Confirming the Churches

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May - June Report, 2018

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

Your material and spiritual support has benefitted Christians in at least four states and two other countries over these past two months. Answers, comments, and lessons we post online may reach almost every country but those who see them don't always comment upon them.



The four weeks of teaching in Lincoln on Wednesday evenings concluded on May 8. In this series I was dealing with passages of scripture that seem universally to raise questions among Christians. On May 2 the lesson was mostly on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. On May 8 there were questions regarding the differences in the reports of David's numbering of Israel (II Samuel 24 and I Chronicles 21).

We are pleased to give our thanks to Lincoln for donating communion trays and cups to the church in Ibrahimpatnam. Many will benefit from their use and will be very grateful.

On May 27 I preached in Lincoln "I Believe God." A video file of that sermon, preached on another occasion, is here: https://i9.ytimg.com/vi/Li2GAzQe490/mqdefault.jpg?sqp=CKyA4dkF&rs=AOn4CLBGr3bzhr2clbU_xUMhzbmUCevulg&time=1530413253443. In the afternoon assembly I preached "Earnestly Contend," which you may hear here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Wt6C0jV8bY&t=238s&list=PLCWwOhH346Sqqy0iJfPy4SxZLtsqb1TRY&index=8.

Sybil's steady companion of the past 16 years, the Border Collie Lady, died. Her absence has confronted us every day since then and in almost every activity. She was a very friendly dog.

June 2-4 we returned to the Mall City Church of Christ in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Our second consecutive annual meeting was a gospel lectureship in which I shared the preaching with Jay Taylor. The theme was "The Church of the Bible." My lessons were [1] "The Church on Pentecost"; [2] "What is the Church of Christ?"; [3] "Why Are There So Many Churches?"; [4] "The Great Commission"; [5] "Gaining the World and Losing My Soul."

On June 10 we were blessed to renew our acquaintance with the Saline church. Michael Olney preached from Revelation 2:1-7. Though some have moved away, and three have died, over the past two years other members have been added and the church is still strong in faith and service.



Friday June 15 was a long-awaited day for us. Our long-time co-worker in India, brother Samson from Hyderabad, arrived to spend nearly a month with us. He is on a 4-month reporting and fund-raising trip for the work he has built up over 52 years of diligent effort. We had previously been given permission for him to present his mission to the Lincoln church and to the Lakeside church in Springfield. He was well received by brethren in both churches. Brother and sister Bill and Mary Clary treated us to supper after the evening assembly in

Samson and I prepared a brochure for the promotion of his multifaceted work in India. We put other documents with it and have

distributed copies in person and by mail. In personal visits we had a memorable conversation with brother Stan Williams, preacher in the Morningside church in Decatur, Illinois, and with brother Gilbert Baldwin, one of the elders of the Ypsilanti, Michigan church. We drove a circuit

Springfield.

around central Illinois, and another around southeast Michigan speaking to church leaders where possible and leaving the information package where no local brethren could be found. You can see the brochure and endorsement letters at http://skywaypub.org/brochure.pdf.



Skywaypub.org is the new web site of the publishing work that we do. As I write this only a few tracts and sermons are indexed there (along with Samson's information). As time permits I am daily coding pages to list books and other video or audio Bible lessons. Several times each week new information is added to the site, so check it frequently. Soon, if the Lord wills, the site will include the means to order books, tracts, CDs, and DVDs.

"God Has Spoken" continues to appear in the Lincoln Courier every Friday. You may read each week's column at www.acts1541.org/ghs.pdf. The article at that link changes every week. At the present time there is no plan to archive previous articles, but if there is an interest expressed in our doing so it can be done.

Our schedule made it necessary to skip my monthly Skype visit to Krishna River Preacher-Training School, but I taught an overview of the Epistle to the Ephesians on June 24. All 15 students have grade averages above 75% – most above 90% – and are expected to graduate in September. Brethren, this school is in need of support. For the past year they have operated on less than 50% of the support they had at the beginning. One instructor had to quit to find paying work. An instructor was found to replace him and is working without pay to keep the school going. Student stipends - never enough to begin with - have been cut to nearly nothing. Classroom supplies are stretched beyond efficiency. Anything you can send to help will be much appreciated and wisely used to the glory of God. Send to the address in the letterhead or contact me for information on electronic transfer.

For this year's India mission we have been requested to supply Telugu Bibles and song books. Church growth is constant and Bibles are always in demand (most converts come from Hinduism and don't have Bibles). They cost about \$3.00 each. How many Bibles can you buy for your poor brethren in India? Our budget has not included large quantities in the past because they have long been provided in that area by the supporters of brother Russel Bell with whom I made my first mission to India. Brother Bell has spent from 2 to 6 months in India every year for about two decades but is not able to go to India this year. We should help to make up some of that loss. Please send contributions for Bibles and/or song books to Skyway Publishing, Box 662, Lincoln, IL 62656-0662. Thank you. And thanks to the Lincoln Church of Christ for the contribution of \$500 for this purpose.

Confirming the Churches Bible Class is still a 15-minute pre-recorded presentation. We had hoped to return to live streaming on the first of May, but our personal schedule is still too unpredictable. We are currently studying the epistle to the Ephesians. A link to the most recent class is at the top of the first page of our mission web site. Lesson plans have been laid out for another eight weeks beyond the study in Ephesians.



We pray for you daily, and for all the churches, that God will defeat the enemy and strengthen the faith of every one of His children. Please keep this work and us personally in your prayers. Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, and material support.

In His service,

R

A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org www.youtube.com/c/AlParr_CTC www.createspace.com/6798806 Contributions received March 1 - April 30:

Egypt Church of Christ \$200.00 Lincoln Church of Christ \$700.00 Elizabeth Williams \$100.00

Thank You for Your Support

Make checks payable to <u>Skyway Publishing</u> (our registered mission printing business) and mail to