



Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al & Sybil Parr

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September - October Report, 2019

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

The journey that began on August 16 ended back in Lincoln on September 21. Having got a late start due to the wait for vehicle repairs we had to condense a planned 3-month trip into those five weeks. That meant skipping some intended church visits and shortening others. The mission work was further abbreviated, as we mentioned last time, by the necessity of interrupting it for a trip from Michigan back to Alabama. When it was finished we had seen fourteen states and three provinces. We were disappointed to have to bypass Nova Scotia and Wisconsin.



On August 31 we left Houlton, Maine and crossed into Canada to begin our 30th foreign mission trip. I preached three times the following day in Riverview, New Brunswick. On the Wednesday following I taught a class on the defining points of the book of Job. We found the church in unity and determined to stay true to the Book. In every assembly and often at home the saints pray that the Lord will send a faithful gospel preacher to work with them in their tri-city community. They have a thirst for greater understanding of the word, and a sincere desire for the salvation of their neighbors. We were lovingly entertained in the homes of Jeannine Williams, Jurene Obrien, and Christian and Olivia Maillet. Several visited

with us in the campground. On September 6 the men met for a study in our camp (on the subject of leadership) while the ladies studied in the home of Olivia Maillet.

Hurricane Dorian was still a category 1 storm when it hit Halifax, Nova Scotia on Saturday, September 7. We were about 160 miles north of there, and still getting strong wind and heavy rain. For about four hours we had sustained winds of 40 mph with gusts over 50 mph. The campground is somewhat protected by a thick stand of trees around three sides. There was no damage to any vehicle in the camp except in one case near the perimeter where a tree fell and brushed the back of one camper. We were without electricity for 20 hours. The Sunday morning church assembly was postponed due to unsafe travel conditions in some sections of the cities. When we met in the evening I preached about the storms of life through which God faithfully sustains His people.

The Bible studies we had planned in Fredericton, New Brunswick and Liverpool, Nova Scotia had to be cancelled. The brother who was to host us and some neighbors in Fredericton had to be out of the province on business during our time in the area. Our long-time BCC student in Liverpool was very sick (he's a cancer patient).

Back in Houlton we had a very pleasant visit with the church on September 15. The church there is still divided; we met with the group that continues to meet in the building they have occupied for over half a century. There are still prospects of a reunification of the church. We met briefly with the man in whose house the other group meets. There are Christians in the area who don't meet with either group, discouraged by the events that resulted in the split about five years ago. The church meets only once on Sunday. I preached on keeping the commandments of God. Brother Eric Dalton, who regularly leads in worship, led the church in praying for the reunification, and for a preacher to come to bring strengthening and stability. The prospects for evangelism of the community seem better here than in liberal New Brunswick. We also daily pray for preachers for both of these churches. Do you know anyone with whom we might speak about it?



Preaching in Houlton

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5)



KRPTS during our Skype class

The September 29 Skype class for Krishna River Preacher-Training School was a study of II Peter 1:1-11. The October 20 class was on the subject of circumcision. Some in India have been preaching the necessity of keeping that practice as a law of God even in the church today. The students had requested a study of the truth. Response to the class was overwhelming gratitude from students and instructors alike. There were also several area gospel preachers in attendance looking for helping in challenging the false teachers. They also expressed thanks for the help.

The bore well that we provided in Ibrahimpatnam was a great value to the community even after rains relieved the drought. Floods fouled the surface water so that it was undrinkable for weeks. The church was able to provide safe water for themselves and for their neighbors.

The Lincoln church participated in the nationwide neighborhood canvassing evangelistic effort that was promoted by House to House Heart to Heart on October 5. In about an hour ten of us distributed 239 tracts. We were able to engage ten of our neighbors in conversation, but none indicated an interest in

studying the Bible in the near future. We are committed to keeping the gospel before the eyes and ears of the city and county, and we pray at every assembly for the salvation of our neighbors.

Recent "God Has Spoken" newspaper column topics have pressed the need to read and study the Bible. Special emphasis has been on the fact that the Bible is understandable. God designed it to be understood and created man with the capacity to understand it. Of course, He expects us to understand it and obey it. The weekly column appears in the print edition of the Lincoln Courier, with links both from the print and online editions to the church web site.

Twelve Bible correspondence students submitted a total of eighty-seven lessons during September and October. There is still one person studying the Hebrews course. The others are online students with International Bible Teaching Ministries.

The Confirming the Churches Bible Class series on "Defining Marks of the Lord's Church" ended on September 25. After three lessons on the principle and need of restoration, both personal and congregational, I received a request for lessons on Sabbath keeping. That 3-part series began October 23. All of these are on the "Confirming the Churches" page on Facebook. You can join the 15-minute class every Wednesday at 10:00 central time simply by navigating to that page.

Sybil and I greatly enjoyed our October 13 visits with the churches in Harrisburg and Egypt, Arkansas where we reported in person with pictures of the work we have done over the past two years. Our work will continue online and in print over the winter months. We are seldom idle, though we do look forward to holiday visits with children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews.

Thank you for your constant prayers and support. May God our loving Father bless you with peace, hope, and good health.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

Confirming the Churches

www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC



Preaching in Riverview

Contributions received September 1 - October 31:

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$1,000.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$300.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Wayne Mardis	\$25.00
Mall City	\$130.00
Book Sales	\$111.00

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