



Confirming the Churches
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January - February Report, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, family and friends,

As we have been blessed to do for the past year we begin this report by saying that we still have no Covid-19 symptoms. We don't know anybody near us who has contracted the virus. My sister in Florida tested positive but had none of the usual symptoms.

We have found to be true what we have heard others report in various parts of the world: even during the Covid travel and assembly restrictions we have found increasing opportunities to preach the word by various means. Please rejoice with us in the blessings of God in our "present distress."

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Lincoln. The Christians who meet in Lincoln have continued to contribute willingly, and in some cases "beyond their power," to evangelism and benevolence at home and abroad. Every month Doug Adams (our preacher) and I remind them of the "Dollar Challenge" for Bible correspondence work in Hyderabad, and every month they overwhelm us with their generosity. I am again taking my turn at leading singing in our assemblies; my throat issue of a year ago has cleared up to allow it. We have been pleased to entertain the Reeves and Adams families in our home several times in these months. Their visits are always an encouragement to us, though our prayerful purpose is to encourage them.

Ibrahimpattam. Attendance in assemblies is still no better than 50% of pre-Covid numbers, but those not assembling seem to be worshipping in isolation. The elders and the preacher visit in several homes each Sunday for worship with the shut-ins, and often through the week to do what they can for the poor and suffering. A severe storm again caused major damage to the roof of the meeting place. We sent funds for repair and received photo and video reports of the work in progress and finished. As I write this report one of the orphan girls under the care of the church has been in the hospital for over a week with Covid. Her name is Lakshmi. She has been a special charge of the preacher's wife, Rajeswari. There is much concern for her health, and much need of your prayers. The hospital bill has severely taxed personal and congregational resources. If there is any way that you can help, at least \$1,000 is urgently need now.



Krishna River Preacher-Training School. Though with distancing and masks the students and faculty continue to meet daily for study and training. My Skype class with them on January 17 was from Isaiah 2 as we considered the church in prophecy. On February 14 the topic was "Forbearing One Another in Love," the subject of my recently published tract. Some area preachers and some graduates of the school usually attend these lessons. They take notes on my lessons and preach them broadly as they travel among village churches. In January the Lakeside Church of Christ in Springfield, Illinois began contributing to meet the needs of this school. Thank you, brethren, for your generosity and for your sincere concern for the training of preachers in the bold proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

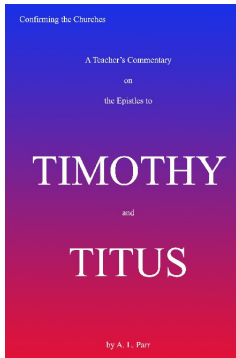
Scenic Hill and International Bible Academe. This is the home church and primary work of T.V. Samson Raj in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. It has been severely underfunded since the summer of 2017. A few months ago Samson initiated a "Dollar Challenge" to those who wish to support the work in a small way. Individuals contribute the price of "a cup of coffee or an ice cream cone" to the extensive Bible correspondence program. Members of the Lincoln church, and some others as we travel, make their contributions through me and we add some of our own. I send them to Samson's sponsor, Ripley Church of Christ in Ripley, West Virginia, who then forward our contributions with other funds to Samson by bank transfer. In these two months we have sent \$365 from here for that good work. Send your contribution to us, or ask for direct transfer information please.

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

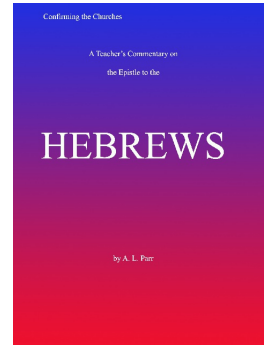
LITERATURE

Tracts. The first new tract of the year – the 29th currently in publication – was written in answer to questions recently received both from India and the U.S. The apostle Paul wrote in II Timothy 3:12, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” Christians are sometimes concerned when they don’t feel persecuted that perhaps God does not consider them to be living godly. Some who are not yet Christians don’t want to obey the gospel because they fear persecution. The tract “Must We Suffer Persecution” answers both concerns by closely examining both the immediate and the broader context. The text does not say that every Christian will of necessity be persecuted. You may request copies of this tract by phone or email. See the letterhead for details.

Several of our tracts need to be reprinted. We are staggering the printing to control our cost and prevent a backlog with the printer. This month a reprint was ordered of “Keys to Understanding ‘The Revelation of Jesus Christ’.”



Books. We published two new books in the past 3 weeks. “A Teacher’s Commentary on the Epistles to Timothy and Titus” has been in the works for several years. Last fall I set out to complete it, and finally got it to the printer on February 5. (Our tracts are printed locally in Lincoln; our books are printed by Kindle Direct Publishing, an Amazon company.) “A Teacher’s Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews” was completed and published in India in 2002 but had never been published in America. After finishing the Timothy and Titus commentary I edited the Hebrews work for Kindle specifications. It was delivered to the printer on February 13. Both books are now available on Amazon. Also on my Authors Page at Amazon are “Introduction to Old Testament Books” and “Basic Facts About the Holy Spirit Compared With Common Modern Misconceptions.”



All these may also be ordered directly from me by phone or email. There are descriptions and ordering links on our publishing web site, which is www.skywaypub.org.

ONLINE TEACHING

Confirming the Churches Bible Class. Studies in First Peter continue each Wednesday on Facebook. Recent lesson from chapter 3 – verses 1-6 (wives), verse 7 (husbands), and verses 8-17 (Compassion, Love, Kindheartedness, and Courtesy) – have been especially well received. You can find all these on the Confirming the Churches page and the Skyway Publishing page on Facebook.

Web sites and YouTube. This week I have begun long-overdue updates on our two web sites and our YouTube channel. All past reports are now on acts1541.org. All books and tracts are listed and linked on skywaypub.org. The videos require additional editing before uploading to YouTube, but that is in progress as well.

Bible Correspondence Courses. Since mid December our correspondence students have been relatively quiet. In January and February only four students have sent only twelve lessons. Those still corresponding have not been asking questions as frequently as previously. One was sick for a long time, and another has been a very sporadic student over the past year.

Thank you for your support. As always, we pray daily for you. If there is ever anything that we can do for you, please let us know. Of course, if you know any churches in difficult or remote locations who need training or encouragement, we want to know how we might help them. May God bless you every day.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

Contributions received Dec. 27 - Feb. 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	\$400.00
Lakeside Church of Christ	\$1200.00
Mall City Church of Christ	\$300.00
Various who handed me cash	\$365.00
Book Sales	\$91.20

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