

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. On April 1, 2013 Carolyn and I started our long journey to Malaysia. We arrived early Wednesday morning April 3rd. We were scheduled to conduct several Gospel meetings, teacher workshops, seminars and a youth day. We were to be working with 4 different congregations and at the end of our trip to go to Singapore and conduct a meeting at the Jurong congregation and visit with the brethren at Four Seas Bible College. Carolyn's mother had been in the nursing home for about three years. She was not in good health but was doing OK when we departed for this trip. We had only been there for two days when we got word that she had taken a turn for the worse. The third day there we were told that her kidneys and liver had stopped functioning. After preaching on Sunday morning at Subang Jaya I turned on my cell phone and had a text to call home and when we called we discovered her mother had passed away. On Monday April 8th we started our journey home. We were fortunate to get on flights and return home on such short notice. Some of the flights we were on every seat was taken. We arrived home on Tuesday April 9th and drove to Pikeville, TN, for visitation at the funeral home. On Wednesday April 10th Carolyn's mom, Mary Ann Seals, was buried. Three years ago while we were in Malaysia we received word that Carolyn's father passed away due to an accident. I am thankful for my good wife and her love for the Lord and her willingness to travel around the world helping take the precious Gospel of Christ "into all the world." Our thanks for the many cards and calls and prayers and words of encouragement you have given to our family. We plan to go back next year and continue our work and efforts there.

Our focus is now on our trip to Zambia in August. Rusty & Laura Stark and Barry Gilreath, Jr. will join Carolyn and I for this mission trip. We are still short of our needed funds for this trip. We hope to be able to send more Bibles and Gospel tracts to Zambia before this trip. We also hope to be able to purchase several Bibles in different local languages while we are in Zambia. Each year we try to purchase several bikes for preachers. We received word that Siamafumba School of Biblical Studies has 8 new students at the preacher training school. We are also trying to raise funds to build a new church building at Siamafumba on the same property where the preacher training school is located. This new building is to be 96 feet long and 36 feet wide with 3 doors and 16 windows. The building project has started and the brethren there have spent the \$2,500.00 we gave them last year while we were there. They recently sent a detailed financial report showing how the funds were spent. We recently sent \$5,000.00 so they can complete the next stage in the building project. A special thanks to bro. Earl Alverson, preacher for the Plainview congregation in Sparta, TN. for his diligent efforts in helping to raise this \$5,000.00 in funds from churches in the Sparta area. Not only has Earl made 2 trips to Zambia he is a great worker for our efforts by raising funds and helping with our work in so many ways.

Progress continues to be made with the Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library Fund. Carolyn and I sent 10 books to the library at Four Seas Bible College in Singapore in memory of Jimmie. I want to explain how this Memorial Library Fund works. We have named this Memorial Library Fund in honor of Jimmie but not all the books that are placed in libraries at preacher training schools are placed in his memory. Anyone who would like to place a book in one of these preacher training school libraries can do so in honor of any of their family members or friends. Carolyn and I plan to place some books in different libraries in memory of her mother. Anyone sending \$25.00 or more will be able to put a book or books in a library at a preacher training school with a label honoring the memory of their loved one or friend. We will also send you a letter informing you of the name of the book and the location where it was sent in memory of your loved one. We believe this is a good program and in time it will get needed books into the hands of preachers to use for many years. Please help us and in so doing honor the memory of your loved ones.

In Christ,
Ronald D. Gilbert - Director, IBTM

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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The Power of Individual Support

We want to thank several of you who have taken it on your selves to send funds as an individual each month to our “work fund”. Your efforts are beginning to show up each month as a big part of our monthly support. Carolyn and I have tried to practice what we encourage you to do by our giving funds each month to our “work fund”. Some of our BCC teachers, who know first hand the work that is being done and the souls that are being added to the Lord are helping with our “work fund”. We appreciate everyone for your help and for your prayers concerning our work. Brethren, just \$25.00 a month would be a great help. We are still short of our goal for 2013 concerning the monthly support of our “work fund”. We are asking congregations to consider putting our work into your budget in any amount for 2013. We are also hoping that more individuals will see the good that is being done in our work and become one of our monthly supporters. If you have any questions concerning our work and needs please let me hear from you. We send out financial reports 2 times each year to our supporters.

Teacher News

We received a good report from bro. Benard in Kenya. He teaches ICOTB extension classes for us in Kenya and is one of our graduates. He took some of the preacher school students for a Gospel meeting in Sota. They had 8 baptized into Christ. One of those baptized was a man who was living with two wives. After much study with the three of them all three were baptized and the man continuing with his first wife and departing from his second wife. Is it not amazing that brethren in Africa can understand what the Bible teaching concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage and many in the USA don't seem to be able to understand!

Bro. Benard also reports meeting a family that was converted back in the 70's but had went back into the world due to discouragement concerning the immoral life of the preacher who baptized them. This family was restored. Also

they were able to teach and restore two congregations that had become unfaithful. These brethren are doing a great work. We hope to be able to continue to send them needed books, Bibles, tracts and other items.

Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	1,228
Restorations	1,193
New Congregations	37
New Schools of Preaching	1
Online BCC Students	8,265
ICOTB Students	225
ICOTB Graduates	45

Internet News

The work has continued its usual rapid pace this month and our webpages are showing the results. Julie Roper has been typing, formatting and uploading new tracts and articles, while I have concentrated on uploading e-books to the college site. And there are many more to come.

I ran into a startling number on the Internet - \$464 billion. That was the money spent on all types of advertising in 2011. Truly an amazing number but corporations spend billions because advertising generates revenue. Thankfully, friends of IBTM have also been advertising – advertising to generate souls. Some have taken out newspaper ads, started letter writing campaigns, and used other methods of getting the word out that we have a free online Bible study. And it is working. So far in 2013 we have enrolled almost 2,000 new students in the program. Without a doubt some of those found us due to advertising.

Can you advertise for souls? It doesn't require a great deal of effort or money to help. Two quick suggestions:

1. Ask that IBTM's online study be mentioned in your congregation's bulletin.
2. If your congregation has a website, ask that a link to our study program be added.

Thanks to everyone who is helping to spread the word about our work!

In Christ,
Linda Hill