

# The Seeker

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

A Publication of  
**International Bible Teaching Ministries**  
**International College of the Bible**

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Volume 6, Number 1

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On Wednesday January 4, 2017 Carolyn & I were up early getting ready to depart for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This trip was a different trip than our August trip each year. This trip was a trip of planning and looking first hand at the work and what needs to be done in the future. It was to help get schools started and to finish up building projects and look at plans to purchase land for the future and to help build preacher schools.

It is hard to pack for a trip like this one. We left Tennessee with tempters in the 20's at night arriving in Tanzania with highs around 80 and lows in the 60's. Then we traveled to Kenya and Uganda with temperatures near 100. We were met in Mbeya, Tanzania at the airport by Willy Yudah and his family. Willy is the director of Tanzania School of Biblical Studies and one of the teachers. We drove about 5 hours to Tunduma, Tanzania where we stayed at a hotel. We still had another hour to drive to get to the school. There were no hotels near the school.

During the past year or so Rock Valley purchased 23 acres for the school there to have a permanent home and train faithful Gospel preachers. The chief of the village gave the school 2 more acres so now they have 25 acres of good land with 410 meters of road frontage just off the black top hwy. We have helped build a church building, a small storage building, and a staff house on the property. Recently a storm took off the roof on the church building and damaged the walls some. The staff house was being lived in by Willy and his family when the storm hit. Willy was injured and his wife Scola was also injured causing her to lose their 3rd child before it was born.



Carolyn Gilbert standing in the doorway of the new church building under construction.

At the front of the church building on each side is a room 30X20 feet. One room will be used as a dorm for the preacher students to sleep and the other room will be used as a class room for about 40 orphan children ages 3-5 who meet in this Christian school. These children are being taught Bible classes each day. We currently have 5 full time preacher students at TSOBS. We plan to send the funds to finish the church building

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and when we can raise the other funds we will send them to complete the staff house. A total of about \$6,000.00 is needed to finish both projects. IBTM is supplying the funds to feed the preacher at the school and for the orphans to have one meal at the school each day.



Some of the orphans eating rice for lunch.

work in the rain or sun. We were told that they receive about 5,000 shillings for a days hard work in the fields or about \$2.50. This is enough to purchase enough rice and fish and vegetables to feed a family their one meal that day. Then if they are to eat tomorrow it is back to the fields again. Most Africans have a very hard life!

On Tuesday Jan. 17 we departed Tanzania and flew to Entebbe, Uganda. We were met at the airport by Alex and Steven two of the men who teach at East Africa School of Biblical Studies in Busia, Uganda. We went to a hotel for rest waiting for bro Jerry Sullins who



Students at the East Africa School of Biblical Studies in Busia, Uganda.

had orientation at the school with 17 students having made it to the school with one more on the way but not there yet.

On Sunday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> I had the pleasure of preaching at this new congregation. We had about 12 present for the Sunday worship. On Monday Jan 9 through Friday Jan 13 I taught each day at the preacher school. I found the students to be very attentive and eager to learn.

This trip was a different experience for us. We have been to Zambia during the dry season many times. In Tanzania everything was green and it rained about every day while we were there. People were busy everywhere planting their maize and other crops. We were told that during the time of year we were there many families run out of food before the new harvest comes in. Each day as we drove the one hour trip from the hotel to the school we would see many men and women standing on the side of the road with their hoes in hand hoping to be hired by local farmers for an 8 hour day of back breaking



Ronald D. Gilbert teaching at Tanzania School of Biblical Studies.

had been in Livingstone, Zambia helping get the new intake at the school started. After Jerry arrived we drove to Busia about a 5 hour drive from Kampala.

On Sunday Jan. 22 I preached at the congregation where bro. Alex serves as the preacher. On two different occasions during the Bible study and worship Alex almost passed out. Later I found out he was suffering from a bad case of Malaria but would not sit down because he was needed to translate for me. At the school in Busia they were working to complete construction of the bath rooms and kitchen and other projects at the school. They also were working on a new church building at the school with the walls almost up to the windows. On Thursday Jan. 26 we



On Friday Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Carolyn and I met bro Benard Kagaga at the Kenya border around 6 am. He was traveling with two of the other teachers at the school of preaching at Kalamindi near Homa Bay, Kenya. On our way we stopped to visit with the brethren at Kenya School of Preaching near Kisumu, Kenya. Charles Ogutu serves as the director of this preacher school. We have tried for the past few years to send books for their library, Bibles, tracts, BCC lessons and other materials. We arrived at Benard and Dorothy's house about 4pm. We stayed in their home.

On Saturday Jan. 28 I conducted an all-day seminar on "Difficult Passages from the Bible". They have 9 full time students at the school. We had former students to attend and some of our Distance Learning School students to attend and had a total of 29 present for the seminar. All the students were very attentive to the lessons and they asked



**Dorothy and Benard Kagaga**



**Some of those attending the "Difficult Passages from the Bible" Seminar**

very good questions. The Glencoe church of Christ in AL. supports this school. We have sent Benard books for their library and text books with tracts and Bibles and BCC lessons and other printed materials. We have printed a sermon outline book for them in their Luo language and song books. We also helped them with the cost of digging a well for the school.

While we were there we got to meet with 3 of the men who are planning to start a new preacher school at Bomet, Kenya. These men were also

present at the seminar. We gave them some funds to purchase Bibles and food for the first 3 months.

On Sunday Jan. 29 I spoke at the Bible study and worship services at the Kalamindi congregation. We had about 50 present for services. At 3pm we had a good Bible study with a man and his wife who live near the church building. The last time I visited with Benard there was a woman who was a denominational preacher who attended our Gospel meeting and was baptized. I asked about her and was glad to learn she is a very faithful Christian and working hard.

On Monday Jan. 30 we departed Bernard's house and drove back to the border at Busia, Uganda. We were met at the border by Jerry Sullins in the school van. The old van is on its last leg. We had sent 5,000.00 to help purchase a newer van for the school. Bro. Jerry hopes to get the van when he goes to Uganda in June of this year. On Tuesday Jan. 31, I started teaching my class on the book of Acts at EASOBS. During the week Jerry was teaching a class on the Preacher and his work. We took turns speaking in chapel each day.

The last Sunday we were there one young man was baptized into Christ. We had a good trip and much good was done and plans for the future were made. During this trip I was able to sit down and discuss the work we are planning for the future with 4 of the schools we are working with and help in the planning of a new preacher school in Kenya.

Our trip to Malaysia and Singapore is just a few weeks away. I will be speaking at 4 congregations and Carolyn & I will conduct a teacher's workshop at the Jurong congregation in Singapore, where our longtime friend Eddy Ee serves as one of the elders and preaches at this good congregation. This is where the Four Seas Bible College is located. They are doing a good work training faithful Gospel preachers and Christian workers for the Kingdom.

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This is also the time of year we begin our fundraising efforts for our big campaign in August each year. Our budget for this year includes:

Printing & shipping 200,000 tracts . . . . .	\$12,000.00
Books for preacher schools, shipping . . . . .	\$ 4,000.00
Printing & Shipping BCC lessons . . . . .	\$10,000.00
Funds for preacher school support . . . . .	\$ 6,000.00
Travel, taxi, hotel, food and fuel . . . . .	\$ 2,000.00
Air fare, travel ins., Zambia & Malawi . . . . .	\$ 6,000.00
Benevolence for preachers. . . . .	\$ 3,000.00
Bibles in local languages . . . . .	\$ 4,000.00
Bikes for preachers . . . . .	\$ 5,000.00
Preacher school help, food, supplies . . . . .	\$ 6,000.00
Misc. expense for van & truck repairs . . . . .	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>

**Total funds needed . . . . . \$60,000.00**

Brethren, again we need your help to make this trip successful and bring many souls to the Lord. Please make checks out to Ronald D. Gilbert-mission fund and mail to **Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN 38506** and mark for "Africa Trip". As we do each year we will send a financial report to the churches that help. Please pray for our work and help us as you can to take the Gospel "*into all the world*".

Ronald D. Gilbert  
Director of IBTM

*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 Have Helped to Accomplish*

Baptisms	7,745
Restorations	8,071
New Congregations	159
New Schools of Preaching	7
BCC Students	30,565
ICOTB Students	414
ICOTB Graduates	83

*Office News*

I hate to talk statistics too often, but numbers are a big part of my job. Realizing that a soul is attached to every number makes them much more exciting. For instance

- 2016: Our websites recorded 325,128 visits from souls in at least 10,055 different cities in 222 nations – so the work truly is global.
- 2016: 7,021 souls enrolled in our Bible study program – a tremendous increase.
- 2017: In January a new preacher training school opened its doors to students who want to reach lost souls – the 7<sup>th</sup> IBTM has helped to establish.

In all of our work the major focus is teaching, teaching lost souls and teaching faithful brethren who can teach others. But to do that and continue to grow we need more teachers. We can't all physically travel around the world, but it is marvelous who you can reach through the Internet and postal service. We supply the students, teaching materials and support. If you are interested let me know at [info@IBTMministries.org](mailto:info@IBTMministries.org).

Linda Hill