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Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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September-October Report

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Dear brethren, family and friends,

Because of its content, which represents the success of our work, this is one of those reports that is fun to write and a pleasure to send. I pray that you may appreciate it and be encouraged by it.

As previously reported, we began a personal evangelism class in my living room on May 20. I have followed a plan of my own development in teaching Christians that they can be confident in speaking to their neighbors. For months we have been praying specifically for people that class members have said they would like to teach. On September 18 two of the ladies in the class told me that they had recently been feeling confident about bringing up spiritual subjects in discussions with their acquaintances, and were even more encouraged by the feeling they got in doing so. On the 22nd one of the men in the class told me that he had been emboldened to start teaching in a Bible correspondence course program. He was very excited about it. The elders of the Greensboro Road church donated to the class copies of "Muscle and a Shovel," the highly popular book by brother Michael Shanks in which he describes his own conversion to Christ. The class members have been more than moderately excited by what they have read. Some have given or loaned their copies to unsaved family members and friends, and have discussed a plan to buy a copy for each member of the Saline Church of Christ. Needless to say, they are making me a very pleased teacher.

Members of the Saline church have conducted several studies with non-Christians during the past two months. Apparently because it is no longer a novel thing for them to discuss Christ with neighbors, they are no longer reporting to me all the studies. I do hear them, however, discussing with others in the church some of their experiences in those studies, so I know that they are increasing in this commission from our Savior. Excitement for personal involvement in evangelism is growing among the saints in Saline, Michigan. Even some who are not in the training and motivation class are becoming engaged in teaching others. We have several times had some of those neighbors visiting in our assemblies. An unexpected result of this teaching activity and enthusiasm is that members of area churches of Christ have visited with us to see for themselves what all the excitement is about. Two families, totaling 5 souls, have recently placed membership with us. They transferred from two churches that have been departing from the Bible in adding to the work and worship some practices that are not authorized by God. Both of the ladies told me after their first visit with us that what they see in Saline is the church of Christ as they remember it from earlier years.

During the past two months I finished the 8-part preaching series on translating the Bible, and wrote a 12-lesson "Fundamentals of the Faith" series for the teen Bible class. I am currently teaching that latter series, and am also converting it into a correspondence course to add to those 8 courses already in use by the church in its nation-wide teaching program. In this period I have also preached in Saline on prayer & miracles, Hell, seeking God, the true character of a Christian, personal evangelism, benevolence, church growth, living sacrifice, and restoration (of the church and of the individual). The questions answered during the fifth Sunday evening assembly on September 29 regarded attitude toward repeated requests for benevolent help for one person, the necessity of baptism for salvation, the "tabernacle" in Hebrews 9:2, and the "captivity" in Ephesians 4:8. The Saline church web site (which is www.salinechurchofchrist.org) has audio files of all my sermons preached here (but not of the Bible classes). On October 6 I was privileged to preach in the assemblies of the Greensboro Road church on "Confirming the Churches" from Acts 14-16, "A Proven Plan For Church Growth" from Acts 8:1-4, and "Less and More," a lesson on conversion taken from Romans 12:1-3 and organized according to the thoughts of the song "None of Self, and All of Thee."

By applying a small personal windfall to the work, I was able to do some more printing over the summer. The following were printed, and most of them already distributed:

225 copies of "Why Should I Be Baptized?"

100 copies of "Introduction to a Study of the Bible"

50 copies of "Spoken in These Last Days"

50 copies of "Can a God of Love Be a God of Wrath?"

Copies or samples of these are on the web site under the "Tracts" tab. Two hundred copies of the promotional brochure also were

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Printed reports are mailed to supporters, and to others who specifically request them.

printed. Most of these have been sent to churches in the northern Midwest to promote this work where it's needed, and to solicit support from those interested. Some of those copies of the tract on baptism were customized with contact information for the Ridge Road church in Ypsilanti, and were paid for by them. When requested - and when resources are available - I make a print master of my tracts with contact information for the church which will distribute them. Several churches have taken advantage of this service; some have taken the master and done their own printing. Others have paid at least a portion of my printing costs.

The web site has had some minor changes in the past few days, updating details and correcting known errors. If you see anything mis-spelled, or find a link that doesn't work, at www.acts1541.org, please let me know so I can correct it. I have been planning some additional features for the site, and want to add more sermons and articles as time permits. Some of that should be added by the time you receive this report. Check the site at least once per week for new content, and tell others to visit it also.

Some of that web site work was to have been done last week - as was the mailing of this report - but has been delayed by health issues in the family. My daughter has for the past half-dozen years or so had a recurring problem with a form of glaucoma. Since about this time last year the flare-ups have been far more frequent. At times she goes nearly blind and has severe pain in one or both eyes. She was referred recently to the top glaucoma specialist in the state, and he is watching her closely through frequent office visits, treatment adjustments and various lab tests. During one recent exam she was found to have enlarged lymph nodes in her lungs, and has been referred to a top pulmonologist. The next news on that issue should be about the first week in December, as the doctor has scheduled an MRI to compare with one done 90 days earlier. As a result of all this, I have spent more time than usual caring for her children either in her home or in mine. That cuts into the time that would otherwise be given to writing, but this too is godly service. I am thankful that I am close enough to be helpful. Please pray for Angela and her family.

So far as I know there has been no response to my request for support for the family of N. Vajaya Rao in Ibrahimpatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. This is a family of five very worthy of the support of faithful Christians. There are pictures and facts of his work and his need on my web site at www.acts1541.org/Albums/Ibrahimpatnam.htm. Please urge Christians with resources to consider prayerfully the support of this family. Thank you.

Remember, please, that we expect to lose about two-thirds of our current support as of April 1, 2014. I have contacted over 160 churches over the past two months, promoting this work. If you know any Christians who haven't heard of it, you can multiply the power of your own support by spreading the word. Mention the web site or the Facebook page in your own correspondence. Ask me for a supply of brochures about the work that you can hand out or mail to people. This is your work as much as it is mine; all of us working together can lay the foundation that God can bless with amazing results (I Corinthians 3:6). If the church that Jesus built grows smaller and weaker, and is less known in our generation than in the past, let it not be because we didn't do our part to preach His name everywhere.

Thanks, and may God bless you.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
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Contributions received September 1 - October 13:

Greensboro Road church	\$500
Egypt church	\$200
Harrisburg church	\$200
Nettleton church	\$400
Drucilla McIntire	\$200
Sybil Peffley	\$200

(Make checks payable to Church of Christ and designate For: Al Parr mission work, and mail to the Greensboro Road church address in the header of this report)