



The Seeker

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

July-August 2024

Volume13, Number 6

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the month of June there were 311 baptized into Christ and 56 who confessed sins in connection with our mission efforts in Africa. There will be around 140 preachers to graduate from schools from September through December of this year. We are trying to raise the funds to purchase a bike for each of these men. These bikes range from \$150.00 to \$300.00 each depending on which nation they are purchased and which town. We are happy to report that since our last newsletter we have wired funds to purchase 38 of these bikes leaving 102 more to purchase. These bikes are very important to these men in their work, providing transportation from one location to another without walking.

Our upcoming mission trip to Zambia and Malawi will be here soon. We have been working on the teaching schedules at the different preacher schools and the 6 Gospel meetings we have planned for this trip. We plan to visit and teach at 6 preacher schools during our trip. We have reached our goal for funds for this trip. Our thanks to those who helped make this possible. We will give a report when we return, including a financial report on how these funds were spent.

Most of our preacher schools in Africa are on break between quarters at this time. Many of them are working on door knocking campaigns and Gospel meetings during their break. The school in Malawi has the students involved in 2 door knocking campaigns. They have been very busy and getting great success from their efforts. Just today we got news from them that 17 were baptized into Christ today. There have been over 40 baptisms so far from their work. We appreciate these good men and the work they are doing for the cause of Christ in Malawi.

A brief update on our building projects shows a new church building has been completed in Zambia. The Sikalele church of Christ now has a church building so they can worship inside. Our thanks to individuals and congregations who have given funds to build these new church buildings. At Siamafumba in Zambia they are about to complete the security wall around the school compound. They plan to start a kitchen/cafeteria project next. In Malawi the security wall is also just about finished around the compound for the new staff house where the director of the preacher school will be living. We also finished a well at this property and are getting the water tank set up on a stand and the solar pump hooked up.

We are still having great success with the Gospel meetings we are sponsoring at \$300.00 each. In July the following has been reported: 8 baptisms in the Congo, 2 in India from one of our distance learning students, Malawi reports 60 baptisms, Tanzania reports 24 baptisms, Uganda reports 3 baptisms, Zambia reports 15 baptisms and Kenya reports 14 baptisms. As you can see many souls are obeying the Gospel through these Gospel meetings. The radio program in Malawi continues to get great results. They are getting many contacts for Bible studies from the program. Recently the preachers meet with 23 contacts from the radio program and after studying with them for some time 17 of them were baptized into Christ. We have started a radio program in Livingstone, Zambia to be conducted for 3 months to see what kind of response they will get.

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Sympathy is extended to the family of Jim Waldron, long time missionary, Gospel preacher, teacher, debater and writer. Over the years bro. Waldron has given us thousands of good books to send to Africa. Bro. Waldron passed from this life July 15, 2024. He shall be greatly missed. Carolyn and I plan to put books in preacher school libraries in Africa in memory of him.

What Will You Say After Death?

Did you know that the dead speak? “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4). The inspired man is not talking about the dead vocalizing words to the living. The dead speak in another sense. They speak by their past deeds and example.

Perhaps you may not have considered it, but one “sermon” that we all speak after death is in how we disburse our earthly goods. Most Christians have a will to legally pass on their earthly treasures to those who remain. Loved ones, friends, schools, hospitals, or other charitable organizations have been blessed by the estates of those who have gone on to their reward. Yet, what about the Lord’s work? What does our estate planning or lack of it, as it relates to the Lord’s church, say to those who remain? What does it say to God?

I have a very dear friend who is quite wealthy. He and his family have given a tremendous amount of money to the church and mission works over the years. They have also given instructions to do such after their own earthly departure. In this sense, he and his family will continue to speak and have influence on lost souls long after they have left this world. Yes, we need to financially support good works while we are walking God’s green earth. However, with proper estate planning and remembering the Lord’s work in such preparation, we can continue to bless the good mission efforts of God’s people long after we are gone.

What will you say to others after your departure. What will you speak, even in death, about your affections and priorities? At International Bible Teaching Ministries, we would be delighted to talk with you further about how you can continue to “speak” and spread the Gospel of Christ through your estate planning and charitable giving. The brethren associated with the good work of IBTM ask for your prayerful consideration in assisting in this effort.

Barry Gilreath

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Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	48,926
Restored/confessed sins.....	44,508
New congregations started.....	889
BCC students enrolled.....	51,728
Preachers to graduate from schools.....	878