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Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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May-June Report, 2015

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

May God bless you for your constant support and fervent prayers for this expanding and increasingly productive mission. Our first goal is to encourage churches of Christ to hold to the truth and resist temptations to follow the ways of others into popular doctrines and methods. As you well know, we have recently been given a great eye opening toward the seriousness of the need for such encouragement. While the national uproar among people of respectable moral character is only a few days old as I write, in this report I shall tell you of recent efforts of the kind that can help many be bold in their stand for God and truth.

As word of this mission spreads my correspondence load increases every week. Our first motivation to encouraging small and isolated churches came long before even the imagination of the internet in the minds of the public. Today, churches that are not communicating electronically are missing a large percentage of the souls that could be introduced to the word of hope in Jesus Christ. Every Monday through Friday my day begins with over two hours of answering Bible questions through social media and e-mail. Preachers ask for help in understanding scripture, or advice in dealing with issues that arise in the church. Some simply need a friend with whom they can talk about what burdens them. Currently there are six brothers who write or call me at least once every week. Some are trying to prevent discouragement, two are trying to prevent the church from splitting.

As you might expect, this kind of communication results in the distribution of tracts and books. Not infrequently a realization appears for the publication of literature on topics not already addressed. In recent months I haven't taken as much time as I could have for writing. Rather I have been out of town in gospel meetings or giving that time back to the Saline church. Three of the next eight weeks are now scheduled for concentration on writing and printing new tracts.

The preacher training via Skype continues for the preachers in Ambajipeta, Andhra Pradesh, India. That has become an every Saturday routine. We are usually connected for an hour. Most of that time is given to answering questions that they have asked during their week's studies. Another preacher in another city in India is wanting to begin a similar class.



Confirming the Churches Bible Class

Online Tuesday, 7:00 PM EDT

That kind of online distribution of teaching by audio and video means – even in “real time” – is a big part of the marvel that I couldn't have dreamed of in the beginning of our preparation for this work. It has, however, expanded our opportunities many-fold. The weekly Confirming the Churches Bible Class continues every Tuesday evening. All previous classes are archived on YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/AlParr_CTC) and Google Plus (www.Google.com/+ then search for Al Parr). You can join the class live every Tuesday at 7:00 PM eastern time at either of those venues or

www.acts1541.org/CTCclass.htm. We are studying the book of Acts with a view to encouraging the church to revive the spirit and service of its earliest days.

The previous report mentioned gospel meetings in three consecutive upcoming months. I told you about the meeting in Clyde, Ohio. The June meeting was rescheduled for November because the church had a June schedule conflict. In May I was in northeastern South Carolina for a mission meeting with the Loris Church of Christ. This church is only about five years old, and the only church of Christ serving a wide, mostly rural area about 45 miles northwest of Myrtle Beach. It is a sound, hard-working church with a good meeting location and a specific plan for future work. The multi-racial membership comes from three countries, and seems to be completely at peace with a common purpose.

Also in the April report I asked you to read a letter from brother Bontha Swarna Raju. I gave you a non-working link for that letter. Brothers and sisters, the need is serious and the church and preacher are worthy of our loving assistance. I do not usually encourage foreigners to assist in the construction of meeting houses for churches in India, but the current arrangement for the church in Kamepalli is far from conducive to worship, and is wholly inadequate to their safety (I decided not to put the picture

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of the snakes that invaded one Sunday morning). Please read the letter at <http://www.acts1541.org/reports/Kamepalli.pdf>.

The winter semester of Michigan Bible School ended in early May. All the students, faculty and staff urged me to continue on the faculty. The director asked me to teach this fall, but I have two foreign missions planned during that time. He has reserved a slot for me in the next winter semester.

The 45th anniversary of the Saline Church of Christ was a great weekend of encouragement to all who attended. The peak attendance at any one assembly was somewhere around 110. Those who counted weren't sure they got everyone. One of the former preachers chose not to participate because he does not agree with the church's stand in opposition to the teaching of the so-called "AD 70 doctrine." That put a damper on some of our early planning, but did not disturb the actual weekend event. I took his place in the preaching schedule.



Kamepalli Church of Christ

Planning for my annual September mission to India is in the advanced stages. I am to leave Detroit on August 31 and return on September 15. Already twelve churches are on the itinerary for gospel meetings and preachers' lectureships. Literature distribution is being planned: new tract titles have been requested and printing is being arranged. A crate of clothing for children and teenagers is being prepared for shipping in mid-July. My budget for this trip is \$5,000, which includes flight, lodging, in-country transportation and lodging for myself and my translator, tract printing, and minimal assistance to the preachers, widows and orphans we meet at each stop. We still need \$3,000 of that amount. If you can make a one-time contribution – or know someone who can – in any amount, it will be an investment in souls. Indians – especially in southern India – are among the most evangelistic and spiritually-minded people in the world. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way toward teaching the gospel to neighbors.



Loris SC church of Christ

The web site (www.acts1541.org) lists literature currently available, as well as audio and video recordings of sermons and Bible classes. Visit the web site, the Facebook page and the You Tube channel often to see what is going on with this work and how you can help. "Help" does not always mean "money." Just telling others of the lessons that may help them is evangelistic work toward the salvation of souls. Spread the good news wherever you can whenever you can by every means you can. Our country needs the message that guides you every day. Your neighbor needs your help to see the light. How may I help you help them?

Thank you for your support and prayers, and may God bless you.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. L. Parr'.

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Facebook: Confirming the Churches
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Contributions received April 16 - June 14:

Greensboro Road church	\$500
Egypt church	\$100
Nettleton church	\$400
Lealsha Kensey	\$50
Sybil Peffley	\$400
Book & Tract sales	\$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)