



The Seeker

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

July 2021

Volume10, Number 7

Dear brethren,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The year is half over and we want to give a brief report of the first 6 months of 2021. We had 652 baptisms reported and 860 restores with 24 new congregations being established. We send emails to our preachers in July and January asking them to report on their work for the past 6 months. Some send reports monthly but most do not. We hope to hear from many of our preachers in Africa in July. During the past 6 months with your help we have been able to send \$12,080.00 to Africa to purchase Bibles in local languages. We have sent \$12,700.00 for Gospel meetings. One school in Kenya reports they have had 54 baptisms so far this year in Gospel meetings with the funds we have sent. With your help we have purchased 58 bikes for preachers in Africa and 4 motor bikes for teachers at preacher schools. We have sent \$5,060.00 for food relief to Africa. We want to thank Earl Alverson, preacher for the Plainview church of Christ in Sparta, TN. for his dedicated work in helping raise funds each month for food relief. We have spent \$4,000.00 for printing Gospel tracts and booklets and \$10,500.00 to ship a container to Livingstone, Zambia. This container has around 700 boxes, about 400 boxes are books, tracts, Bibles, BCC booklets and around 300 boxes of clothing.

We were able to finish the kitchen/cafeteria in Solwezi, Zambia. This school will need a library and a school office in the near future. We just got word this week that one of the teachers at the preacher school in Solwezi, John Mbela had found out he was diabetic and his sugar got very high and he died. John was 57 years old. John and his first wife had 4 children and she died then he remarried and they had 6 more children. He graduated from Zambia School of Biblical Studies in Livingstone, Zambia. He also completed his BA and MA degrees with International College of the Bible. John will be greatly missed.

We were also able to build a new church building in Kalomo, Zambia. If anyone has priced building materials lately you know that most items have gone up a lot. We are experiencing some of this in Africa also. We thought several times we were finished with this building project but due to price increase we had to send more funds. We recently sent funds to paint the floor and windows which should be the last thing that will need to be done.

In Bomet, Kenya we have just started to build a new preacher school building. The walls are going up and soon will be at window level.

In Lilongwe, Malawi we are helping the brethren there to build a new church building. They have completed the roof and will start the inside soon. We believe this building will be finished in a few weeks.

We are still getting good reports on the Gospel meetings in Africa that we are sending \$300.00 for each meeting. The teachers at the preacher schools take some of the students and conduct these Gospel meetings. The funds are used for transportation, food and sometimes lodging. One Gospel meeting recently in Malawi was conducted in a village where there was no congregation of the Lord's church. The chief gave permission for the meeting and he personally requested that the people of the village attend the meeting. They had over 600 in attendance with 13 baptized. Now there will be a congregation in that village. The students in Lilongwe have returned back to school after a break. While on break the students had 73 baptisms and 123 restored.

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After that the first graduating class reported and they had altogether 103 baptisms and 205 restored with 3 new congregations started. These brethren have been very busy the first 6 months of 2021!

We also received other reports from Kenya and they have had several baptisms during the Gospel meetings. There have been around 300 baptisms in 2021 from these Gospel meetings bringing the total up to around 700 baptism from Gospel meetings since we started this program. This is a very effective way to evangelize these areas in Africa. The rainy season will start in November so we want to have as many meetings as we can before the rains start and the farmers start working their crops. We are working with 12 preacher schools if we could send around \$2,000.00 to each school that would be \$24,000.00 and the faithful brethren there could conduct 80 Gospel meetings. I believe that these meetings would produce hundreds of conversions. We need your help to make this possible! Please consider as an individual or a congregation helping with these Gospel meetings. Brethren, this is what the "Great Commission" looks like! What is more important than reaching the lost with the Gospel of Christ? These brethren are willing to go if we are willing to send them! (Read Romans 10:14-15). If you would like to help make checks to IBTM and mail to Rock Valley church of Christ, PO Box 49494, Cookeville, TN. 38506 and mark for "Gospel meetings".

Those of you that read last month's newsletter know that due to Covid restrictions we will not get to travel to Malawi and Zambia in August as we had planned. This however does not mean that the work will not go on! We plan to purchase 5,000 Bibles as soon as we can. The Bibles are on back order and we hope they will be printed soon so we can send them to Africa.

Brethren, thanks so much for your support and prayers. There is much good being done for the cause of Christ in Africa. These preacher schools are doing a great work in training faithful Gospel preachers. We need your help in this great work! Please continue to pray for our mission work efforts and continue to help us as you can to take the Gospel of Christ "into all the world".

Ronald D. Gilbert-Director

A publication of **International Bible Teaching Ministries**
Sponsored by **Rock Valley church of Christ**

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Things You Helped to Accomplish

Baptisms.....	22,665
Restored.....	18,636
Congregations established.....	598
Preachers graduated.....	624