

The Seeker

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

February 2025

Vol. 14, Number 2

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are off to a great start in 2025. In January we had 476 baptisms, 3 restored and 13 new congregations started. I was asked recently why so many new congregations are started each month. Our preachers are trying very hard to establish the Lord's church in areas where in the past it did not exist. They are going into areas preaching Gospel meetings and studying one on one. As a result of these meetings many times there will be 10 or 20 baptisms that occur and since there is no congregation in that area a new congregation is started. They try to select areas where a faithful Gospel preacher can travel each Sunday to that area and work with this new congregation to help ground them in the Gospel. Efforts are made also to recruit one or two young men from that congregation to send to preacher schools and be trained so they can return home as serve as the preacher at their new congregation. Many times they will meet in someone's home until they outgrow that space then they may rent a class room in a local school for Sunday worship. Since people walk most of the places they travel to there is a need to have a local congregation near their homes. If you had to walk 3 to 5 miles one way for worship each Lord's Day would that cause you to not attend some days? As Americans we don't even think about these things. Sometimes we get up on Sunday morning and drive in our nice cars 30 minutes to go to worship. There may be times we pass 3 or 4 other congregations on our way to the place we have chosen to worship.

We continue to raise funds to purchase Bibles in local languages for Africa. Recently we have received funds in memory of Brenda Allen, Pat Eaves and Daniel Loftis, all three from the Algood church of Christ here in Cookeville, TN. Daniel Loftis served as an elder at Algood for many years. Also we have received funds in memory of Bob Harrison from Madisonville, KY. Bob served as an elder at Madisonville for many years. The funds we received have been sent to different locations in Africa to purchase Bibles in local languages. I know all of these would be happy to know that Bibles were given to new converts in their memory. We are still seeking to raise funds to purchase Bibles in local languages for Africa. Some may ask, "how much is needed for these Bibles"? Last year there were 9,688 baptisms in connection with our mission work in Africa. Most of these new converts did not have a Bible. These Bibles average \$10.00 each so to purchase all of these a Bible would have cost \$96,880.00. Last year we raised \$50,600.00 for Bibles for Africa, about half of what was needed. When you sit down to read God's Word I hope you are thankful that you have access to this wonderful Book. Not everyone has the blessings you have as an American. We encourage individuals and congregations to think about this great need and send funds to help get more Bibles into the hands of those who are hungry for God's Word.

Many of our preacher schools had graduations last year. This means they are starting off in 2025 with new preacher students at these schools. The school in Malawi started recently with 33 preacher students. The school in Bomet, Kenya started with 18 new students. The school at Siamafumba will start soon they are expecting 26 new students.

We are making plans for our mission trip to Africa in August. We have a good group of men and women going on this trip. At this time we have a full group of 10 planning to go on this trip. We will be working in Malawi and in Zambia. There is much to do before we go on this trip. We are looking forward to the opportunity to go back to Africa and teach at these preacher schools and conduct Gospel meetings. We are hoping to have 200,000 Gospel tracts printed in Africa before we get there. We hope also to purchase several more Bibles while we are there. Thanks so much for your prayers and support. Ronald. D. Gilbert-Director

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NEWS FROM MALAWI

Last month I reported that we had sent \$2000 to the Lilongwe School of Preaching in Malawi to have booklets printed in the local Chichewa language. The printing was completed, and they were provided with 2000 copies of *God and Man* for distribution. In only a few weeks, the brethren distributed over 400 copies and are already seeing tremendous results. Forty-two have been baptized and over 80 more have requested additional study. Of those who received the booklet, over 30% either requested baptism immediately or else desired to study further regarding the truths they had learned. We look forward to hearing about additional baptisms and Bible studies as a result of this evangelistic effort.

We are beginning to plan our upcoming evangelistic trip for Malawi and Zambia. The trip is scheduled for the month of August. For those who have supported my work with IBTM, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your assistance. Without you and your contributions, I would not be able to help in the good work of International Bible Teaching Ministries. I receive about \$1500 a month from brethren contributing monthly towards my support. We also receive occasional one-time contributions during the year. With these funds I provide all my expenses associated with IBTM. I consider the work a labor of love and am grateful to have part. Nevertheless, airfare, lodging and other travel expenses add up quickly. Airfare for my wife and I for the upcoming Africa campaign will cost more than \$9000. If you could assist with a one-time or monthly gift for my continued work, it would be much appreciated. These funds can be sent to:

Jackson Heights Church of Christ
c/o Gilreath Mission Fund
1031 Hermitage Drive
Florence, Alabama 35630

--Barry Gilreath

www.icotb.org is our College webpage. Go there and click on Resources, then click on English Resources, then click on Books. We have put hundreds of new books on our webpage and working each month to add more books. Our students around the world are using these good books each month.

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Websites

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Things You Helped Accomplish

Baptisms.....	54,034
Restored/confessed sins.....	47,786
New congregations started.....	993
BCC students enrolled.....	52,149
Preachers to graduate from schools.....	1,018