and do what we can to reach them with the Gospel of Christ.



Tom Music School of Preaching

Exciting things are happening in many places in Africa. One of the schools of Preaching that we help by sending books, Bibles, tracts and other materials is the Tom Music School of Preaching in Kalamindi, Kenya. The Munford church of Christ in Munford, AL. is the sponsoring congregation for this school. They are building a much needed preacher school building at Kalamindi. Benard Kagaga is the Director of this good school. He along with his fellow teachers are doing a great job in training faithful Gospel preachers. Benard also takes the students out to different areas for Gospel meetings during the school year. They reach many with the Gospel and have been successful in turning several congregations who had left the truth back to the New Testament as a pattern. We are currently

printing 30,000 Gospel tracts in their local language of Luo that we hope to ship to them soon. These tracts will be handed out during their Gospel meetings.

We are hoping to start the new school building in Solwezi soon and perhaps before the year is over to start the new building in Malawi as well. Getting things done in many African nations can be a real challenge. Here are some of the things one might face when trying to get things accomplished. Suppose you have just purchased land to build a new preacher school. You go to the government office to get the land registered only to find a man who hints that the process might take several months due to a great number of people who are also trying to register land. Then you are told that if you were to give him a gift of a few dollars he might be able to rush your deed registration. As a Christian you refuse to pay a bribe to this man because it is against the law and it is immoral. So now you go back every week for about 10 weeks and hear the same thing, that this process will take some time. So now you try to find someone else in the government office who does not require a bribe in order to do his job. It may take 6 months or longer and going through 10 to 12 government workers before you finally get the land registered. In many places around the world this is a common occurrence. This is why it takes months and months to get things done.

On one of our trips Carolyn and I along with a local couple were traveling and we needed to cross a border into another nation. What should have been a 30 minute process turned out to be a 4 hour unbelievable ordeal! They tried everything they could think of to prevent our crossing until we gave them a bribe but we held strong and did not give the bribe. Finally very late at night they allowed us to cross the border. When traveling by automobile in Africa most towns have a police checkpoint and road block and they check your license, registration, insurance. They have been known to write tickets for such things as worn tires or perhaps your lights are not bright enough. But the police are very nice and helpful and inform you that instead of you showing up next week for traffic court you can just pay them the fine in cash and go on your way as if this never happened!

Currently in Zambia and in Malawi in many areas they are facing a severe drought. Many of these areas will have no harvest for their corn or maize. This drought will cause much hunger, suffering and even deaths. For the next several months we will be sending funds for "relief food". The price for maize will go up as the demand increases but currently we can purchase a large bag of maize about 90 pounds for around \$15.00 per bag. Two bags or \$30.00 will feed a family of 6 for about 30 days, that's about \$1.00 per day to feed one family one day. We do a wire transfer of funds to the preacher schools in Africa and they take the funds and go out and find the best price and purchase the maize then



April 2018

Volume 7, No. 4

A Publication of *International Bible Teaching Ministries*  
Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

www.IBTMinistries.org • www.ICOTB.org  
RDG@IBTMInistries.org • ICOTB@IBTMInistries.org  
INFO@IBTMInistries.org

International Bible Teaching Ministries  
C/o Rock Valley Church of Christ  
PO Box 49494  
Cookeville, TN 38506-0494

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cookeville, TN  
Permit No 15



Brethren  
receiving  
life-  
sustaining  
maize.

they take it to local congregations of the Lord's Church and give it to them who in turn distribute the maize to those in their area. There is a priority for widows and orphans and members of the church but it is given to non-Christians also. The funds we collect for "food relief" 100% goes to "food relief". If you would like to help with this "food relief" please make your checks to IBTM and mark for "food relief" and mail to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506.

A special thanks to Earl Alverson preacher for the Plainview church of Christ in Sparta, TN. He has raised much to help in our food relief program.

Please go to our web page [www.icotb.org](http://www.icotb.org) and click on "Gospel Books" and see the new books we have put on our web page. These books are for everyone who wants to study and learn more of God's Word. We are trying to add new books each month as we can. Thanks brethren for your prayers and support and continue to help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ "*into all the world*".

In Christ,

*Ronald D. Gilbert*

Director of **International Bible Teaching Ministries**

*Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library*

**Jeffery Woods** added books in memory of  
*Janet Randolph*

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

### *Things You Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	10,030
Restorations	8,629
Congregations Established	209
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	38,311
ICOTB Students	442
Preachers Graduated	361

### *Office News*

First, did you notice the statistics above? More than 10,000 baptisms is just amazing! We also crossed the 200 mark for new congregations established! Those are awesome results for a work only established a bit over 10 years ago, but we could not be seeing such results without the prayers and financial help of our supporters. So, **THANK YOU!**

It is wonderful to see the Lord's kingdom growing. But we still have a great big world out there to reach. Current population estimates put the souls living today at more than 7.6 billion. Wikipedia estimates Church of Christ membership is just over 2 million worldwide. While I have doubts about Wikipedia's accuracy it is probably at least in the ballpark, so we have a lot of work ahead if we are going to reach these souls in our lifetime. My husband, Jimmie, used to say that we could do that – reach the whole world in our lifetime - anytime we want to. I'm sure he was right.

I'm so glad that the Internet is making that easier. Out of the 195 Independent Nations recognized by our US State Department, people from 192 of them have been to our website. Only Holy See (Vatican City in Italy), San Marino (another tiny nation inside of Italy) and North Korea (where Internet access is virtually nonexistent) are not on my list. But we need to do more . . . much, much more if we are going to reach those 7.6 billion souls with the saving Gospel. To do more we need more - more money, more staff, more teachers and more prayers. If you can help with any of those, please let us know.

*Linda Hill*