The Seeker

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



Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord. In this issue of our newsletter we want to focus on our BCC program. The Lord has greatly blessed our BCC program. Currently we have over 35,000 online BCC students, 2,145 postal students, and another 4,100 plus students studying directly with their teacher on the field. We want to thank the approximately 200 volunteers who grade these courses and work with the students. We are getting more and more requests for hard copies of our BCC lessons both here in the USA and overseas. The greatest demand for them is overseas. We are trying to print and ship several thousand to the 12 preacher schools we are working with in Africa. The schools give them to faithful Gospel preachers in their areas and then they are given to the students who fill them out and hand deliver them back to the teachers. By doing it this way there is no cost for postage for the students. Well, you might ask, "How effective is this program?" Here is a report from one of our schools in Tanzania.

"I have enrolled 270 students in 2018 in 6 different towns. I have been so busy this year visiting them and conducting 12 seminars where by the end of October, 169 have obeyed the gospel. Some more students are in different stages while more are getting enrolled. There will be more students and more seminars in 2019. I plan 20 seminars next year and for this year one seminar is remaining due to lack of funds to feed the attendees and my travel funds. One seminar cost two hundred and fifty dollar feeding 35 attendees and travel funds. I will be happy if I can go for the last seminar."

Willy Yudah

The Great Commission tells us to "*Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature*" Mark 16:15. We are trying very hard to keep this command and we are getting good results with our BCC program.

I asked long time missionary and friend Rod Rutherford to write a brief note concerning the importance of BCC programs.

"I believe in the Bible correspondence course. I have found it to be the most effective way to reach lost souls in Africa. The African people are hungry for the Word of God. They like to read, but sometimes they have very little to read. They like to read good Bible tracts. They enjoy the study of God's Word. The Bible correspondence course it an excellent way to learn. Students can read and study the lessons. Then, after they have been marked and returned, they can keep them for further study and use. I pray for Bible correspondence teachers wherever they are. I pray God will bless them as they teach by this easy and effective way. I pray their students will have open hearts to receive the Word of God. May God bless you in your efforts."

Rod Rutherford

Many may not know but Rod Rutherford wrote the majority of the BCC lessons we use in the series. We are grateful for the permission from him and the other brethren who wrote courses to use their material.

One of our BCC students who was converted has recently graduated from Zambia School of Biblical Studies in Livingstone, Zambia and I asked him to tell of his conversion.

"I came to know of the International Bible Teaching Ministries through Google search . . . I managed to Google and make a comparison of different doctrines of various churches, out of numerous sites which the Google suggested to me, I enjoyed more the International Bible Teaching Ministries site, and made a conclusion that I should fill up the enrolment lesson and submit it, of which I did, it didn't take long, I got assigned to a teacher named Carolyn Crawford, and in the course of learning we arrived at the most crucial subject which is two in one, that's The Church part 1, and The Church part 2 . . . and wanted to learn more until another topic answered my longstanding question concerning salvation, and the lesson is called "what must I do to be saved?" As a result of that particular lesson, my assigned Instructor Carolyn Crawford, received more questions than I used to ask her before, when I requested her that I would love to get baptized into the Church of the Bible, she communicated with Linda Hill and arranged for me to meet a Christian man in my home town, indeed I received a phone call from a man named Jomex Mtali and the same 2013 I got baptized and became a Christian.

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Just as I was enjoying the correspondence course, after finishing it I still had the desire to learn more of God's word, when the news came to the attention of my Instructor again, she communicated my desire to the director of the International Bible Teaching Ministries, Brother Ronald D Gilbert and he suggested that I should apply in one of the Bible colleges in neighboring Zambia, I got accepted and now I am done with the course and expecting to graduate on 10th November as preacher of the gospel.

Nevertheless, one of the remarkable achievement as I was still studying through the BCC, was the capability in teaching others, and out of those whom I have been teaching Malani Banda with his household were able to get converted to Christ too, and I am very happy that they are both faithful Christians who attend the worship regularly."

Gomezgani Kamanga

Jomex Mtali is one of our students at International College of the Bible. We are sometimes able to use these contacts for follow-up with our online students.

Here is another report from a preacher school in Africa concerning our BCC courses they are using:

"At present I'm having 39 students. Previously I had 48 who successful completed the six lessons. Out of this number 14 were not members of the Lord's Church. From this number 8 were converted after the studies. The BCC program is one of the most effective ways of spreading the gospel of our Lord. Our prayer is that this program should continue as it enlightens the minds of the masses with the knowledge of our Lord."

John Simwiza



Every student baptized is a thrill.

One of our teachers writes concerning his experience as a postal BCC teacher.

"Ron, this is a valuable program. There was an invalid lady in St Charles who was teaching an invalid lady in Arkansas. She went through the lessons and requested Baptism. The Church was notified in Arkansas where the Elders and Preacher went to her and studied a little further and baptized her in a bathtub."

Richard Notgrass

A few teachers do both postal and online teaching. One writes concerning his experience as a BCC teacher:

"Hiram is a Kenyan living and working in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I'm not sure how he found IBTM, but he came to me in one of Linda's assignments He was a member of something called Kings Revival Church (Int'l) Ministries He devoured our 6 courses between October 2 and November 24, 2014, had many questions and we were in contact daily and more. In his housing assignment he shared an apartment with Muslim people who harassed him constantly for studying his Bible. At some point during our discussions he began to attend worship service with a group of Filipinos who were working there. Also in that group was Dennis Thompson, a former elder from the Dallas, Texas area and his wife. Before Dennis returned to the US, Hiram decided that he should be baptized into the Lord's church. He was baptized in the Persian Gulf. Hiram worked with the Philippine group until it disbanded. Prepared lessons, lead prayer, etc. He also enrolled in ICOTB and was assigned to me."

Bill Schwegler

Brethren we need your help in printing and shipping Gospel tracts and BCC booklets to Africa. The tracts cost 5 cents each to print and ship to Africa. Churches and individuals can send 1,000 Gospel tracts to Africa for only \$50.00 and 10,000 Gospel tracts for only \$500.00. We need to be sending one million Gospel tracts each year to Africa. As you can see brethren we also need your help in printing and shipping these hard copies of our BCC booklets.

Will you not hear the Macedonian call and help us send these Gospel tracts and BCC lesson booklets to the many lost souls in Africa who are begging for Bible materials!

In Christ,

Rouald D. Gilbert,

Director of IBTM

Shipping Bible Correspondence Courses

1 full set printed and shipped to Africa is about \$7.50

10 full sets	\$ 75.80
25 full sets	\$189.50
50 full sets	\$ 379.00
100 full sets	\$ 758.00
500 full sets	\$ 3,790.00
1,000 full sets	\$7.578.00

Each full set consists of 6 full courses (lesson and test booklets both), enrollment forms, certificates of completion and grading keys for the teachers. The student only returns the test booklet to his teacher and keeps the lesson booklet.

Office News

I always love getting feedback from the students who actually study our materials. I am so pleased to hear about them learning and obeying the Gospel. But actually the biggest part of my job is working with the teachers who work with those students. I'm glad we have tools available that Christians can use to evangelize the world even when we can't travel to foreign lands. We can still ALL be missionaries!

I asked a few teachers for their thoughts on the program and got some wonderful responses. I wish I could print all of what they said but only have room for a few excerpts.

"May God be praised for the works being done through IBTM to help provide a direction for those who are seeking the truth in God's word, by educating them in a cost free manner, and at a pace that they can set for themselves. Thankful to be a part of the process."

John E. Boyd

"I love being able to teach someone that I may never meet on this earth. The online program allows much faster response from the teacher and allows the student to proceed faster than is possible with mail systems. The teacher is able to answer questions and concerns much faster. Thus, the student is not in limbo for days or weeks when confronted with serious questions or doubt. This means online teaching can be very effective."

Mark McWhorter

"Teaching online for me is a way to reach people all over the world that are seeking the truth. After all, how else is it possible for someone like me in West-Undershirt, Nowhere, to reach someone else in some remote region of the world with the sacred gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?"

Loy Pressley

"As a teacher I have benefited more that my students as I am able to increase my own Bible knowledge and understanding. They ask great questions that require study, search and research to come up with the answers. My faith has been strengthened and deepened as a result of my work with this program."

Robert F. Alley

"Teaching online is a wonderful way to "plant the seed". One thing I like about this program is that the plan of salvation is taught in the first course."

Sarah Goeders

"Truly the on-line grading has been a blessing in my life. One that I am blessed to enjoy daily. I pray for my students. Encourage them in each lesson to continue to search God's Word in order to be pleasing to Him."

Rita Barton

I also asked some of the newer teachers to tell me honestly if it was difficult to learn how to use our program.

"It is easy since I had a friend who told me about this program and he explained to me how it worked . . . I have truly enjoyed being a part of this study program and it has blessed my life in knowing there are many seeking the Truth and hungry to learn God's Word."

Diane Tucker

"I must say learning this program wasn't difficult at all for me. I followed the instructions step by step that you provided in the Welcome/ Introductory email for me as a registered teacher with the IBTM correspondence course program. One of the steps directed me to the on line Teacher's Handbook, which provided further instructions to prepare me with additional knowledge needed to implement my duties as an instructor. . . . Also, knowing that you and your staff are always there to assist really has helped me. Thank you!"

Jerry Hudson

From the Inbox

The lessons were simple and precise. I had read Hebrews (and other 'difficult' Books in the Bible) many times without understanding much of them, but your explanation of them are straightforward that I now understand them now perfectly. In fact, I have gathered all the lessons and made them into a book for me to study further.

BCC Student in Nigeria

Thank you so much IBTM. I'm so grateful that this Bible study is online. Student in Philippines

Thanks, I have learned a lot about the true church of Christ.

Student in Kenya



4 BCC students displaying their Certificates of Completion

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

Okay, so a lot of people like this study program. But does it actually work? Naturally, field teachers such as Willy Yudah and John Simwiza see great results, but they have face-to-face contact with their students as they study. Can it work when the teacher is on one continent and the student on another? The answer there is "Yes!" as well. More than 50 of our online students have reported back to their teacher that they were added to the body of Christ, but I suspect the actual number is much higher. Often when we find a local contact or congregation for the student we don't hear the results until months, even years later, or maybe not at all. I think the student just gets so excited about beginning their new life as a Christian and meeting new brethren that they forget to write back to the teacher who pointed the way. And that's alright. It's just wonderful to be a part of the journey.

Wonderful as well is when we do hear back from a student who has put on Christ and learn they have also begun a new congregation in their home because there wasn't one in their area. That has happened over and over and resulted in even more conversions.

I know I may be accused of prejudice, but I think the IBTM teachers are some of the greatest people in the world. I am constantly impressed with their dedication - from the teachers who have taught with me since the program began, those who are always willing to take on extra when I need help, the ones who grade lessons even when they travel or go on vacation, and the teachers who seem to go an extra mile to encourage and edify their students. Two examples in particular come to mind. One of our teachers knew she was fighting a losing battle with cancer, yet she continued teaching right up until she had to enter a Hospice facility. Another teacher defied the nurses, grading online lessons from his hospital bed in the ICU. I am awed and inspired by such dedication.

Linda Hill

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

Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	10,680
Restorations	9.224
Congregations Established	235
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	41,210
ICOTB Students	471
Preachers Graduated	361

Would you like to be an IBTM BCC Teacher?

We are always looking for sound, dedicated Christians to be volunteer teachers in this Gospel outreach. Online teachers work with assigned students via email. Postal teachers work with students using our printed courses so there are postage costs involved. But both types of teachers grade lessons, answer Bible questions, and encourage their students to study and obey God's Word. Most of the students who enroll in the program are not Christians, so teaching is a great way to be active in the Great Commission. Many of the students are from nations where missionaries are not welcome SO correspondence course may be their only way of hearing the Gospel.

Of course, teaching by correspondence course is not glamorous, but with them you can teach someone on the other side of the world — or your next door neighbor. Teaching one-on-one is where most conversions take place. Still, it is work. Teaching requires time, commitment and a love for lost souls. At IBTM we gladly provide the tools and the students. We are happy to offer advice, assistance and even answers to difficult questions from students. But the key to the program is and always will be the teacher.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this effort please contact Linda Hill at the email address info@IBTMinistries.org. You will be asked to complete a doctrinal questionnaire, a standard requirement for every teacher in our program. Perhaps one day you may also have the joy of knowing a soul you have never met face-to-face has put on Christ as a result of your efforts.