

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. We have just returned from another mission trip to Zambia. Much work was done before we departed for this trip. We printed and shipped 5,000 Tonga song books; sent 3,000 New Testaments; and printed and shipped 136,000 Gospel tracts in 3 different African languages plus English. We also sent several books to preacher school libraries for training faithful men to preach the Gospel of Christ. Our goal this year was to raise \$41,000.00 and with help from good brethren like you we were able to reach our goal.



Our thanks to Rusty & Laura Stark and Barry Gilreath, Jr. for going and helping make this trip successful.

On Saturday several of us went to the water for baptisms and left Barry there for his turn to preach. Barry was extending the invitation and he had paused to exhort them to respond. Barry said that the people began to run in different directions and left a large hole in the crowd, he asked his translator what was going on and was told “snake”! A cobra had wandered into the audience causing quite a commotion but the snake was soon killed and the preaching continued. Barry said others responded after the snake was killed.

On August 12 we needed to make a trip to Lusaka, the capital of Zambia in order to purchase parts for one of the vehicles and to get more Tonga Bibles. Driving to Lusaka was quite an experience; the driving in town reminded me of a trip to Indonesia a few years ago. The rule for driving there seems to be, “*he who has the most nerve has the right of way*”. Due to road work and detours it took 8 hours to drive one way. We arrived back in Livingstone about 2:00 AM the next day. While in Lusaka we purchased another 100 Tonga Bibles.

On Tuesday August 13 we began collecting supplies for our next Gospel meeting. Many times in Livingstone if you are looking for an item you may have to go to 4 or 5 different places in order to find it. This is especially true with auto parts. Sometimes we have to go to 10 different places in order to find one part. On Thursday August 15 we departed for Siamafumba for our second Gospel meeting. Due to several problems and delays we did not get to depart Livingstone till around 1:00 PM. The roads were better than many previous trips but still very bad. It took us 4 hours to make this trip.

We arrived in Livingstone, Zambia on Wednesday August 7th. We learned just about the time we departed that the students at ZSOBS would be delayed in starting back to school for a few days due to a schedule change. As soon as we arrived we began collecting supplies to take on the first trip to the bush for a Gospel meeting. Only one of our bags was lost this year and it was found in 2 or 3 days. On Friday morning we began our long journey to Misika for the first meeting. Bro. Webby and his wife, Jane, went with us to the bush. Webby is one of the instructors at ZSOBS in Livingstone. At Misika we all stayed at the home of a brother in Christ named Patrick. On Friday there were 410 present for the meeting. On Saturday we had 911 present and 724 for Sunday. Several of the local churches gave funds for this meeting and what they gave covered the cost for the meeting.



There were 19 baptized into Christ and 68 restored during the Misika meeting.

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When we arrived several changes could be seen. The brush harbor was rebuilt and now it is on SSOBS property. We stayed in various buildings there at the school. Some slept in the library, others in a storage room and some in the school office. All of us slept on a concrete floor with a thin foam mattress. On Friday August 16th I meet with the 5 instructors at SSOBS and went over the school budget with them. The Rock Valley congregation has for the past few years fully funded the operation of the school there. We also brought 3 lap top computers that were donated and gave them to the school. We were also able to purchase a printer for the school. We had a good meeting at Siamafumba. There were 59 congregations represented at the meeting. We had 22 baptisms and 67 restored during the meeting. Thursday's attendance was 400, Friday 900, Saturday 1034 and Sunday 1152.



Part of the library at Siamafumba School of Biblical Studies. All of these books have been provided by donations to IBTM.



On Sunday morning after the early devotional we gave out tracts, song books and Bibles to each congregation present.

squawking from the chickens on the rough roads. We thought about the chickens and were just glad that no one gave them a pig!

On Monday August 19th we were able to go to Victoria Falls. Barry wanted to make some tapes for his TV program. On Monday night I had just got in bed when the phone rang. Barry was calling. He and Rusty had been studying with one of the young men at the hotel where they were staying and he was ready to be baptized. One of the instructors, Peter, and his son Peter, Jr. and I went to meet Barry at the hotel. After more study James was baptized in Christ at the hotel swimming pool. Barry returned home on Tuesday August 20th. We were able to teach some at ZSOBS. Rusty was to teach The Preacher and His Work and Barry and I were to teach Denominational Doctrines. We did not get to teach many classes due to the schedule change but we were able to teach some. We could see the growth in the students since last year. These men will graduate in November of this year.

The cell phone service is very poor at Siamafumba. There is one spot on top of a large ant hill that sometimes if you will wonder around enough you can find service to make a call. Carolyn took a picture on Saturday August 17th of three grown men wondering around and around on top of an ant hill trying to find service. We all three finally found service in a spot about 6 feet wide and were all 3 talking at the same time. I had a grand-daughter that I was determined to wish her a happy birthday on her birthday!

On Sunday August 18th after the morning worship and eating lunch we began our long trip back to Livingstone. We had 5 extra passengers for the return trip. One student needed a ride back to Livingstone at ZSOBS and 4 live chickens with their feet tied together were given to the instructors who went with us. Occasionally on the return trip we would hear some



Filming for "A Word for the Family". We were also able to go to the game park and record a lesson for this television program.



Carolyn Gilbert teaching a class at Siamafumba.

On Thursday August 22nd we began our third Gospel meeting. It was at the Highland congregation just behind the school there in Livingstone. Rusty and I spoke each 3 times per day and we conducted questions and answers. Two of the problems the churches face there are choirs in the worship and polygamy. We could also see a big difference in how the women in the rural areas dress versus how the women in the cities dress. The attendance at Highland was 334 and there were 38 congregations represented. One was baptized and 11 restored during this meeting. On Sunday morning before the worship services we gave out several tracts, Bibles and song books to each congregation.

Carolyn and Laura were able also to teach ladies classes and teen girl classes. The ladies tell us how thankful they are that we bring Carolyn & Laura with us for these classes.

On Wednesday August 28 we went to town to purchase a load of corn due to a drought this year. We purchased 26 bags weighing about 50 pounds each of roller meal. A bag cost just over \$7.00 and will last a family of 4 for about one month. The government there had lowered the price of the corn due to the drought and we were able to purchase several bags to help those in need and to leave some funds for the future.

The students at ZSOBS have tea time each day at 10:15 AM. Carolyn made brownies and cookies for them while we were there and they asked if she could stay till they graduate in November.



Rusty Stark distributing the roller meal.

On Thursday August 29 Rusty spoke in chapel and about 11:00 AM we delivered Rusty & Laura to the Airport for their return home. Later that day Godfrey took another 30 bags of roller meal to needy families.

On Friday August 30 we went into town to get supplies for the 4th and final meeting of this trip. I spoke at the Highland congregation at 4:00 PM their weekly Bible study. We met with the teachers at ZSOBS and gave them funds to purchase fuel to take the students out for 2 Gospel meetings before they graduate in November. We also gave funds for 2 brethren to make a trip of about 500 miles to meet one of our BCC students in Botswana and hopefully baptize him and spend a few days with him teaching him. These same brethren recently met up with another of our BCC students and were able to baptize him also.

On Saturday August 31 at about 6:00 AM we departed for the Chileya congregation in Ngwazi valley area. Godfrey and his wife, Precious, and Webby went with Carolyn and me on this trip. Webby's wife, Jane, had planned to go but their son Rickey came down with malaria and she stayed with him. It was a long hard trip to Chileya. It took us about 6 hours to make the trip. The preacher there is John. He is a graduate of ZSOBS and one of our teachers for ICOTB. He has 7 students that he is teaching. He also has one of the mobile libraries in his home. This meeting was a leadership meeting for men from about 25 different congregations. We had about 130 men present. We had several lessons on Saturday and a long question and answer session. One of the problems some of the congregations in that area were facing was the one cup anti doctrine. We spent a lot of time discussing this issue and could tell that one man had been greatly influenced by this doctrine. They took 2 rows of seats out of the van and put a foam mattress on the floor for Carolyn & me to sleep on. I have lots of allergies and each year I get a sinus infection and bronchitis on the trip to Zambia. About 1:00 AM I woke up having difficulties breathing and had to sit up in the driver's seat in the van the rest of the night. It is not a good feeling to be 6 hours from the black top road in the middle of nowhere at night having problems breathing!

On Sunday September 1 we gave out several tracts, Bibles, and song books to the congregations represented. I spoke for the Sunday morning worship service and after lunch we put the seats back in the van and packed up to return back to Livingstone. There are several different roads in and out of that area. We were in the van which is not a 4 wheel drive and there is much sand on the roads. We took a different road on one of the spots and I was discussing getting stuck in sand and that I had never been stuck in sand in Africa. About 15 minutes after my brag I was stuck up to the axel in sand! Webby and Godfrey worked about an hour digging us out. We would move up a little and get stuck again, but finally we got out. We arrived back in Livingstone and went into town for dinner.

On Monday September 2 I said a few farewell words at chapel and we finished up our packing to start home. I was sick still having difficulties breathing and sinus problems. We arrived at the Livingstone airport about 11:00 AM. The new airport was open and we got to depart from it for the first time. We arrived home about 2 hours later than we had planned due to a late departure in Chicago.

There were 44 baptized into Christ and 146 restored during this trip. We purchased 200 Tonga Bibles, 29 bikes for preachers, delivered 3 lap top computers and purchased a printer for the school at Siamafumba. We sent several books to 7 different schools before this trip. We left funds for the students at ZSOBS to go out for two different Gospel meetings. We took about 37 suits for preachers and over 200 ties, several shirts, dress pants and shoes.



Brethren, we had a good trip and much good was done. Thanks for your help and prayers.

In Christ,
Ronald D. Gilbert
Director of IBTM

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Last Trip to Africa with Jimmie!

It was my privilege to make several mission trips with Jimmie B. Hill. Jimmie was always a joy to be around. There was never a dull moment when you traveled with Jimmie. It was the wish of his family that some of his ashes be taken by me to Zambia and left there, which I was glad to assist in doing. Part of his ashes were left at Misika, Siamufamba and at Livingstone. He loved all three of these places and had worked in campaigns several times at each. One of his favorite places however, was at Siamafumba. This place is filled with farmers and just good down to earth people. This is one of the areas where we saw the most visible results during our meetings. A new church building is under construction at Siamafumba and just about where the pulpit will be is the last place where some of his ashes were scattered. Jimmie loved mission work and he loved the souls of men and women. He was always ready to preach and teach the Word of God. He had a great sense of humor and if anyone could find something humorous in any situation it would be Jimmie. I could tell you many stories of our travels together. On one of our trips together in Malawi we were going to eat one evening and were walking by a lake and just out in the water a ways we saw something that looked like a pile of mud. One of us threw a rock at it and it went down and came back up and blinked its eyes and we could see it was a huge croc. We slowly backed up and got away as fast as we could. We later discussed just how dangerous our situation was and I asked what would we have done if the croc had come out of the water after us? Jimmie said we would have run as fast as we could. I asked him if he thought he could out run a croc. He said he didn't have to out run the croc. All he had to do was out run me and since I was down in my back he thought he could have done so. I thought about Jimmie several times on this trip and missed him greatly. I am glad I had the opportunity to make so many mission trips with Jimmie and was happy to fulfill the request of his family and take part of him along for one more trip.

Ronald D. Gilbert

Things You Have Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	1,550
Restorations	1,956
New Congregations	47
New Schools of Preaching	2
Online BCC Students	10,310
ICOTB Students	242
ICOTB Graduates	47

Internet News

August 29th marked a milestone at IBTM. We enrolled student # 10,000 in our online Bible correspondence course study. **10,000 students** – wow! Of those 300+ have already completed the entire 6-course series, and often their immediate response is to ask for more. But most exciting of all is that at least 21 of our online students have put on Christ in baptism as a result of the study. I say “at least” because sometimes the students write their teacher immediately to share the good news. Other times when we have found a local contact or congregation for the student we don't hear until months later, or perhaps not at all. But we are still thrilled with each report. We are thrilled, too, when we hear that some of these new converts are establishing congregations in their home because there isn't one in their area, leading to even more baptisms.

Our teachers are doing a wonderful job spreading the Gospel around the world. Thank you, Teachers!

In Christ
Linda Hill

Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library

Books have been added by

Albert Rickert

Linda Hill

Donations to this library should be sent to:

**New Hope Road Church of Christ
PO Box 1334 • Dacula, GA 30019**