

# The Seeker

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

A Publication of  
International Bible Teaching Ministries  
International College of the Bible

June/July 2016

Volume 5, Number 5

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord continues to bless our work around the world! We want everyone to understand that when we talk about the growth of our work and the good results that all the glory goes to the Lord and not to men.

One of the projects we have been working on for the past few months is getting good clean water into areas in Africa where it is so desperately needed. We in America take water for granted daily! We just go to the faucet and turn it on and not only do we have water but we have it cold or hot! When you read in the book of Genesis you see the importance of wells and water. [Genesis 26:32](#) *“And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.”* These were happy words, *“we have found water”*. Recently a brother in Christ who lost his wife contacted us wanting to make a donation to the work in Africa in memory of his wife. We talked with him about the importance of having wells with good clean water and he wanted to give the funds to drill a well. I told him we would put a small placket at the well that would mention who gave the funds for the well and in his wife's memory. Since this first well we have had one other to give funds for another well. One of the wells we helped to drill we received this note from the preacher school where the new well is located. *“Now there is much water for use here and we will never buy water for these preacher boys again anymore. May you all be blessed brothers.”* We have the funds for 2 other wells and are waiting for the drillers to finish the jobs they have before ours and move the equipment to the spot to begin our wells. I have been in touch with the people who gave the funds and reminding them that this is Africa and things don't always happen as fast as we would like for them to happen! Hopefully soon we will have a new well at the school of preaching at Siamafumba and a well at the new school of preaching at Ngwezi both in Zambia. If you are considering a lasting gift in memory of a loved one please consider a well or building a preacher school building and having a marker there in memory of your loved one!

We also have started a new building project at Ngwezi for the new preacher school. A small building is currently underway for the new preacher school. We have also started a new building in Tanzania where the new school there near Mbeya. Both of these schools are part time schools and the students are local men who attend class 5 days a week from around 8 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon. Our goal is to train local men to preach and they will start new congregations and help evangelize their areas. These schools are doing a great work in helping train faithful Gospel preachers.

Another school in Zambia is in Solwezi and they have been meeting at a church building but are looking to have a permanent place for the school. They are looking to purchase about 2 acres of land just outside the city for the new school. The land will cost around \$5,000.00. We are looking for churches or individuals who want to do mission work by helping purchase the land and help sponsor these preacher schools that currently don't have a sponsor.

We have 2 schools that currently are in need of monthly support. One of these schools receives \$500.00 per month and the other receives \$400.00 per month. This year while we are in Africa we plan to visit Malawi and we are working with faithful brethren there to help start another part time school. This school will also be in need of around \$500.00 per month. If you would like to support one of these schools please get in touch with us for more information. This is a great way for a congregation to do mission work. Many congregations could take on this work and fully sponsor a preacher school for around \$500.00 per month.

Time is drawing close for our mission trip to Zambia and Malawi. We have been collecting good used suits, ties, shoes, shirts and other items for this trip. We plan to ship 2,000 more NKJV New Testaments to Africa also. We will also be sending more Gospel tracts and more BCC courses. This fall we also plan to send a large shipment of books for the preacher schools for text books and library books.

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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Cookeville, TN  
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Our efforts to train faithful Gospel preachers through our distance learning program also continues to grow. We currently have around 400 enrolled in our program and have had 82 to graduate from our program during the past 9 years. The funds for this trip are still coming in and we are thankful for each person and congregation for their help. We hope to purchase around 60 bikes for preachers again this year. At this time we have received funds for 30 bikes. We still need help with these bikes. The bikes cost \$100.00 each and if you would like to purchase one please make your check to Ronald D. Gilbert-Missions and send to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for "bike".

Our BCC program continues to grow and much good is being done by this program. Linda Hill is such a blessing to our work. She does so much to organize our BCC program and work with our over 100 volunteer teachers who are doing such a great job also. Our thanks to all these teachers and the work they put in to our BCC program each week. We could not do this work without the help of you! Thanks!

Please continue to keep our work in your prayers and help us financially as you can to take the Gospel of Christ *"into all the world"*.

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

### *Things You Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	7,354
Restorations	7,572
Congregations Established	155
Schools of Preaching Begun	5
BCC Students	25,952
ICOTB Students	398
Preachers Graduated	259

### *Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library*

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

### *Internet News*

It is the vacation season for many here in the Southern USA where I live, and it is sweltering. So hot and humid that the only activity that sounds at all fun is sipping some icy cold lavender lemonade while watching my grandsons play – preferably from a spot where the air is also chilled. However, these lazy days of summer have not been lazy at all.

Instead, our websites have had 28,239 visits in the last month with people coming from around the globe to read gospel materials. Almost 700 souls have told us they want to study the Bible by enrolling in either our online or postal correspondence courses. And our more than 100 IBTM online teachers have processed the 5,581 lessons sent to them by their students. So the typical summer slowdown just isn't happening yet.

Our teachers – I really have to brag on them for a moment. I truly believe that we have the most wonderful bunch of Christians imaginable volunteering their time in this mission effort. Summer is often the vacation season for them as well and most are conscientious about letting me and their students know when they will be away. Others take a laptop or tablet with them and keep up with their students as they travel. I am pleased with both scenarios. But I have also heard of a few teachers who have gone above and beyond, teaching when no one would expect it of them. I won't list any names but I know teachers who resumed grading lessons after serious injuries or surgeries just as soon as they could sit at a computer again. (One teacher even graded from his bed in the ICU!) Teachers who are dealing with issues like cancer or the death of a loved one yet they are continuing with their students. And one sweet teacher who knew she was terminal continued teaching lost souls online until she had to go to a Hospice facility. I know God is pleased with their faithfulness, but I am in awe of such dedication.

If you would like to be a part of this effort please let me know. We can always use more amazing teachers. It is quiet work without glory or pay, but the joy of possibly saving a lost soul is priceless!

In Christ,  
Linda Hill