



Confirming the Churches
 world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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January-February Report

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Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

The first two months of 2014 brought huge developments in the work of Confirming the Churches. As of April 1st the effort to restore the spirit and zeal of the churches, as we read it in the New Testament, will **more than double** in scope. And the plan was suggested by the leadership of the Saline church.

Please see the special appeal from India at the end of this report.

At the end of our one-year commitment here, and knowing that I had planned to leave this long-term work to work among churches on a broader scale, the Saline Church of Christ offered to support me in that work with other churches if I would stay here and work with them at least half the time. We agreed to designate the second and third weeks of each month for this broader work. This will allow much more time to focus on publication and distribution of literature, as well as to honor invitations that have been coming from other churches for special classes and other assistance.

That **available time is filling up fast**. Five churches have already asked for our help with various aspects of their work. A leadership training series is scheduled in southwest Michigan. A church southwest of Detroit wants guidance in how to search for a preacher, another wants a gospel meeting, and two want someone to fill in temporarily or occasionally while they are searching for a full-time preacher.

The literature production is a rapidly-growing element of this work. Through December and January I wrote an average of almost one tract per week for local use. Churches in other communities have requested copies for their local use, and last week a church in India ordered 450 total copies, and made a standing order for 250 copies of every new tract I write. By the time you receive this there should be an updated catalog of tracts and books on the web site at www.acts1541.org.

The last report mentioned two books being prepared for publication. The groundwork is being laid now for the **publication of at least five books**. Two that are high on the list are sermon collections. One of those, a reprint of *Lessons From the Church Manual* (published in 2006), focuses specifically on the restoration of the New Testament church. The other (tentatively titled *The Gospel of Christ in the Prophecy of Isaiah*) is a printing of a sermon series that I have preached over the years about Isaiah's prophecies of the Kingdom of Christ.

The two books mentioned previously are much nearer publication, and one of them will probably go to press about the time you receive this report. I told you in January about the work on the development of the English versions of the Bible. That book is progressing well, but has recently been put back to second on the schedule. We're still planning a summer, 2014 publication, however, there has been considerable interest in a book I finished about five years ago, but have never published. Over 20 years in production, and approximately 300 pages in length, it is titled *Introduction to Old Testament Books*. A sample section of this book is posted on the web site, under the Books tab. Last week a school of preaching ordered 2,000 copies of it. That's the book I expect to send to the printer next week.

All of my books are designed with the average Christian in mind. In many churches there are faithful souls who want to teach but don't have access to, or time to use, technical commentaries and textbooks. People who comment on my preaching and teaching are most often pleased that I explain difficult concepts in simple terms. Small churches, especially, have to depend upon teachers who work all week at secular jobs, and have too little time available to study in preparation for teaching the Bible class. My goal is to publish commentaries, books and study guides that will help those dedicated Christians to understand the material and organize their thoughts more effectively in less time.

In February we printed 900 copies of seven **tracts**. Four existing tracts were reprinted:

- “An Introduction to the Study of the Bible”
- “10 Observations on the One-Cup Doctrine”
- “Can A God of Love Be A God of Wrath?”
- “Spoken in These Last Days.”

Three titles were added which had been written for the local use of various churches, but had not previously printed in quantity:

- “Receiving Transfer Members”
- “Does Hand-Clapping Worship God?”
- “‘Curse God and Die’? (Hand-clapping as Worship: A Principle Applied).”

The **video lessons** mentioned in the previous report are still in the planning: **urgently needed**, but not finding the time for production. We have, however, made progress toward getting more **audio lessons** published. In addition to adding sermons to the web site, we are developing audio versions of the “Short Commentaries” that you may already read on the web site, and that are posted on Facebook daily Monday through Friday. I’m not yet ready to predict when these audio files might be available online, but the only thing preventing that publication now is time.

The **personal evangelism class** in Saline has resumed. Members of the class began two new studies in February, and restarted one that had drifted off. We have agreed to purchase copies of Michael Shank’s book, *Muscle and a Shovel*, for the entire church. When we finish our current series of studies, we plan to use this book as a study text in this class, and to encourage more of our brothers and sisters to join us in it.

The study of the **Life of Christ** continues on Wednesday nights and the series of sermons from Paul’s **prison epistles** is nearing its conclusion on Sunday nights. All local sermons are posted on the Saline church web site, which is www.SalineChurchOfChrist.org.

Michigan has experienced record snowfall and cold temperatures **this winter**. Over the past 3 days we have begun to see some melting, but the “snow mountains” pushed up in the clearing of the parking lot reached over 6 feet high and 20 feet wide. Today, March 10, I can see grass in my yard (in 3 small spots) for the first time since December 13. I am a hot weather person, and very much looking forward to some summer weather.

Please know that I am sincerely **thankful** for your support and your other interest in this work. May God bless you always.

Please help me to find a sponsor for the faithful servant of God who wrote the following letter. I work with him, and will vouch for him.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
alparr@acts1541.org

Dear Beloved Bro A. L. PARR.

Greetings from our hearts and salutes to you all in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Bro I am kindly requesting once again please help me with daily bread for my family members and the poor widows and orphans. My younger son met with an accident and he needs some medical expenses. I have no money in my home. I know so many times I received your great help so please consider my request.


My work is in truth day and night. I will travel to so many places and I will preach the New Testament truth to the thousands of people in my country I have given the many baptisms and established many churches of Christ in many villages.


Today my wife and my myself we prayed to God some hours and we also prayed the tearful prayer how my family was in such a poor position.

My wife, two sons, church elders, members, orphans and widows are conveying our thanks to you all. We are so anxious to see you in person in our Ibrahimpattanam.

Thank you very much, N. Vijaya Rao

God Has Spoken
Tract Series

CAN A GOD OF LOVE 

 **BE A GOD OF WRATH ?**
by A. L. Parr

“Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, who is on the Lord’s side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men” (Exodus 32:26-28).

Such passages of scripture as this are offensive to some people. A man told me, “I just can’t believe in a God who goes around killing people.” Moses had the same idea (Exodus 32:32).

At first thought my correspondent may seem to have a good point. Here is God leading his “chosen people” out of slavery into a “promised land,” and at a stop along the way he orders one tribe of them to “go in and out from gate to gate” killing their brothers, companions

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Contributions received
January 1 - February 12:

Greensboro Road church	\$500
Egypt church	\$100
Nettleton church	\$400
Drucilla McIntire	\$200
Sybil Peffley	\$400
LeAisha Kensey	\$ 25

(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.)