



The Seeker

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

September 2024

Volume13, Number 7

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. During the month of July many of our graduates reported on their work for the past 6 months. They reported 3,189 baptized into Christ and 3,027 who confessed sins. There were 95 new congregations started also. In August there were 346 baptisms and 252 that confessed sins with one new congregation started. As you can see our preachers have been very busy working for the Lord.

Our mission trip to Zambia and Malawi was a great success. We had 225 baptisms and 192 that confessed sins. We conducted 6 Gospel meetings and preached to a combined audience of over 17,000 people. We taught students from 4 preacher schools while we were in Africa.

We had 3 to go on this trip from the Algood congregation here in Cookeville. Gary Loftis and his wife Donna and John Chowning the preacher at Algood. Gary serves as one of the elders at Algood. Rusty & Laura Stark from Carlisle, PA and Barry Gilreath who works with IBTM also went on this trip. Our thanks to all who were able to go with us. This was my 53rd overseas mission trip since 1980. I am very thankful the Lord has allowed me to go on another trip.

Five of us departed for Africa on July 29th. Carolyn and I and John Chowning went to Solwezi, Zambia in the Copper Belt of the western province of Zambia. There we taught at the preacher school and conducted a Gospel meeting in the new church building at the school. We had a good meeting with 320 present and 15 baptized into Christ and 11 confessing sins. We hope to send a container there in the next few years to help them build a good library. Rusty and Laura Stark were in Ndola, Zambia working with a new preacher school there. They reported 3 baptized into Christ during the meeting at Ndola and Rusty taught at the preacher school there.

On Monday August 5th our group from Solwezi arrived in Livingstone, Zambia. The next day Rusty & Laura arrived in Livingstone. On August 7th Gary & Donna Loftis arrived in Livingstone. The men took turns speaking in chapel and teaching at the preacher school. Due to problems in Uganda the preacher school there moved their students to Livingstone for the last part of their studies to graduate there in September. We were able to teach some classes for both schools. When we arrived some of the students were just getting over the flu. Some of our group also had the flu but were able to continue our teaching and meetings.

On Friday August 9th we made our long trip to Siamafumba for another Gospel meeting. When we arrived much improvement had been made at the school. The security wall around the school property was almost finished. The new administration building was finished and the 4 teachers now have an office each. Beds were moved into the offices and we stayed in this new building. On the other side of the offices there is a large meeting room and bathrooms. We had 5,000 plus for this meeting. The church building would only hold about half the people but we had a good PA system so those outside could hear the preaching. There were 122 baptized into Christ and 133 confessed sins during this Gospel meeting.

On Monday August 12 we were back teaching at the school in Livingstone. On August 13 we had a one day meeting at Kalomo. There we meet in a new church building that we helped the brethren build. The meeting there continued after we came back to Livingstone. They had 137 in attendance with 5 baptisms and 4 who confessed sins. On August 14th Barry Gilreath arrived in Livingstone to be with us till the end of the trip.

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On Friday August 16th we started a Gospel meeting at Musokotwane. This meeting was about 45 minutes from the school so we could drive out each day and return back to Livingstone at night. We had a good meeting there with over 400 present. There were 13 baptized into Christ and 3 that confessed sins.

On Monday August 20th Barry, Carolyn & I departed very early that morning for Malawi. On August 22 Rusty & Laura returned home. Barry & I took turns speaking at chapel in Lilongwe and teaching classes at the preacher school. The big meeting started there on Friday August 23 in the afternoon. We could tell Friday night that we had more in attendance than at this time last year. On Saturday over 10,000 were present and on Sunday over 12,000 were in attendance. There were 67 baptized into Christ and 42 confessed sins during this meeting. The brethren there have continued to study with many who attended the Gospel meeting and so far 40 more have been baptized into Christ resulting from their follow up.

Several of the preacher schools we are working with will have graduations in 2024. We plan to get bikes for each of the men graduating and suits also. We had a very successful mission trip this year. Our thanks to all who went on this trip and all who helped support this trip. Please help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ "into all the world".

Ronald D. Gilbert-Director, IBTM

Exciting Innovation Paving the Way for Teaching in Africa

One of the exciting initiatives that IBTM is implementing in schools of preaching in Africa is the inclusion of technology that will enable better communication and teaching opportunities. By providing these important hubs of learning with additional technological tools, our schools in Africa will be more effective to do the work of training gospel preachers in their own homeland. Earlier this year we began funding internet connectivity for these schools. Two of the thirteen schools that we are involved with now have this significant resource. Due to location, these schools require satellite internet and associated equipment. The costs vary by location, but as an example, the school in Lilongwe, Malawi just had the equipment installed for about \$2000 which also includes funds for a year of service.

Just think of what this resource will do for these Christians in our schools of preaching:

- Efficiency for email communications from school property for staff, students and IBTM
- Ability to engage in Zoom meetings with Africans and US elderships, supporters, and IBTM
- Ability to use faithful brethren in the US to teach live Zoom classes to students in Africa
- Access to learning resources found on websites such as IBTM, GBN, International Gospel Hour, World Video Bible School, Apologetics Press and others.

Would you like to be a part of this important project financially? You can provide a school of preaching in Africa with all these resources for about \$2000. If you would like to help, please reach out to me for additional information.

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

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Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	50,724
Restored/confessed sins.....	45,950
New congregations started.....	931
BCC students enrolled.....	52,086
Preachers graduated from schools.....	939