



Confirming the Churches
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January - February Report, 2020

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

Our winter weather has been milder but our mission efforts more effective than in recent years. I have enjoyed reviewing it in preparation for this report. Our prayer is that you will be encouraged by news of what is happening in the Lord's churches that we have visited.

We have published two new tracts since the first of the year. In January I edited and retitled our oldest tract. In 1992 in Commerce, Georgia. I wrote "Introduction to a Study of the Bible." The first tract I ever wrote, it has been distributed in at least five countries in at least three languages. The revision is now titled "May We Study the Bible Together?" February's tract is lessons learned in the conversion of the Ethiopian (Acts 8). Showing that rejoicing in Christ follows baptism, it is titled "Faith, Confession, Baptism, Rejoicing." Both of these should be available for reading, download or purchase through skywaypub.org. I just noticed that there are some broken links on that site, but those should be fixed before you read this.

Two thousand tracts were re-printed in the Telugu language in Ibrahimpatnam during January. With every printing brother N. Vijaya Rao is able to provide many churches with much-needed teaching and training. Requests for more literature of this type, and for personal visits, have increased in both number and urgency. Please pray that God will continue to bless us with good health and freedom to publish and travel.

Skype class with Krishna River Preacher-Training School were conducted on January 12 and February 9. Those are my dates; the students were assembled on the 13th and 10th. Ibrahimpatnam is 11 ½ hours ahead of U.S. central standard time. I sit at my desk at 9:30 Sunday night and talk to them at 9:00 Monday morning. Our classes usually last one hour. Recently the internet connection has been strong through that whole time. Occasionally in the past we have been cut off by a broken connection that could not be re-established.



Our previous report told of the urgent need for financial support for Krishna River Preacher-Training School. With great joy and thanksgiving to God and man we are able now to say that the school is supported through the end of this term in September. The Loris, South Carolina (where brother **Ram Ramdeen** has preached since the church was planted) church got us through January, and the Lincoln, Illinois church has committed to seeing us through to graduation. Lincoln's preacher **Doug Adams** has been our constant encourager and supporter in all of our work. May God richly bless these men and the churches in which they serve Him. There is plenty of unpressured time now for others to consider picking up this work for the next batch of students. We have opportunity to increase the number of students but that requires increased financial support for room, board, and classroom supplies.

The constant need for Bibles in India was helped by several of you over these months. The **Mall City** church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the **Griffith family** in Saline, Michigan, and one anonymous donor contributed a total of \$240. That bought over 80 Bibles. Those have been purchased and distributed to area preachers who have further distributed them to needy Christians.

Back in North America we are encouraged by news from several regions. Last time we reported that a preacher was committed to moving to **Riverview, New Brunswick**. **Stephane Maillet**, who was reared there and preached for several years, is planning to return this spring. Stephane, his wife, and their three children were in Knoxville, Tennessee for two years while he increased his education. Stephane is currently preaching in Wisconsin. They plan a May return to the Moncton area.


The church in Houlton, Maine is another group of God’s children for which we have been seeking preaching assistance. In recent weeks three families have taken notice of the need. They are not planning to move there themselves, but they are praying and spreading the word. We are confident that the Lord will bless that church with encouragement. We are planning to be with them for over two weeks this summer. Our plan is to spend time encouraging each member in the word, to seek to restore those who have fallen away in recent years, and to evangelize the town as much as we can. We have invited Christians from other Maine churches, and from across America, to join us for at least a part of that time. We plan to be in Houlton from July 25 through August 9. Can you consider giving a few days (or more) to God in that city? If you can do nothing more your presence in a Sunday assembly would encourage those precious saints more than human language can describe.

On January 19 I returned to the first church I visited after I began this mission work full time. The brethren in Saline, Michigan still enjoy peace and harmony. They are doing what they can for the Lord in their own communities and beyond. Brother **Michael Olney** supports his family in secular labors and gives his discretionary time to edification, exhortation, and evangelism. The brethren asked for a report on our work, so I gave them a summary of what we have done since leaving there 3 ½ years ago.

The “**God Has Spoken**” newspaper column continues weekly in the Lincoln Courier. The Lincoln church also sends House to Heart to Heart to local addresses. We occasional enroll neighbors in Bible correspondence studies through these printings, but the greatest benefit they have is as “door openers.” When we talk with our neighbors we can show or tell about the newspaper article and direct mailing. It helps to create a comfort level in talking about eternally important topics. The current issue of H2H has an article that I wrote for the purpose.

One woman who enrolled in the correspondence course as a result of the direct mailing over a year ago is still sending in her lessons occasionally. From time to time she invites me and Sybil or one of the women in the church to study in person. Now and then she visits the assemblies of the church. Sybil and I had the privilege of teaching her about Jesus in her home once in January.

My work with **International Bible Teaching Ministries** continues to occupy a couple of hours every day. In these two months ten Bible correspondence students submitted a total of 161 lessons. Nearly every day there are questions to be answered. Recent topics for these extra discussions have included baptism, the Lord’s supper, music in worship, forgiveness, and the relationship between law and grace.



**Confirming
the
Churches
Bible Class**

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Free Bible study and teaching literature for mission churches

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Confirming the Churches Bible Class is still a firmly-scheduled part of each week. These lessons are still streaming live on Facebook Wednesday at 10:00 AM central time, and are archived there on the Confirming the Churches page. Recent topics have been Hebrews chapter 12, once-saved-always-saved?, how an apostate Christian can be forgiven and restored, how churches may safely accept Christians wanting to transfer from other churches in this age of change, withdrawal from sinning Christians, how churches may function without elders, what churches may do in assemblies, and the oneness of church doctrine.

We greatly appreciate your prayers and support, and we thank God for you daily. May Father in Heaven keep you hope of eternity with Him.

In His service,
A. L. Parr
Confirming the Churches
www.acts1541.org
www.youtube.com/c/AlParr_CTC

<u>Contributions received January 1 - February 28:</u>	
the oneness of church doctrine.	\$2,400.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Loris Church of Christ	\$400.00
Saline Church of Christ	\$100.00
Griffith family	\$50.00
Anonymous	\$60.00
Mall City Church of Christ	\$180.00

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