

The Seeker

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



Dear Brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our 2019 mission trip to Africa was a great success. Pictured here are those who went on the trip. From the Benton Harbor, MI. congregation Rusty & Laura Stark, Sondra Morgan and Roslyn Hickmott. From the Algood congregation John Chowning, and from the Melaka congregation in Malaysia, Steven Loo and Carolyn and I.



From the left: Webby Kenabanyama, Ron & Carolyn Gilbert, Julia Masiya, Roslyn Hickmott, Sondra Morgan, Rusty & Laura Stark, Steven Loo, John Chowing

John, Carolyn and I departed Nashville, TN on Monday August 5 and flew to Atlanta and met up with the group from Benton Harbor. From Atlanta we flew to Johannesburg, South Africa a fifteen and one half hour flight. There at the hotel we met up with Steven who had arrived earlier in the day from Malaysia. On Wednesday morning we divided into two groups Rusty and the group from Benton Harbor flew on to Livingstone, Zambia. John, Steven, Carolyn and I flew to Lilongwe, Malawi. We got checked into our hotel and got some rest. On Thursday August 8 we arrived at the new school building in Lilongwe. I spoke in chapel and John and Steven taught

classes at the preacher school all day.

The big meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi started on Friday with around 2,000 in attendance. We had a few lessons then a question and answer session. It got cold when the sun went down. We were under a structure that had a canvas top but no walls so there was nothing to block the wind. By Saturday afternoon we had around 4,000 in attendance and for Sunday worship we had over 5,000 in attendance. At Malawi we had 19 baptisms and 16 restored.

At the same time in Livingstone, Zambia Rusty was conducting a Gospel meeting at the Highland congregation there at the preacher school. They had a good meeting with 345 present and 6 baptisms and 4 restored.



John Chowning with students at the Lilongwe School of Biblical Studies.



September 2019

Volume 8, No. 7

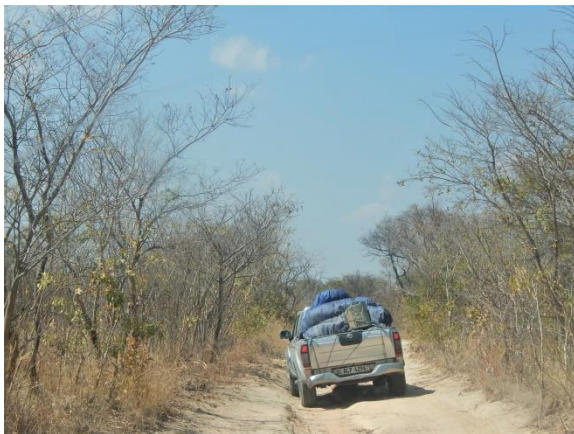
A Publication of *International Bible Teaching Ministries*
Sponsored by *Rock Valley church of Christ*

www.IBTMinistries.org • www.ICOTB.org
RDG@IBTMinistries.org • ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org
INFO@IBTMinistries.org

On Monday August 12 we taught at the preacher school in Lilongwe. While we were staying at the hotel, Eden Estates, the workers killed a 7 foot-long black mamba, one of the deadliest snakes in the world. This was a reminder to be watchful as we move about in Africa. On Tuesday August 13 our group flew to Livingstone Zambia to join up with the group from Benton Harbor. Rusty had been teaching and speaking in chapel at the preacher school there. Rusty, John and Steven taught at the school.



Students and teachers at the Zambia School of Biblical Studies in Livingstone, Zambia



The road to Siamafumba is a rough ride.

On Thursday August 15 we began collecting our needed items to go to the bush for a Gospel meeting at Siamafumba. On Friday August 16 we loaded in 2 vehicles and made the long trip to Siamafumba. It took about 4 hours for the drive to there. When we arrived there were about 1,969 present and on Saturday over 3,000 were present. On Sunday we had over 5,000 in attendance the most we have ever had at Siamafumba for a Gospel meeting. There were 96 different congregations represented at this meeting. At Siamafumba we had 47 baptized into Christ and 115 restored.



Carolyn Gilbert preparing to teach a ladies' class. The ladies on campaign work as well.



A group of teens waiting to be baptized at Siamafumba

Something like the flu hit our group and 6 out of 8 of us got sick. It was nice to have a nurse, Roslyn, along with us on this trip. She kept an eye on those of us sick and everyone had antibiotics with them. The group always goes prepared. Still, it took a few days to get over. On Monday August 19 Steven flew to South Africa to stay a day or two there then back to Malaysia. On Wednesday August 21, John, Sandra and Roslyn started their journeys back to the USA.

On Thursday August 22 Rusty and Laura were getting things together for the Gospel meeting at Ngwezi. I decided I was too sick to go and Carolyn and I stayed at Livingstone and Laura and Rusty and 2 of the teachers from the school in Livingstone went to Ngwezi for the Gospel meeting. They had a good meeting at Ngwezi with 4 baptized and 4 restored. They had 367 present for the Gospel Meeting. They also had a graduation at the preacher school on Saturday with 6 preachers graduating from the preacher school at Ngwezi. Due to sickness I was not able to teach some of my classes at the preacher school in Livingstone. Thanks to Rusty Stark for covering for me.



Ron & Steven Loo with some of the 800 local language Bibles purchased.

We purchased 35 bikes for preachers at schools to go out on Sundays and preach at different congregations. We purchased one motor bike for one of the teachers at the school in Siamafumba. We helped with food relief and several other benevolent needs for widows and orphans. We purchased 2 large propane gas tanks for the cooks at ZSOBS so they don't have to go outside and cook when the power goes off. While we were there the power was off 4 hours each day and when we departed they said starting soon it would be off 8 hours each day.

We had a total of 76 baptisms and 139 restored. Our thanks to those who went on the trip. We were glad for the ladies – Roslyn, Sondra, Laura and Carolyn - who had the opportunity to teach ladies' and children's classes. A special thanks to Steven Loo who came all the way from Malaysia to join us on this mission trip. He did a great job in his preaching and teaching while in Africa. We hope he will consider coming back in the future and bringing other faithful brethren from Malaysia with him. Lastly, our thanks all those who helped with funds to make the trip possible and for the prayers offered on our behalf while we were away.

Now that we are back it is time to start printing materials and getting ready for next year. Thanks brethren for your help. We could not do this work without your help.

We had a great trip and much good was done. Before our trip we sent 200,000 Gospel tracts to Africa, 1,000 full sets of BCC booklets, 12,000 booklets, and 5,000 English Bibles, several books for preacher schools. We purchased 800 Bibles in local languages, the most we have ever purchased. This was due to help from congregations in Malaysia.



A bicycle is still an important mode of transportation in Africa so we are happy when we can provide them to preaching students so they can spread the gospel.

In Christ,

Ronald D. Gilbert, Director of IBTM

International Bible Teaching Ministries
C/o Rock Valley Church of Christ
PO Box 49494
Cookeville, TN 38506-0494

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Cookeville, TN
Permit No 15

Things You Helped to Accomplish



Baptisms	13,959
Restorations	10,490
Congregations Established	330
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	46,147
ICOTB Students	488
Preachers Graduated	481

Office News

September may have been incredibly hot so far, but it also marks the 12th anniversary of IBTM. Take a look at some of our stats above. Those are pretty cool!

August may have found Ronald D. Gilbert and crew in Africa holding a great campaign, but on the home front I was working on the Internet. I added the SSL certification to our websites so that Google will stop telling visitors that our site is not secure. That was the easy part (with some help from Shawn Elliott). Unfortunately, adding that certificate knocked off several of the tracts and articles and ALL of the books. Everything is back visible again but I still have to finish resetting the e-library on ICOTB to be covered by the SSL . . . and with almost 500 books that may take me a while yet.

Reading Ron's report on Africa I was reminded how exciting campaign work can be. But it is also exhausting and occasionally scary. I

remember lying in bed in Ghana listening to machine gun fire all around us when there was an attempted coup, and my husband's stories about sleeping on the ground at Siamafumba and praying a snake wouldn't join him in his sleeping bag. So, honestly, campaign work is not something everyone can do. But everyone CAN be a missionary. YOU can be a missionary. You can spread the gospel right where you are and we have materials to help. (Every tract online has a printable version you are welcome to use.) You can also spread the good news to distant lands through the use of our postal or online materials.

That last thought took me a step further and I realized there are actually advantages to doing mission work online, advantages in addition to the typical ones – that it's fast, easy and inexpensive. So, just for fun I made a list:

- You don't have to pack every item you might conceivably need for the next month into a suitcase much too small for it
- You avoid long lines at airport security
- There are no agonizingly long flights or missed connections
- You won't get hit with jet lag or a strange, foreign disease
- You don't have to watch out for Black Mambas or critters that might eat you

If you would like to become a missionary using your computer or mailbox, please let me know.

Linda Hill