

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. It does not seem possible but the year is over half gone! We want to thank all our supporters for helping with our work, without you we could not do this work. Our project of getting text books for preacher schools is going great. Some have sent us books from the list we published a few months back and others have given us money to purchase these books. We have found 2 or 3 places on the internet where we are buying good used text books for around \$4.00 to \$6.00 each, where the new books are 35.00 to 50.00 each. We are doing everything we can to stretch our funds so we can do more for the Lord's work with what we have. Our next step will be to ship these books to Africa which in some cases the postage will cost more than the book cost.

This coming November will mark the time for graduation for many of the schools in Africa. For the 12 schools we are working with about 125 men will be graduating. What a wonderful thought to think of over 125 faithful Gospel preachers entering the fields to preach and teach the precious Gospel of Christ. We are praying that thousands of lost souls will be led to the Lord through the efforts of these new preachers.

The schools of preaching that we are working with in Africa do not have a first year and a second year class but all the students go through all the same classes together. When the men graduate a new intake is brought in at the school. Some of the schools we are working with have built new school buildings and others are just starting to build. At some places they in the past have only had room for 12 to 15 students but with the new school buildings some of these schools are hoping to bring in 20 to 30 new students for training starting in January 2019. These new school buildings are making it possible to double the number of students that can be taken it for training at many of these locations. So much more can be done in Africa with the funds that are given. It is not uncommon in the USA for a church to spend over 1 million dollars on a new church building. We have helped to build small preacher school buildings in Africa for \$25,000.00, \$60,000.00 and one of the largest ones I know of for around \$100,000.00. We hope these preacher school buildings will be used for the next 100 plus years to train faithful Gospel preachers. The new school building in Solwezi, Zambia is now underway. During the past few weeks a well was drilled there on the school property. We are also working on plans and getting cost together for the school building in Lilongwe, Malawi that we hope will start before the year ends.

Our annual mission trip to Africa is just weeks away. With your help we have been able to print and ship 200,000 Gospel tracts, 5,000 Tonga song books, several thousand BCC booklets, several hundred books have been shipped and over 3,000 Bibles and New Testaments have been sent. Our budget for this year was \$50,000.00 and we have not reached it yet but are prayerful that we will by the end of July.

Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

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The first 6 months of 2018 has been a good year at IBTM. We can report 1,669 baptisms and 646 restored with 56 new congregations being established. We also know of several congregations in Africa that had departed from the truth and were practicing denominational things that have repented and been brought back to the truth. Our distance learning program continues to grow. We have had 25 new students to enroll during the first 6 months of 2018. We have had about 3,000 new BCC students to enroll in our program.

I hope that you believe as we do that the greatest work in the world is reaching lost souls with the Gospel of Christ and leading them to become New Testament Christians. Please consider these quotes from the past on Mission Work: *"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed". "Lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us." "We have all eternity to tell of victories won for Christ, but we only have a few hours before sunset to win them." "Jesus Christ alone can save the world, but Jesus Christ cannot save the world alone."*

Please keep our work in your prayers and remember us in prayer while we are in Africa. We need your help please help us 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	10,344
Restorations	8,935
Congregations Established	228
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	39,701
ICOTB Students	456
Preachers Graduated	361

Office News

Have you ever read a debate by Alexander Campbell? Any of N. B. Hardeman's famous Tabernacle Sermons or a biography on his life? Can you read the New Testament in the original Greek? We have these and another 450 books available for reading on our college website, ICOTB.org. The purpose for the endless hours I have spent uploading these books is to have a library available to our distance learning students, but anyone is welcome to read them. You might be surprised what you can learn there.

Linda Hill

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Ronald & Carolyn Gilbert added books in memory of *J. Paul Smith*
Cole, Jasper & Henry Roper added books in memory of *Jimmie B. Hill*

Donations to this library should be sent to:
New Hope Road Church of Christ
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