

Acts1541.org
world evangelistic work of
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Sponsored by
Harrisburg Church of Christ
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Harrisburg, AR 72432
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October 12, 2010

Dear brethren,

Your 2010 fellowship in the work of "Confirming the Churches" has been productive of glory to God, and has been much appreciated in three countries. In Canada, a discouraged leader in a house church of five members renewed his zeal in teaching, and the church has grown by two in just one month. In India, the faculty and students in a school of Bible studies have renewed their zeal in learning and teaching God's word in many ways and places – and their followup studies resulted in 18 added to the Lord within two weeks. In America, Chris and I feel greatly blessed by your concern for and participation in our work – and the Harrisburg church has taken a renewed interest in evangelism both at home and abroad. Thank you for your material and spiritual support.



Kingston, Ontario, Canada

As a result of our weekend evangelistic meeting in August brother Gordon Gibson, with renewed zeal, increased his promotion of correspondence courses and personal contacts. Through those efforts one Christian has been restored to faithfulness and has placed membership with the local church. Additionally, one soul has been baptized as a result of the combined efforts of brother Gibson and the restored brother. Two house studies have begun in different parts of the county, as other members of the church have opened their homes and invited their neighbors to come for weekly Bible studies. The whole church is

lifted up in enthusiasm for Christ, and for presenting Him to the community.

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

I taught seven days in September, for an average of 4½ hours each day, in International Bible Academe. While teaching an overview of the book of Revelation I saw the class size grow each day. With 52 students enrolled we had an attendance by the end of the week of 83 as word spread that classes were being taught that men might not want to miss. The additions were graduates of the school, off-duty faculty and members of local churches. Enthusiasm remains high a month after the class, as e-mails come in thanking me for giving them a clearer understanding of the book that they had not previously known well.



On the Sunday I was there I was the guest preacher for the first worship hour in the new assembly of the Scenic Hill church. The new hall is nearly three times as large as the room previously used, and yet it was not large enough to hold the number of souls who attended.

Averaging approximately 200 in attendance, the church that day, according to brother Samson, director of IBA, was a little over 400. Using the message of the book of Revelation as a text, I spoke on the Christian's ultimate victory and the reason to persevere in faith against the hardships of poverty, Hinduism and Mohammadanism (all of which are strongly characteristic of the community).



Brother Samson told me on Sunday afternoon that there were several visitors in the assembly who had spoken afterward to some of the members about being baptized. Two weeks later I received an e-mail from brother Samson stating that 18 had been baptized so far as a result of that lesson.



Harrisburg, Arkansas, USA

I have seen, and the elders confirm that they have seen also, increased Bible knowledge among the members, greater interest in spiritual matters and more evangelistic activity as results of my teaching by word and example. Concern for the salvation of the lost and for the spiritual welfare of the saved is increasingly evident in the public prayers of the local church. Frequent comments of members express their desire to increase our world evangelistic work next year. Several of the members contributed to the foreign works reported on here.

Confirming the Churches, 2011 and Beyond

Our work of "Confirming the Churches" has received requests to teach next year in Nigeria, Kenya and the Bahamas, as well as in the two churches we visited this year and other cities in India. Inquiries into our availability and how we might help have come from the Philippines and United Arab Emirates. We have tentatively committed so far only to a return to IBA for 3 weeks in October.

Since 1972 we have seen the need and been determined to help in many parts of the United States. Most of our years in the church have been with developing churches in mission fields, and with small, not fully-organized churches. We have looked forward to the time that we might be able to help train and encourage churches without elders, without a sufficient number of trained teachers, and even without preachers. There are many such churches in our home country, especially in the northwest and northeast. Our desire is to fulfill as many requests as we can for vacation Bible schools, gospel meetings, teacher/preacher training classes and interim preaching responsibilities, all at no expense to the church. **Our goal is to begin this work full-time with the beginning of 2012 under the sponsorship of the elders of the Harrisburg Church of Christ.**

Jeff Heitman of Jonesboro, Arkansas has agreed to be our co-worker in fulfilling some of these requests. In the two-plus years that I have known Jeff I have been impressed with his sincere desire to help Christians see the need – and the joy – in being more active in service to God than many have been in our generation. In late 2008 Jeff designed and directed a program to train men of the churches in our area to lead the saints in worship. He recruited teachers with careful consideration of their soundness and their preparedness to teach on the particular subjects of leading singing, leading prayer, making announcements, serving at the Lord's table, and even in preparing and delivering gospel lessons. The school was attended by about 30 men from about a dozen churches in northeast Arkansas over last winter. Jeff is eager to work with us among churches in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and we are thankful to have his ability and his zeal on the team. He will be responsible for his own financial support.

There is a web site that describes the nature of the work that we are doing. The site is a work in progress, but you may visit it for further information at www.acts1541.org (My complete resume, with references, may viewed or printed at www.acts1541.org/res10.pdf). I designed and maintain that site, and also the site for our sponsoring church at www.harrisburgchurchofchrist.com, on which you may read the weekly church bulletin and other information. I also make daily (Monday-Friday) entries of biblical messages on the church's Facebook page (search "Harrisburg Church of Christ"), and will be publishing soon a Facebook page for Confirming the Churches. These will give samples of my current teaching, and you might find helpful personal information on my own Facebook page (search "Al Parr").

Of course, I will be quite happy to answer personally any questions you may have about my doctrine and work. In addition to the contact information at the head of this letter, you may send e-mail to alparr@acts1541.org, or you may call my cell phone at (903) 721-0332.

Your help has been instrumental in many thanksgivings to God in three countries in 2010. Can you please continue to help us with this much needed work in 2011? Perhaps one or both of the following opportunities is within your capability:

1. **We need \$5,000 for works planned in 2011.**
2. **We need tentative commitments now that churches will seriously consider putting us in the budget for 2012.** We don't need commitments of support at this time (though we won't refuse them if they're offered); only to know that you will seriously consider it when you prepare your 2012 budget. The Harrisburg elders, who have agreed to sponsor our full-time work beyond 2011 request this courtesy so that they may make their own plans regarding both local and foreign work in the latter half of 2011.

Contributions may be sent to:

Elders
Harrisburg Church of Christ
P. O. Box 266
Harrisburg, AR 72432
ATTN: Parr Mission Work

Thank you for standing strong in the service of Jesus. **Thank you** for giving serious consideration to our world evangelism efforts. **Thank you** for your prayers on behalf of our labors for the Master. **May God always bless you** for your heart of faith.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

P.S. If you already support, or know of, a church that could benefit from this kind of help, please help us to contact them so that we might offer them our assistance in their local service to our Father in Heaven.. Thank you.