

The Seeker

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



Dear Brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As I write this newsletter, one year ago today I was taken to the ER here in Cookeville almost unable to walk. From Cookeville I was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. There I was diagnosed as having Guillain Barre Syndrome. As Christians we have access to The Great Physician through prayer. I tried to contact as many Christians as I could around the world to pray for my health. I want to thank the many faithful Christians for the prayers offered on my behalf. I am a strong believer in the power of prayer, *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* James 6:16. For several weeks I was not able to walk and was not sure if I would ever walk again. I also knew that if I could not walk I probably would never be able to go back to Africa. Thanks be to the good Lord who is rich in mercy for helping me regain much of my health. In August it is my plan to be back in Africa on another mission trip. This will be mission trip number 50 for me. I am so thankful that I have been allowed to go on these mission trips.

I want to thank many of you for sending funds for our food relief program in Africa. We are helping needy brethren in Malawi and in Zambia. These brethren have been suffering from hunger due to the drought they are experiencing in many areas. We have been able to purchase several tons of maize to help feed hungry people.

For the past few months I have been collecting text books for preacher schools in Africa. At this time the books we are in need of include the following books:

Essentials of New Testament Greek by Ray Summers

Baker's Bible Atlas by Charles F. Pfeiffer

The Kingdom of Cults by Walter Martin

A General Introduction to the Bible

by Norman L. Geisler & William E. Nix

Halley's Bible Handbook by Henry H. Halley

Analytical Greek Lexicon by Harold K. Moulton

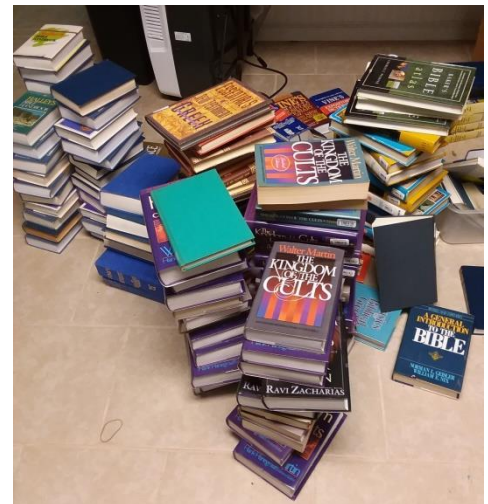
Thayer's Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament

by Joseph Thayer

Vine's Expository Dictionary of OT & NT Words

by W. E. Vine

Interlinear Greek-English NT by George Ricker Berry
Greek New Testaments



Books awaiting shipment

If you have any of these books that you would like to donate please send them to me and we will ship them to Africa. The



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www.IBTMinistries.org • www.ICOTB.org
RDG@IBTMinistries.org • ICOTB@IBTMinistries.org
INFO@IBTMinistries.org

first 5 books on this list are text books and we need 200 each of them for the 12 different schools we are working with currently.

Since the first of the year I have been traveling more to report to the churches that support our work and seeking to gain new support for the work. A few weeks ago Carolyn and I made a trip to St. Louis, MO. While there we got to visit with Richard Notgrass and his good wife. Richard helps with our BCC program. He has recruited several postal teachers and some online teachers for our BCC program. We are thankful for all the work bro. Richard does to help with our BCC program.



Jerry & Edith Sullins, Carolyn & Ronald D. Gilbert

After our visit in St Louis we traveled to Springfield, MO. There we spent a few days visiting with our long time good friends Jerry & Edith Sullins. Jerry and Edith have been involved in mission work in Africa for many years. They lived in Botswana, Kenya and Zambia for over 20 years. Jerry serves as one of the elders for the Kansas Expressway church of Christ in Springfield, MO. He also serves as Director of the Bible Institute of MO, a preacher training school which is located just behind the church building at the Kansas Expressway congregation. Jerry & Edith still make trips to Africa each year and are very much still involved in mission work. This good congregation is involved in preacher training around the world. They have “Global Schools of Biblical Studies” which includes:

Zambia School of Biblical Studies – Livingstone, Zambia
Bible Institute of MO – Springfield, MO.
East Africa School of Biblical Studies – Busia, Uganda
Missouri Institute of Biblical Studies Ghana – Kumasi, Ghana

Jerry & Edith’s son Ray serves as the preacher for the Kansas Expressway congregation. Ray and his family have also lived and worked in Africa and he currently makes trips to Ghana. It was a real joy to get to spend some time with the Sullins family. We are so thankful to the Lord for the many years of dedicated work done by this good family in the mission field.

There are so many individuals and congregations that have been a great blessing to our work. Many churches have supported our work from its beginning. Among the many congregations we are thankful for one is our sponsoring congregation Rock Valley. Another is the Algood congregation. In addition to the monthly support they give for our work they do so much in helping our work. For the past several months the ladies class has helped each month by taping and labeling our monthly newsletter. Recently a group met at their church building to put peel and stick tracts in 3,000 New Testaments which we plan to ship to Africa soon. John Chowning, who serves as the preacher at Algood is one of our BCC online teachers and a teacher for ICOTB. John helps also by storing BCC booklets at his house and helping fill boxes of BCC booklets for shipping. He helps organize men to load our shipments to Africa. We also have several online BCC teachers at the Algood congregation and a few postal teachers for our BCC students as well. We are so thankful for John and the good elders and members at the Algood church of Christ. They have been such a great blessing to our work for the Lord.

Brethren please keep our work in your prayers. Also please help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ “*into all the world*”.

In Christ,

Ronald D. Gilbert

Director of IBTM

Valiant Volunteers



I always enjoy hearing from and about our IBTM teachers. I personally think they are some of the greatest people in the world. But teaching one-on-one online is a work that does not get much notice from others or many accolades, so when more than one person from a congregation writes to tell me what an outstanding job one of our online teachers is doing, I take notice. That is the case with Velda Gearhart.

Velda Gearhart has been a member of the Westside Church of Christ in Salem, Virginia, since 1983. She had the joy of converting her own husband, Norris, in 1984 and they both have been faithful members there since. In August they will be celebrating 58 years of marriage and they have been blessed with two sons, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, Norris now has Alzheimer's so Velda is caring for him, but she continues to bring him to services faithfully.

Velda retired from the Bell Atlantic Telephone Company in 1991 after almost 35 years of service there. But even in retirement Velda stays very busy. She has helped with the teacher's work room, the church library, VBS, the visitation program and the Ladies' Day programs at Westside. But one of her favorites seems to be heading up the kitchen at the Virginia Christian Camp. She has done that for the last 16 years. Cooking three meals a day for 150 people for a week does not sound like fun to me but she seems to thrive on it. And she always makes the kids there "her" kids. Fellow IBTM teacher Jerry Anderson described Velda as "*one of those folks who is a 'giver'*" while Danny Guard, also a teacher, said "*Velda is a very devoted servant in so many ways!*" I believe them both. She certainly gives of her time. At 81 she is a beautiful example of the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

Of course, the most important aspect of this story to me is that Velda became one of our IBTM online teachers at the end of November 2015, so she continues to be generous with her time. As Velda told me, "*Since my time was scarce taking care of Norris I thought I could help teach others about Our Great God and his word by working with the IBTM Bible course.*" Velda has now worked with 118 students via her computer at home, teaching them the Gospel. Her students have come from Bahamas, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, England, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. To date Velda has had 12 graduates, meaning the student completed all 6 of the online courses we have available.

Velda told me that sometimes students challenge the answers given in the answer key. That is when the real work of a teacher begins. Velda told me, "*I work with them giving them Scripture reference to prove the answers and they always thank me for helping them. When they complete the course they tell me how thankful they are and wish there were other lessons I could help them with. It makes me glad to know that I have helped people around the world learn about God and their soul's salvation. I always encourage them to find a church of the Bible and start attending a true church.*"

Velda takes teaching students around the world through online Bible correspondence courses very seriously. We are so blessed to have her as one of our Valiant Volunteers.

International Bible Teaching Ministries
C/o Rock Valley Church of Christ
PO Box 49494
Cookeville, TN 38506-0494

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Office News

Working online it is often difficult for me to find something exciting I can write about in these newsletters. Unlike when I lived in Samoa or traveled to far distant lands with my husband on campaign, now most of my day is spent facing a computer screen. Not much excitement there.

Until I get emails like I received recently from some IBTM online teachers. In the first I learned that not only was one of our online students from Ethiopia baptized, but his wife also. I am always pleased to get reports like that.

Then two days later I received another report from a teacher. He has been working with a student who is already a member of the church in Kenya. We get many of those wanting to increase their Bible knowledge which is wonderful. This online student had been studying with friends located in another village and he had just baptized five of them. One week later these babes in Christ began a new congregation of the Lord's church in their village. And the work continues.

When you teach a lost soul you never really know just how far that light will shine. That can be very exciting!

In Christ,
Linda Hill

Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms	10,260
Restorations	8,759
Congregations Established	228
Schools of Preaching Begun	7
BCC Students	38,699
ICOTB Students	453
Preachers Graduated	361



Last month we showed you the Tom Music School of Preaching under construction in Kalamindi, Kenya. Building has continued and now it is almost finished.

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