

Confirming the Churches

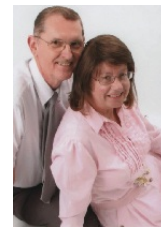
world evangelistic work of Al Parr

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January-February Report, 2017

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

With your generous financial support and gracious prayers this mission has entered a new year with enthusiasm and growing recognition. With excitement and anticipation we have also begun the transition to a new home base that will provide greater efficiency and more opportunity for service. May we tell you about it in these pages?

The winter months of course bring few opportunities for travel among the churches. It has always been our plan to concentrate on literature production and distribution during this time. On January 3 we sent the pocket tract (described in the December report) to a church in Wisconsin. We did something different in that delivery. When sending tracts to India I have sent an e-mail copy of the electronic file of the text and graphics. The printer there formats according to my recommendation and prints locally. It saves us the double expense of printing and shipping. For the first time we followed the same practice for a U.S. distribution. That won't work for all North American deliveries, but with some we can save money by shipping directly from the printer. In the past we have kept the inventory here, then shipped to those requesting copies. It will often be more efficient and less costly to keep a minimum inventory on hand but drop-ship from the printer when tracts are ordered across the country.

Introduction to Old Testament Books (Revised) is now available on Amazon for \$14.95. You can also order it through our web site, www.acts1541.org, and directly from the printer at wwwcreatespace.com/6798806. The Kindle version is not yet available due to technical issues that have so far been difficult to resolve. I have been working on the next book in the "Teacher's Commentary" series. We expect to be able to publish the commentary on First Timothy during the month of April.

It has been our goal in this new year to produce one tract per month and one book per quarter. The book plan appears to be on schedule, but we did not print a new tract in January (later in this report is an explanation of some of the interruptions). The new tract for February is "Keys to the Revelation of Jesus Christ." It is a condensation of a sermon that I have several times preached under a similar title. There are twenty-six specific statements in the last book of the Bible that define some of the figurative language, and even date the events that are described. These are listed with comment in the tract, which also includes information on the figurative language used in the book. See the contact information at the head of this report.

A missionary in Brazil is producing a book to be titled, "The People of God." He has asked various gospel preachers around the world to contribute chapters which together will describe how to become, and to live as, a Christian. My chapter, titled "Walking in the Light," was researched and written during these two months and submitted recently.

A growing part of our work is teaching and encouraging preachers and others by correspondence. Several times each week I receive requests for help in answering particular issues that arise in churches around the world. Sometimes their questions can be answered in a short letter, but we have sent many articles, sermon outlines, study guides and links to online studies. These have gone to the U.S., Canada, India, Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya and the Philippines. This did not appear at first to be a significant part of the work, so I did not keep statistics, but I have recently seen the need to do so. The feedback from these distributions has been only positive.

The Jeremiah videos I sent to KRPTS were overwhelmingly appreciated. Near the end of their study of the subject I arranged a live Skype video call so they could ask questions and I could summarize the book for them. Students and faculty are asking for more videos and Skype calls. **Brethren, this school needs the support of a sound church.** Perhaps it will need several contributors (the monthly budget is for about \$1,300), but someone is needed to coordinate the sending of this support. I have full information and can arrange for communication or transportation to evaluate the trustworthiness of the work. If you know any church that might be interested, please tell me how to contact them - or give them the contact information at the head of this report.

Our online Bible Correspondence teaching continues in the U.S. and Canada. More students are beginning to ask for additional teaching beyond the scheduled lessons, and one is carefully studying baptism at this time. We still have no students in the Frederickton area, where we had hoped to plant the church this summer.

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

We still are looking for someone - perhaps a team of two or three families - to move to the Moncton area to help a small but well-established church. The current preacher, who is leaving this summer to further his education, has done a lot of evangelization and promotion in the local communities. In the past two months two souls have been baptized into Christ who previously had no connection to anyone in the church. Studies are continuing with others from community contact. It is a good work for someone with a missionary heart. Who do you know that might be interested in asking for more information. As we have previously stated, Sybil and I are prepared to stay there for a couple of months if necessary to help a new family get settled.



One-third of the Riverview, N.B. church

The Crown Point, Indiana church, with which we regularly worship, is just such a church as defined in our mission statement. The church was planted here about 15 years ago and has a strong, committed local nucleus, but needs encouragement for stability and focused service. They are in the process of construction for a new meeting place, and are saving money by not having a located preacher until they get moved into it (probably next fall). In the mean time several men take turns in the pulpit. I have preached five times in the past ten weeks, and in January began teaching the adult class on the book of Hebrews. We are seeing a growing enthusiasm in the church. Almost all of the men and about half of the women have recently commented that they understand the Bible better and are determined to practice it more.

The online "Confirming the Churches Bible Class" continues to stream live on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 central time. Four preachers join me at different times to teach that the church today ought to be what the apostles first taught it to be. Two of the churches with which those preachers work are actively promoting the class on their web sites and print media. Are you promoting it among the Christians you know? You can help to strengthen the church by doing so - and of course by watching (see the web site).

With the preacher in a Wisconsin church we have been discussing the possibility of our conducting a VBS in their area in 2018. This is one of the offerings we list on the web site, but this is the first time a church has approached us on it. I have written four VBS programs over the years. It is some of the hardest work I have done, but it is fun and the end results have been well commended.

Sybil and I both had good dental checkups in January, but she had a medical issue that took some time, and not a little trepidation. A growth on her leg was diagnosed as a skin cancer. It took three weeks to get into the surgeon, but he was able to get all of the malignancy. She is healing on schedule - still has three or four weeks to go according to the doctor.

The biggest interruption to the writing has been our labor of preparing the farm for sale. We have done some minor repair work and painting on the house, and will have some more of that after some furniture is removed. There has been a lot of sorting and hauling. Several truckloads have gone to recycle drop-offs and three more loads to a thrift store. The weather was great for this work for most of the first six weeks of the year, but winter temperatures returned last week so the outdoor work has been on hold again. The plan had been to move this spring to central Illinois, but last year's mission schedule put our preparations behind. Now we're thinking perhaps late this year, or more likely next spring.

Thank you for your prayers and kind words of encouragement. Do you know any churches who could benefit from our help?

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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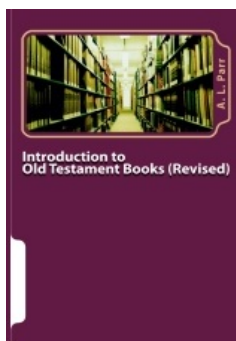
www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

www.createspace.com/6798806



Students who scored 95% or better on first KRPTS exams



<u>Contributions received December 31 - February 27:</u>	
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Elizabeth Williams	\$150
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