

# The Seeker

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

A Publication of  
**International Bible Teaching Ministries**  
**International College of the Bible**

May 2016

Volume 5, Number 4

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Carolyn and I have just returned from a five week visit with our brethren in Malaysia. For the past several years we have tried each year to visit in Malaysia and teach and preach and do what we can to encourage these good brethren. We departed Nashville, TN. on Monday April 4 at 5:20pm. The flight to LA, California was 4 hours and 50 minutes. Then from Los Angeles to Hong Kong 14 hours and 50 minutes, then from Hong Kong to Kuala Lumpur was 3 hours and 45 minutes. Plus a few hours of layover in between flights, a very long trip!

We were met at the airport by longtime friend and fellow gospel preacher Eng Boon and his son Erin. Brother Eng Boon has opened his house to us for many years and he always takes such good care of us while we are in Malaysia.



A Hindu temple in Malaysia



Our first preaching appointment was with the Kota Kemuning congregation. The congregation wanted Carolyn to help paint a large wall for the children's class area of the creation. The wall was about ten feet tall and about 16 feet wide. Carolyn had lots of help from the children and adults in painting the wall. Carolyn did the lay out with a pencil and many from the congregation came at different times to help paint.

Carolyn Gilbert and the ladies  
painting a mural for the children.

We had a good visit with the brethren at the KK congregation. During our stay there one lady was baptized into Christ. She had been studying with one of the elders. The brethren there had ordered 300 NKJ New Testaments that we were able to get to them. This congregation now has 2 good men serving as elders.

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Second, we were at the Subang Jaya congregation. We had a good visit with these brethren also. On Saturday we attended a building dedication for the new outreach work these brethren are doing with the Tamil speaking India community.

Third, we were at the Klang congregation. This congregation also has 2 good men serving as elders. Eng Boon kept us very busy this year with Bible studies. We had several hours of good Bible studies with several non-Christians. The Klang congregation has been very evangelistic and has helped to start many new congregations in Malaysia. The Klang area is where Eng Boon lives so we spent most of our time there in that area.

Eng Boon drove us to Melaka for our fourth work. We were met by Steven Loo who took us to our hotel and got us settled in. We had a good number for Friday night Bible study with several non-Christians present.

**Sunday Fellowship  
dinner with the brethren  
at Melaka.**



On Monday about 30 of us went for a retreat. We were high up on a hill near the sea and we

had a good period of singing, Bible class, games and food and fellowship. We had a great time there together. Melaka is a very old city. The brethren there had ordered some Bible class literature that we were able to bring for them.



Fifth stop, we traveled with sister Bee Lan to Johor Bahru. There we stayed in the home of sister Anna and brother Tee.

A new work was just started at Skudai with a group meeting on the third floor of a mall. The brethren in Malaysia are very good to work to start new congregations.

On Saturday from 2 to 4 pm Carolyn helped the ladies to conduct an outreach class for children. The children had Bible classes, sang songs for about one hour and then they made hand gifts for their mothers for Mother's Day. Some new families were contacted from this class.

In JB Sunday is a working day with government offices open and children in school. The Skudai congregation for this reason does not meet till Sunday evening.



**Children's Outreach Class at Skudai**





On Sunday morning about 12 of us traveled about one hour to the Kluang congregation. This is the oldest congregation in Malaysia. Brother Ira Y. Rice helped to start this congregation. I taught the Bible class there and preached for the worship service. We had lunch together and traveled back to Skudai for a session at 4pm where I spoke on evangelism then at 7:30 pm the worship service.

We were very busy during our stay with the brethren at Skudai. From Friday to Sunday night I spoke 6 times and Carolyn had the session with the children for about two hours.

But as I tell the brethren there this is why we came to teach and preach! We were glad to be able to visit and work with this new congregation at JB.

On Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> we traveled across the border to Singapore. We stopped on the way to our hotel at the Jurong congregation where we had a visit with sister Sharon who is the church secretary and also with brother Eddy Ee longtime friend and preacher and one of the elders for the Jurong congregation.

We got to rest a day or two in Singapore before our long trip home. On Wednesday night I spoke about our work in Africa and showed some slides to the Jurong congregation. We were taken to the airport about 10 pm Wednesday night after services and at 1:20am early Thursday morning we started our trip home.



Brother Eddy Ee in Singapore

During our stay in Malaysia and Singapore I had the privilege of preaching 22 times and conducting personal Bible studies for about 16 hours with several different people. Our brethren in Malaysia are working under somewhat difficult conditions but they are doing a good work for the Lord. They need our prayers and our encouragement. I know it is always an encouragement to me to be with them and see their great love for the Lord and the good that they are doing. Please keep these good brethren in your prayers.

### **Zambia Trip in August**

We are working hard to get the tracts, Bibles BCC lessons, books and other needed items to Africa before our trip. The funds are coming in for this trip and at present we have about two thirds of our needed funds for this trip. Many of you gave toward our trip last year and we need your help again this year. We have collected several suits and ties for this trip and we plan to purchase about 50 bikes for preachers during this trip. The bikes cost \$100.00 each. We are also trying to send several boxes of text books and library books to many of the preacher schools we are working with in Africa. If you can please send your funds as soon as you can. Make your checks to Ronald D. Gilbert- Mission Fund and send to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for "Africa trip 2016".

In Christ,  
Ronald D. Gilbert - Director of IBTM

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### *Things You Have Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	7,321
Restorations	7,502
New Congregations	150
New Schools of Preaching	6
BCC Students	25,011
ICOTB Students	397
ICOTB Graduates	82

### *Jimmie B. Hill Memorial Library*

Donations to this library should be sent to:  
**New Hope Road Church of Christ**  
**PO Box 1334 • Dacula, GA 30019**

### *Valiant Volunteers*



Ron Gilbert is a very familiar name here at IBTM – but did you know that we actually have two of them? Both went to school at Tennessee Bible College and both preached for the Cold Springs congregation in Pikeville, TN, so both are well-known in the Sequatchie Valley/Cumberland Plateau area. Both are also known as “Ron” to family and friends so it can get confusing. Of course, Ron #1 is the Director of IBTM and Ron #2 is the reason he usually signs his mission reports “Ronald D.”. Ron #2 is one of our IBTM online teachers and Ron #1 is the reason he often introduces himself as “the other Ron”.

“The other Ron” Gilbert was born in Chattanooga, TN, but moved just across the state line into Rossville, GA, as a kid. As a teenager he met the girl he would later marry, Stephanie Allen, and she introduced him to the church of Christ. They married in 1987 and have been blessed with two children (Katlyn and Elijah) and one grandchild (Sawyer). Ron, a veteran of Desert Storm, has been preaching since 1993 and currently works with the congregation in South Pittsburg, TN. He lists his only hobby as watching dirt track racing, but he is also an avid teacher of the Gospel. As he stated, *“I wake every morning it is possible (except Sundays) to a cup of coffee and my correspondence grading.”*

Ron has been teaching with our online Bible study program since it began so I asked what he likes best about it. He replied, *“The speed of it. What used to take weeks with the foreign students can be done in minutes. You can practically carry on a conversation with the students via the internet.”* He also loves *“watching them grow. Just recently became face-book friends with one of them.”* Ron shared advice for both teachers (*“Try not to get too far behind.”* Also, *“Make use of the tracts and articles when student are struggling with particular issues.”*) and students (*“Don’t try and finish in a week. . . Take your time and enjoy the lessons.”*)

We truly are fortunate to have “the other Ron” Gilbert as one of our Valiant Volunteers.