

The Seeker

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

April 2025

Vol. 14 No. 4

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord. In March our preachers reported 216 baptisms, 2 restored and 5 new congregations were started. We are very thankful to hear this good news from Africa. We are hearing good reports concerning the Gospel meetings we are sponsoring in Africa with many souls be added to the Lord and new congregations being started. These meetings are \$300.00 each.

The work at our preacher schools continues to move forward. The school in Malawi started the year off with over 30 preacher students. They are having a good year. Starting in June they will have a mid-year break. During June 9-13 they plan to have one week classes for new converts. This session is scheduled for 40 new converts to come to the school for instruction. June 20-22 there will be classes for Elders , Deacons, Preachers and men who are leaders in the congregations. They are expecting over 100 for this session. June 24-27 there will be a seminar for the graduates of the school. There have been 47 men to graduate and hopefully they will all get to attend. July 4-6 they have planned a Gospel meeting at a place where one of the graduates of the school lives. They are expecting around 500 in attendance. July 18-20 they have another Gospel meeting planned where one of the graduates lives and they have never had a Gospel meeting since this new congregation has been started. They are also planning to start some new congregations in May. They have started 2 new congregations so far in 2025. As you can see these brethren are very busy planning works to spread the Gospel of Christ in their area.

We have just finished 2 new church building projects and ready to start another. We are currently building a staff house in Solwezi, Zambia and the walls are just now going up. We will be starting a bath house at Siamafumba very soon. We want to thank those who have helped with these building projects. We are getting some of the needed buildings at the preacher schools but there are more needed.

We are still trying to raise funds for Bibles in local languages for new converts and those who do not have a Bible in their language. This is a very important work and we need your help with this project. The Bibles range from \$10.00 to \$15.00 each depending in the nation where we purchase them.

We have just about filled up another container to ship to Africa. This is a 20 foot container and has many good books for a preacher school to use in their library. We also have many boxes of BCC booklets, tracts in English, Bible class materials and some English Bibles. There are several boxes of used clothing also.

Our mission trip to Malawi and Zambia is still a few weeks away but we need to raise all our funds so we can do several projects before we go on this trip. One of the projects we are doing is getting 200,000 Gospel tracts printed in Malawi for the big meeting when we arrive there. Also in Zambia we are getting 100,000 Gospel tracts printed, some in English and some in Tonga. Many of you have helped us in the past with our mission trip to Africa each year. If you have not sent funds yet please help us in this great work. At this time we are short about \$18,000.00 of our budget for this trip. You can make your checks to Ronald D. Gilbert-Mission fund and mail to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506. We will send a financial report to those who help when we return from Africa. Mark on your check "Africa Trip."

There are so many lost souls in the world today. Many of these have good honest hearts and will obey the Gospel if we can get it to them. Please help us as you can to take the precious Gospel of Christ "into all the world". Ronald D. Gilbert-Director-IBTM

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Are They Really Lost?

There are many reasons as to why some do not evangelize their friends, family and strangers abroad, but one cause for which evangelism does not take occur is due to a doubting that those who have not obeyed the Gospel are really lost. I mean, God is God of love, mercy and grace, so surely, He will give a pass to those who don't understand their lost condition. Right?

It would certainly be comforting to believe such a doctrine, but such is not taught in scripture. In fact, just the opposite is taught. To disbelieve in the truth that only those in Christ will be saved is to deny God's Word. Consider a few passages that affirm this truth.

Matt 7:13-14 - Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matt 7:21-23 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

1 Pet 4:17-18 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

2 Thess. 1:7-8 - And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Why is there such an emphasis in Scripture on spreading and obeying the Gospel? It is because men are lost who do not obey it. If men are saved in ignorance (as some believe), one of the worst things a Christian could do is share the Gospel. The rejection of the Gospel would result in condemnation. However, if ignorance is the key to Heaven, they are saved through ignorance. Such is the folly of believing that God will make a way for those who have not heard the Gospel of Christ! All are to hear the Gospel (Matt. 28:18-20). We are lost apart from it. In obeying it, we are saved by it through Christ (1 Cor. 15:2).

International Bible Teaching Ministries is a tool in which Christians can participate in sharing the Gospel around the world. Please consider putting this good work into your church budget or personal giving. I or brother Ron Gilbert would be most happy to share more with you. Just reach out to one of us.

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Some Things You Helped Accomplish, Since 2007
Baptisms.....53,356
Restored.....47,146
New Congregations Started..... 970
BCC Students Enrolled..... 52,157
Preachers to Graduate..... 1,018