



Confirming the Churches
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November - December Report, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, family and friends,

Thanks be to God our children, grandchildren, and we still have no Covid-19 symptoms. We don't know anybody near us who has contracted the virus. A niece in southern Illinois tested positive, and was isolated for a while, but did not get sick.

Our only travel during these months was a November 9-11 trip to Michigan to celebrate the 17th birthday of our granddaughter. When the news was heavy with reports of a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases we called our children in Michigan and Texas asking them not to travel across several states for Thanksgiving. They all thought it best also to cancel travel plans for Christmas. That left us observing both holidays at home alone. We did have a video call with the Grandchildren while they opened gifts on Christmas morning.



In December we regained possession of the farm in Will County. The buyer had suffered a stroke and defaulted on the mortgage. Through a long legal process the farm reverted to us on December 16. We have a short-term renter in it now; we'll decide after winter whether to lease or sell it.

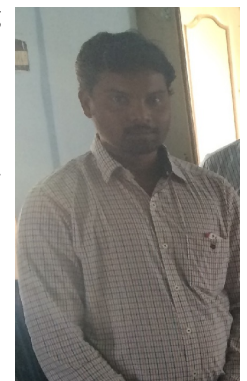
CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Lincoln. Over a year ago I had asked to be excused from song-leading responsibilities because my voice was neither strong nor steady enough to do a good job. For the past six months or so that issue has not been present, so I asked to be put back on the schedule. I led the singing on December 6 and did not experience the earlier frustration. On December 13 Sybil and I hosted our annual "Carols and Cookies" event. More than half of the church gathered for more than two hours to sing carols, share Christmas memories, and refresh with seasonal snacks.

Ibrahimpatnam. The church still has only about half of the members assembling each week. The elders and preachers are able to visit personally with those who are unable get out. Brother N. Vijaya Rao continued his traditional "32-days' gospel meetings" in December. For many years he has preached every day from December 1 through January 1, traveling among churches as much as a day's journey away from home.



Krishna River Preacher-Training School. The subject of the monthly video lesson in November was in response to a request from the elders of the church. Preachers traveling around the region have often been asked why the church of Christ is better than any other church. I was asked to write a tract to answer that question. I wrote the tract and sent it to the translator for printing and distribution, then taught the material to



N. Suvarna Prasad

the students and visiting preachers via Skype on the 8th. On December 6 my lesson was "The Conversion of Cornelius." That had been requested by N. Suvarna Prasad, the director of the school, because the students had some persistent confusion over certain points. Will you please help to spread the word that more support is needed for this school? We need to find also a new sponsoring church for this good work. There is information online at <http://www.acts1541.org/KRPTS.htm>. Thank you for doing what you can.

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

Scenic Hill. T. V. Samson Raj has cleared the necessary prerequisites for his second eye surgery and is awaiting the arrival of a lens from America. The surgery on the first eye was completely successful; we are looking forward to a full restoration of his clear sight. His work with three churches in and around Hyderabad, two orphanages, two preacher-training schools, a leper colony, and a large Bible correspondence program continues to be seriously underfunded. A narrated PowerPoint presentation is online at <http://www.acts1541.org/reports/Report%2018October20.m4v>. Please view that report and do what you can to help this nationally-respected evangelist get back to the work that he is so well equipped to do.



Scenic Hill meeting house

LITERATURE

Two new tracts were published in these months. November's tract was "Seven Truths the Wise Acknowledge." This is from a sermon that I have been preaching in gospel meetings since 2016. Brethren in India asked for it in tract form. It has been translated and printed in Ibrahimpatnam, and now also here in English. December's tract was that mentioned above: "Why Should I be a Member of the Church of Christ?" The request for it was in the context of a specific application in India, and I intended to publish it only there. As my preparation notes grew I saw that it could be written for spiritual benefit in America as well. Our printer in Lincoln has had more business than he can handle in a timely manner, having lost some employees during the last quarter. His overload speaks well for the local economy generally, and it slows our turnaround time, but we have been able to stay on our schedule of publishing one tract per month. I have the next one ready to go to him in January.

The commentary on the epistles to Timothy and Titus did not get finished in December, but is very nearly so. It should go to the printer in January and be ready for distribution by March 1, 2021.

ONLINE TEACHING

Confirming the Churches Bible Class. The 15-minute class is on two Facebook pages: "Confirming the Churches" and "Skyway Publishing." Topics of lessons during these months have included obedience to the law of the land, attitudes toward the Bible, how preachers are supported, and the conversion of Cornelius. On December 16 I began a series of studies of the first epistle of Peter. Those have included "facing distresses" (1:2-12), "holiness" (1:13-21), and "a pure heart" (1:22-25). These are all pre-recorded and scheduled to appear on the pages on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 central time. Due to upcoming travel I have recorded and scheduled videos through January 13, continuing in First Peter.

Bible Correspondence Courses. Eight correspondence students submitted a total of 52 lessons. One completed the International Bible Teaching Ministries course but has resisted every effort to persuade him to leave the Baptist Church and obey the gospel of Christ. In December one student enrolled in the "Email Bible Course." It is one of the courses I offer to those who complete the IBTM program and want to continue in online study with me. The student who started my Hebrews course dropped out some months ago.

Telephone Text Message. Sybil has recently been receiving a daily e-mail devotional message via SMS (text message). Written by brother Jeff Collett in Tennessee it is called "Morning Message." To minimize his own data charges brother Collett asks recipients to forward the text to others. Sybil finds the messages helpful and is willing to forward to any who want to receive it. She forwards it to me. Text your request to her at 734-548-7020.

Thank you for your support. We pray daily for your faith, peace, and good health. May God soon remove Covid-19 from us and restore our liberty to meet with others freely.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

Contributions received November 1 - December 26:

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$2,400.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Doug & Kathy Adams	\$200.00
Dave & Melissa Reeves	\$100.00
Various who handed me cash	\$134.00

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