September 2012

Hill Mission Report



International Bible Teaching Ministries International College of the Bible

Jimmie Baxter Hill, aged 59, passed from this life on Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 10:40 PM at his home in Georgia following months of battling renal cancer. He did so with complete trust in His Lord and surrounded by his family.

A graduate of the Florida School of Preaching, Jimmie completed both of their programs – the 2 year in 1984 and the 3 year in 1986. He continued classroom studies at Tennessee Bible College and received a BA in Bible in 1993 and a MA in Christian Doctrine and Apologetics in 1995. He also earned a MA in Bible from the International College of the Bible in 2009.

Jimmie had a great love for many things, especially his family. He is remembered for his humor, his music and his enjoyment of the outdoors. He was a natural-born entertainer and loved to perform for family and friends. His hobbies included playing guitar and writing songs, going "junking", and touring battlefields.

But most important was Jimmie's dedication to serving God and standing firm for the truth of the Gospel. Jimmie labored as a missionary and evangelist for 30 years. He preached in 16 different nations with countless campaigns and was a full-time missionary to American Samoa for 5 years. After returning to stateside local work he stayed busy with additional schooling and used his vacation time to continue campaign work. When Truth for the World called in 1998 he did not hesitate for an instant. He worked with them for 11 years serving as the Bible Correspondence Course Coordinator and added Director of Publications to his duties in 2005. When he left that work in 2010 Jimmie joined the mission efforts of International Bible Teaching Ministries/International College of the Bible as Co-Director.

Jimmie was also instrumental in establishing the congregation that worships at New Hope Road. He served as one of her elders from shortly after it began meeting full-time in January 2003 until his death in August 2012.

Jimmie will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved him.

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

Matthew 5:16

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Greetings from Georgia!

The weeks since our last newsletter in July have been very hard. The tests taken at the end of June in that Mississippi ER were finally received by Jimmie's Georgia doctor in mid-July. They showed substantial growth in his cancer which was a shock since the previous scans just 18 days earlier had shown shrinkage. His chemo plan was changed once more, but apparently this one did not work at all. It just made him sick. There were more scary bouts of bleeding in Jimmie's lungs and the third chemo had to be stopped as well. At the beginning of August the oncologist estimated that Jimmie probably had about 2 months left and Jimmie had to acknowledge that he had become too ill to attempt the Africa campaign he had looked forward to all year. A week later I rushed Jimmie to the hospital once more with a severe reaction to a drug prescribed for the hiccups, and learned that he was also bleeding internally. Three days and many blood transfusions later on August 11th I brought him home by ambulance and Hospice began to help. On August 23rd his pain and suffering ended as Jimmie went to meet his Lord.

On Saturday, September 1st a memorial service was held for Jimmie at the New Hope Road Church of Christ. The building was packed, the stories about Jimmie were funny, and the singing was wonderful. Jimmie would have loved it!

Now, somehow, I have to put my life back together.

A question I have been asked frequently in the days since Jimmie's death is what am I going to do now? That is a big question, and the answer really depends upon others. A few months ago Jimmie wrote a letter to his financial supporters and instructed me to send it in the event of his death. In it he requested that they continue their support of the Hill Mission Fund so that I could continue the Internet portion of his mission work. That was a very strange and difficult letter for both of us, but I

<u>Contributions to this work may be sent to:</u> Hill Mission Fund New Hope Road Church of Christ PO Box 1334 Dacula, GA 30019 filed it away hoping I would never have to use it. Sadly, it has now been mailed.

Jimmie and I have been involved in mission work together since our first Ghana campaign in 1983. I have been involved in the work of IBTM/ICOTB since August of 2010 when I resigned as the office manager at Truth for the World. I then began helping to create the two new websites launched at the beginning of 2011, then continued handling the day-to-day operation of these WebPages. Now almost 5,000 souls have enrolled in the Internet courses while thousands of others have come just to read the tracts and articles. The growth of this mission effort has been incredible and is already yielding exciting results.

My duties with IBTM/ICOTB have included assigning students to teachers and handling whatever problems they encounter, keeping statistical records, and answering correspondence. With Jimmie's long illness I sometimes had to do a bit more. However, I have done these jobs as a volunteer and Jimmie's helpmeet. Plans to raise a salary for me were put on hold when Jimmie became ill but that was okay because his support provided for both of us. Now, I will need support in order to continue with the work Jimmie and I both have loved. Letting this work die with Jimmie is not an acceptable option, but realistically I don't see how I can do both if I have to seek another job.

The New Hope Road eldership is continuing their oversight of Hill Missions and my work with IBTM. I will also continue to be under the guidance of Ronald D. Gilbert as the Director of IBTM. So the only part in doubt is the supporters. Please pray with me that I will have the financial means I need to continue Jimmie's work.

> In Christian love, *Linda Hill*

A tax-deductible receipt is sent for every donation. Thank you!