



# The Seeker

*"Seeking the Souls of Men and Pointing Them to Christ"*

December 2024

Volume13, Number 10

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the month of November we had reported 663 baptisms and 621 that confessed sins and 13 new congregations started. Our work continues to go forward with many souls being brought to the Lord.

The preacher school at Bomet, Kenya had their graduation in November. They had 15 men to graduate. During their 2 year stay at the school records were kept concerning the number of baptisms that occurred while they were preaching in the area of the school and when they went home on school break. These men in their 2 year stay at this preacher school baptized 457 and saw 572 restored and helped start 13 new congregations. During this time they conducted 132 Gospel meetings. This work was done in 5 different nations. We say to these young men well done!

We are currently working to raise \$25,000.00 by the end of the year to purchase more Bibles in local languages for Africa. These Bibles currently cost between \$10.00 to \$15.00 each. Currently we have raised around \$19,000.00 for these Bibles. These Bibles will be purchased from the Bible Societies in the African countries where we work. There are so many new converts in connection with our work and many of these new Christians do not have a Bible. Just the 663 that were baptized in November will cost around \$8,000.00 for each of these to have a Bible. We need your help with these Bibles. As we come to the end of the year we are asking congregations and individuals to consider sending funds to purchase Bibles. We are so blessed as Americans having several Bibles in our homes while others go without a Bible.

Our building projects continue to go forward. The Mtaya church of Christ in Malawi is finishing up the new church building and they plan to have their first worship service in the new building on 12-15-24. The Kakkopa church of Christ near Kalomo, Zambia has their new church building almost ready for the roof. The kitchen/cafeteria building at the preacher school at Siamafumba in Zambia is being roofed. The security wall at the preacher school in Solwezi, Zambia is almost finished. Much progress is being made on our building programs. Our thanks to all who helped with these projects.

We are still getting great results from our Gospel meetings in Africa. Recently we have had reports of over 75 baptized into Christ from 5 different meetings.

We are redoing our web pages and encourage you to check them out. On our College web page [www.icotb.org](http://www.icotb.org) under the heading "resources" you can click on "Gospel Books" and find many books you can read. We have placed some new books on this page and plan several more in the next few weeks. Also under the heading of "Resources" you can click "Gospel Tracts" soon we hope to have several more in English and tracts in other languages as well. This will help brethren all around the world to be able to download and print a few Gospel Tracts in their local language.

We are also working to get our 6 BCC booklets translated into Spanish. We hope soon to have these ready so brethren can use them.

As we come to the end of the year we want to encourage congregations to consider putting our work here at IBTM in your budget for 2025. Some give monthly, others once a year, and some set aside one fifth Sunday per year and donate this to our work. Our thanks to all who help with our mission efforts. We hope you will continue to keep our work in your prayers and help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ "into all the world". Ronald D. Gilbert-Director

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

## IBTM and Estate Planning

Though it is often a subject that people would prefer to not want to think about, the truth is that one day we will all lay down our earthly temple and pass from this world to the next. It is also true that we cannot take material things with us after death. Everything of material substance stays behind with no exceptions. There are no U-Hauls that follow a hearse to the grave.

So, what shall we do? To whom will these possessions be given? Unfortunately, sometimes people do nothing in this regard before death. Perhaps they intend to make estate planning, but death catches up with them before those plans are made. In these situations, it is often left up to family members or perhaps the courts to decide how assets are dispersed. Material possessions may or may not be handed over to those whom the deceased would have willed. Others do make these final determinations before death. They carefully consider how they want their funds dispersed and to whom they should be given. This is legally recorded in their Last Will and Testament. They give gifts to children, grandchildren and friends. Some may also instruct those assets be donated to hospitals, schools, civil, social or religious organizations. So many people and institutions have been blessed by such careful estate planning.

As a Christian, I am simply a steward of the things that have been placed in my hands. They are not mine, but God's. I am His caretaker. He is the possessor of all. If God owns the cattle upon a thousand hills (Psa. 50:10), he certainly owns the few cows and the hills that are in my charge.

Please remember the good work of International Bible Teaching Ministries in your prayers, financial support and yes, estate planning too. God has blessed us all tremendously in life, and as a good steward of the Lord, we need to use these blessings to extend the border of His Kingdom and spread the saving Gospel of Christ in life and in death also. One day we will be called before the Lord to give an account of our stewardship (Lk. 16:2). Will God look favorably in how we used what had been given in our hands?

**Barry Gilreath**

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

Websites

[www.IBTMinistries.org](http://www.IBTMinistries.org) • [www.ICOTB.org](http://www.ICOTB.org)

Contacts

[RDG@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:RDG@IBTMinistries.org) • [INFO@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:INFO@IBTMinistries.org)  
[ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org](mailto:ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org)

### Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	51,888
Restored/confessed sins.....	46,768
New congregations started.....	950
BCC students enrolled.....	52,125
Preachers to graduate from schools.....	1,018