

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 Jesus Christ. I am thankful to God that I can report that I am doing much better with my health. I am now walking with the use of a cane and back in my office each day working. I still have a way to go before getting back to where I was before GBS hit me. Carolyn & I want to thank those who have sent cards and extended phone calls to us letting us know you are praying for us. You will never know how much this has meant to us and please continue to keep us in prayer that I might have a full recovery and be able soon to be back in the mission fields.

Our Malawi-Zambia mission trip is going on as I write this Newsletter. Please keep Rusty & Laura Stark and Barry & Jodie Gilreath in your prayers as they are currently in Africa.

As our funds increase our ability to do good work for the Lord increases also. Below is a list of some of the things your funds have helped to accomplish during the past few months:

1. Finish the new preacher school/church building/dorm for students/ class for orphan children in Tanzania.
2. Purchase land for a new preacher school in Solwezi, Zambia. We are waiting for building permits and bids.
3. New school at Ngwezi completed with new bathrooms finished.
4. Church building at Siamafumba completed on outside.
5. Sent \$5,000.00 for drought victims for food.
6. Printed and shipped 200,000 Gospel tracts
7. Printed and shipped several thousand BCC booklets.
8. Helped purchase new school van in Uganda at Preacher school.
9. Gave funds toward helping build 6 different church buildings in Africa.
10. Purchased 5 motor bikes for instructors at preacher schools in Africa.
11. Supporting 7 different preacher schools in Africa.
12. Shipped thousands of books, Bibles to Africa
13. Made another mission trip to Malaysia & Singapore.

Currently we are in need of finding churches or individuals to support 3 of the preacher schools we are currently working with. These schools need \$500.00 each per month. We plan to start soon on replacing the roof on the staff house that was destroyed by a storm at the school in Tanzania. The director of the school and his wife and son were living in the house when the storm struck. Willy was injured some when bricks fell on him and his wife was injured the most causing her to lose their unborn second child. Willy's wife Scola teaches about 50 orphan children at the church building each day. These children are from ages 3 to 5 and Scola and helpers are doing a great job with these children. Willy and Scola are currently living in a small one room storage building at the school. We hope to have the house repaired soon so they can get moved back into it.

We have also just wired the funds to purchase 6 acres of land in Lilongwe, Malawi where the new preacher school there is currently renting a house. They are doing a great work there training Gospel preachers. Barry & Jodie Gilreath just finished a Friday- Sunday Gospel meeting there that was organized by our brethren there. They had over 5,000 in attendance with 55 baptisms and 15 restored. Many from Mozambique also came for this meeting. We hope to start next year building the new school building in Lilongwe.

As you can see the work continues to go forward and many good things are happening around the world for the cause of Christ. One of the greatest needs in the world is the need for more faithful Gospel preachers. Currently in the preacher schools we are working with in Africa there are over 125 preachers enrolled in these schools. Some will graduate this year and others will graduate in 2018. But within the next year 125 new Gospel preachers will take their place with different churches of Christ in Africa preaching and

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teaching the precious Gospel of Christ. When I think about these men being trained to preach, this brethren excites me! 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 | 8,443 |
| Restorations | 8,150 |
| Congregations Established | 166 |
| Schools of Preaching Begun | 7 |
| BCC Students | 34,246 |
| ICOTB Students | 428 |
| Preachers Graduated | 341 |



her 3 children, and they all love to keep her busy. Incidentally, so do we.

I asked Carolyn about her greatest challenge and she replied, *“Health issues are my greatest challenge. Thankfully, I am able to teach others the Bible by using the IBTM Bible Lesson on the computer.”* I also asked for her favorite memory with online teaching: *“The most exciting thing that has happened is the baptism of one of my IBTM students who is now attending the **Zambia School of Biblical Studies** to become a preacher of the Gospel in Africa.”* (Her student is Gomezgani Kamanga and his picture was in our August/September 2016 newsletter along with Jomex Mtali, the ICOTB student who baptized him.) She went on to explain, *“Gomezgani was one of my first students shortly after I became an IBTM Bible Teacher in the spring of 2013. I know Gomezgani has an open mind for he was requesting baptism before he had completed all the lessons in the Beginning Bible Course. He expressed a desire to become a preacher of the Bible even at that time. He was really been a joy to have as a student and I am really thrilled that he is now attending the ZSOBS at Livingstone, Zambia. . . . Thanks to Gomezgani, I have at least seven of his friends that enrolled in IBTM.”*

I am so glad that Carolyn Crawford responded to a notice in **Seek the Old Paths** back in 2013 that IBTM needed teachers. She has become an outstanding addition to our *Valiant Volunteers*.

Linda Hill

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

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
PO Box 1334 • Dacula, GA 30019

Office News

On August 1st the **ICOTB** Associate and Bachelor programs re-opened to new applicants. Now so is the postal BCC program. (All had been put on hold to new applicants due to Ron’s illness.) Those are changes I enjoy making to our webpages. I also like noticing that our website visitors have increased by about 25% over last year, and July set a new all-time high for online BCC enrollments. So, it’s been a busy summer so far.

Valiant Volunteers

Occasionally when a new student enrolls in our online study they will special request a certain teacher, either because they know them personally or because another student has recommended them. The teacher who tops the list of special requests is **Carolyn Crawford**, so obviously her students love her. Of course, she has lots of experience with teaching since she has a Master’s Degree in Business Education and taught public school for 21 years. An auto accident ended that career in 2004 but allowed her to stay at home to care for her husband, Hugh, who was disabled. Sadly, he passed in 2008. Carolyn readily admits that she still misses Hugh and working with children, but now she says that her favorite pastimes are *“grading the IBTM Bible Lessons, corresponding with my IBTM students and spending time with my grandchildren.”* Carolyn has 4 grandkids and 2 great-grands, blessings from