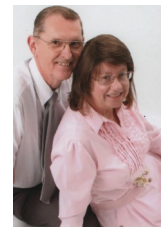


## *Confirming the Churches*

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### *May - June Report, 2017*

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

Thank you for your continued interest in this mission, and for your support and prayers. Spring was a happy, productive time for us personally and for our mission. In these early days of summer we are back on the road again for what is projected to be our longest trip of this year.

I haven't taken as much time to promote our books and tracts as I would like to have done, but we did sell three more copies of the *Introduction to Old Testament Books* in May. These were purchased through Amazon. You can see that listing at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) if you search "Introduction Old Testament Books (Revised)." Of course, all books and tracts may be ordered through our mission web site, or by telephone (see the heading of this report). We also sent the last fifteen copies of the first edition of that book to a church in south India. When the preacher wrote last week to say that he had received them he said that he had requests for fifteen more. Books and tracts were given to churches and individuals in Illinois, Indiana and Florida during these two months.

Copies of the Holy Spirit study guide, mentioned in the previous report, were running low, so it has been edited and sent to the printer. The editing was so extensive that the new printing will be designated "Second Edition." The publication date is July 28. Tract inventory was increased for the current trip to Alabama and New Brunswick. We reprinted various quantities of five tracts: "10 Observations on the 'One Cup' Doctrine"; "Is it True That 'Once You're Saved, You're Always Saved'?"; "Why Doesn't This Church Use a Piano?"; "In Remembrance of Me"; "What is the Church of Christ and How Does One Become a Member Of It?". The cost for this printing was \$300.62. Printing and distribution of literature is the part of our mission that most needs additional financial support. Printed teaching material is the second-most-requested item of support we receive from Asia, Africa, and South America (the first request is always Bibles in local languages). It is the most requested item from North American churches and Preachers. Online versions of all these tracts may viewed - and even downloaded if you wish - at the web site. The format of the distributed print version is different.

As you know, the focus of this mission is strengthening and encouraging small remote churches in North America. I do the same by correspondence with preachers in many regions of the world, and Sybil and I schedule one mission in person to India each autumn. We buy Telugu language Bibles in Chennai for \$4.00 each and distribute as many as we can (which is usually far fewer than are needed). **Will you donate 10 Bibles at \$4.00 each for distribution during our September mission to India?** You may send a personal check to the address in the heading of this report, send to our PayPal account ([office@acpenterprises.org](mailto:office@acpenterprises.org)), or even call us with your credit card.

In recent weeks we have been made more personally aware just how deep is the need for the confirming of the churches in parts of North America. Ignorance of the Bible among Christians opens the door to an unlimited variety of innovations and departures from the God-given pattern for the church. People that we know and love have lately begun to offer hand-clapping as worship to God, and promote the doctrine of theistic evolution. We frequently encounter defense of the "one cup" doctrine with regard to the Lord's supper (see my tract on that issue at <http://acts1541.org/tracts/10Obsv.pdf>).

One very disappointing practice seemingly becoming more prevalent is condemnation of the church and her preachers. It's the tactic of the "change agents" of 20 years ago. They don't call people back to the Bible, but harp on what's wrong with the doctrines and practices taught by respected preachers of recent generations. Their purpose is to get people to go along with their different ways. Perhaps it would be good here to remind you of our purpose and motivation.

The commitment of this mission is to reassure Christians, especially where they are few in number and without many trained preachers and teachers, that the "old paths" are right. When the apostle Paul returned with Barnabas to the churches they planted early in their first mission journey they went to them "confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith" (Acts 14:22). "Confirming" here is "establishing besides, strengthening more." It is the fulfillment of the Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:20 that after souls are baptized into Christ the evangelist is to continue "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever" Jesus has taught. When Paul, Barnabas, Judas and Silas read to the Antioch church the words of the apostles the brethren "rejoiced for the consolation" (Acts 15:31). The word translated "consolation" means "exhortation, admonition, encouragement." The church was exhorted, admonished, encouraged and consoled by the teaching of the inspired word of God. Taking Silas, Paul began his second mission journey

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



**Confirming  
the  
Churches  
Bible Class**

**Tuesdays, 6:00 PM CDT**

“through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches” (Acts 15:41). Coming to Lystra and Derbe, “as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily” (Acts 16:4-5). “Established” here is “strengthened.” They were not planting new churches in this work; they were establishing more firmly the existing churches. Their means of doing so was delivering the decrees ordained of the apostles and elders.

Across the northern states and Canada are many churches that are small in number and meeting at great distances from their nearest brethren. They find it difficult to attract well-trained, experienced preachers, and most of them have no trained teachers for their Bible classes. Due to the distances involved and the regional weather conditions they have few, if any, opportunities to visit with other churches of Christ. Some have become discouraged and left the church. Some have been willing to accept any teaching that will come along, and thus have been led into apostasy. I have lived in these northern states for years - have preached in many cities on both sides of the border - and have seen all these problems first hand. Sybil and I are committed to visit with as many of these churches as we can in person - to stay as long as is practical to encourage them - and to provide whatever books, tracts, study guides, and multi-media teaching and training material may be helpful to them. This is the mission of Confirming the Churches for which we solicit prayers and material support. Thank you for being a part of this effort that may prevent some souls from falling away, and some churches from disbanding altogether.

We have told you that we are planning to sell the farm and move to town in order to give us more time for writing and travel. We have a firm verbal agreement on a suburban property that will suit our plan admirably. It’s availability is planned for between 6 and 12 months from now, which suits the plan of the man who wants to buy our farm within the same time frame. In the mean time, in the limited time we have been at home this spring, we have intensified the cleaning and trimming activity on the farm to make it more marketable so we can move away from this time-consuming responsibility.

In May I participated in a series of meetings with various men of the Crown Point church concerning dis-unity that has been exhibited from time to time in recent years. The church is at peace again now, but one family left due to the repeated hurt this issue causes.

Over Memorial Day weekend Sybil and I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of my high school graduation in Atlanta, Illinois. In all these years I had attended only three previous reunions, the last being the 25<sup>th</sup>. Former classmates came from points as widely separated as Virginia and Colorado, Chicago and Orlando, but it was amazing to me how much we still have in common and how much we all enjoyed the time together. During the weekend we scheduled time for a supper with several siblings and cousins in the area. It was also during this weekend that we viewed several houses and found the one mentioned above. It was a fulfilling weekend.

The weekend before Memorial day we ourselves had been in Orlando visiting with my mother on the occasion of her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. My sister lives nearby, so we enjoyed refreshing visits with both of them. Mom is still in good health and living independently.

On June 1-2 we traveled to southern Indiana to visit with Sybil’s aunt and her husband, a semi-retired gospel preacher/missionary. One of Sybil’s sisters from Alabama spent the following week visiting with us and others.

Thirteen people attended a party in our house on June 16. Twice each year we schedule a bonfire of the tree trimmings. Neighbors and friends have come to look forward to the fun and food we have at these events. It gave me an opportunity to preach the gospel to all present (several were not members of the church) by way of tract distribution. I urged them to study the Bible with us.

**Krishna River Preacher-Training School is in need of financial support** in India. Your support of this worthy work will allow us to direct our personal resources to the great need here in the U.S. and Canada.

We began this week a journey to **Riverview, New Brunswick, Canada**. This church is still looking for a preacher, or any experienced faithful Christians to live and work with them. Sybil and I are on our way to be with them for the month of July this year, and would be very happy to have you join us for any part of that mission. Contact me for details: phone, email or Facebook.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

**Confirming the Churches**

[www.acts1541.org](http://www.acts1541.org)

[www.youtube.com/c/AIParr\\_CTC](http://www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC)

[www.createspace.com/6798806](http://www.createspace.com/6798806)

Contributions received April 28 - June 28:

Egypt Church of Christ	\$200
Elizabeth Williams	\$100

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