

The Seeker

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

June 2020

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Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Mission work efforts have greatly slowed down around the world due to the virus. However things are beginning to get back to normal in many places in Africa with schools being allowed to start back. Our preacher school in Malawi has started again with the students recently coming back to live in the dorm at the school. These students were home for about 2 months but they were not idle. They reported a combined effort of 41 baptisms and 78 restored while the school was closed. Other preacher schools in Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana hopefully will start back soon.

Several congregations have helped us get together items for the container we plan to ship to Zambia. Due to the virus things have been on hold for shipping it. We have the items at the proper place for them to be shipped but we are waiting for the government in Zambia to give us the go ahead for shipping. This shipment will go to 4 different preacher schools in Zambia supplying them with Bibles, Gospel tracts, BCC booklets and books for the schools. Also about 300 boxes of clothing items will be given to over 100 congregations in Zambia. We have already started collecting items for our next container which we plan to ship to Malawi. Malawi is one of the poorest of all the African countries. We plan to send several Bibles, books, BCC booklets and boxes of clothing to over 100 congregations in Malawi. We will provide a list of needed items in a future newsletter. We hope that many congregations here in the USA will want to help us with this project. We as Americans are blessed above all people of the earth and as Christians should want to help some of the poorest people on the face of the earth! Not only will we need to collect the clothing and other items to ship but the cost of shipping the container is over \$10,000.00. We need some help with the shipping cost to send this container to Malawi.



Staff house construction in Solwezi

We also want to give a brief update on building projects in Africa. The staff house at Solwezi, Zambia is moving forward. Building permits have been secured and the footer has been completed and the walls are going up. We have also sent funds to put a chain link fence around the school property to secure the property.

The new church building in Lilongwe, Malawi now has the roof on the building. Finishing touches are taking place on the



New church building in Lilongwe.

inside and soon we hope the brethren will be meeting in this new building located at the preacher school.

Another project is building a new preacher school building in Bomet, Kenya. We have purchased the land, put up a chain link fence around the property, have the plans drawn up and now we will need to raise around \$70,000.00 to build it.

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There is another project that I pray we can help accomplish. There is an area in Zambia where just about all the congregations of the Lord's church have departed from the truth and are using choirs during the worship. About 6 of our men who graduated from faithful schools of preaching have banded together and have started a faithful congregation of the Lord's church in that area. They have been meeting under a brush structure and I hope one day in the near future they can build a small church building to have a permanent place for worship. They are receiving opposition from the unfaithful congregations but they are making good progress and gaining some back to the truth. They are in need of song books, Bibles, Gospel tracts, BCC booklets, plastic chairs and other items as well.

Our scheduled trip to Malawi and Zambia for August is still uncertain at this time. It is our prayer that things will open back up so we can go on this mission trip. However if not then we hope and pray that we can go later this year.

In Christ,

Ronald D. Gilbert, Director of **IBTM**

Things You Helped to Accomplish



Baptisms	15,924
Restorations	11,648
Congregations Established	378
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	50,105
ICOTB Students	499
Preachers Graduated	492

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

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Office News

Less than 10 days ago something rather exciting happened – and you didn't even hear a drum roll. But that was when the IBTM Bible Correspondence Course enrollments crossed the 50,000 mark. **Wow!** One solitary student wandered onto our brand new online courses site in December 2010 before it was really ready or we had even started recruiting teachers yet. Now there are more than 40,000 who have studied or are currently studying with one of approximately 125 active online teachers. And close to 10,000 more are studying with the printed courses, a program added a few years later. I wish I could say that every student has obeyed the gospel, but we know for sure that almost 300 have. And of those dozens have begun a new congregation in their area, which has led to even more new babes in Christ. Now you can play that drum roll!

In Christ,

Linda Hill