

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. The number of students enrolled in our distance learning program continues to grow each month. We now have over 315 students from around the world taking classes with our program. Most of these students for different reasons cannot enroll in a full time preacher training school. We allow our students to work at their own pace and on their own time schedules. Some online programs have live classes and teachers or students many times are up at 2:00AM watching classes. Many of our classes are on videos and our students can watch them when it is convenient for them. For the first few years of ICOTB I handled all the students myself but somewhere around student number 200 or so I realized that I needed help! We asked Rod Rutherford, Rusty Stark, Dave Amos, Bill Schwegler and James Rogers to help with these classes. We appreciate these men being willing to give their time to help teach our students. We also offer some classes in counseling and we have asked Charlie Hannah who has worked several years with the state of Tennessee as a counselor.

We are currently working with 8 different preacher schools in Africa. Some of these schools are fully supported by faithful congregations here in the USA and we are helping them with text books, library books, tracts, Bibles, Bible videos and CD's. Many of these schools we have provide a mobile library for our students in their area to come and check out books and keep our books for a month or so. The Rock Valley congregation where I preach fully supports one of these schools. Some of these schools have no monthly support coming in they are teaching part time and doing the best they can with very little resources. One of the schools meets for a half day then the students walk back to their homes. The school there has asked if we can help with funds to purchase some corn and vegetables so the men can eat before they walk several miles back home. Some of these schools we have sent some money to rent buildings so they can meet and train preachers. We are however, in need of more funds in our “work fund” so we can help support these schools in the training of faithful men to preach the gospel. If we could find 10 new congregations to help support these schools we could see more faithful men trained as gospel preachers. I believe this to be one of the greatest needs in the world today, more faithful gospel preachers preaching the precious gospel of Christ. Brethren, please bring this urgent matter up in a business meeting at your local congregation and see if the brethren there can help in this good work.

We want to thank WVBS for giving us several sets of audio CD's. We plan to send these to different preacher schools and mobile libraries for preacher training. We have also now received the 6,000 NKJV New Testaments that we ordered. The good brethren at Rock Valley church of Christ will be putting 2 peel and stick tracts in each NT before we ship them to Africa. We are also planning to ship several thousand more Gospel tracts and more hard copies of our BCC lessons to Africa during the next

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few weeks. Many times while we are in Africa we see the need for a tract to be written on a certain topic for areas having problems with certain issues. A few years back Rusty Stark wrote a much needed tract on the SDA church. We have printed and distributed several thousand of these good tracts. We asked Rusty to write another tract and he did on the Apostolic Church. We plan to print many of them and take them with us on the trip in August. Our thanks to Rusty for his good work on these tracts.

We encourage you to visit our web page www.ICOTB.org and click on "Gospel Books" and see the many good books that can be read from our web page. We have some new books posted and we are working on more books for the future.

IBTM is having an impact for good for the cause of Christ around the world. We are thankful to God for the great response we are receiving in our work. In a time when there is much apathy and a decline in the interest of spiritual things in some areas it is very encouraging to know that there are still people in the world who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Now is not the time to grow weary in well doing and to cut back in our efforts but to renew our zeal and efforts and continue to "lift up our eyes unto the fields, for the fields are white unto harvest." Brethren, let's press forward with the greatest work in the world, taking the gospel to the lost.

Ronald D. Gilbert
Director of IBTM

Things You Have Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	2,152
Restorations	2,449
New Congregations	68
New Schools of Preaching	3
Online BCC Students	13,351
ICOTB Students	317
ICOTB Graduates	52

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

We now have these library books in over 25 schools of preaching and mobile library locations.

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

Internet News

A bit of exciting news – one of our online students in India was baptized last week! That brings the total number of BCC students who have put on Christ to at least 30. I say "at least" because students don't always let us know right away, particularly if we have gotten them in touch with a local congregation as they were graduating. One student wrote to thank their teacher – but it was 2 years after baptism. Other times we might not hear at all. Yet that is just I Corinthians 3:6 in action. The IBTM teacher planted, the local brethren watered, "**but God gave the increase.**"

To our IBTM online teachers who have now planted in 177 nations - **Thank you!** Only God knows the full impact of your good work.

Linda Hill