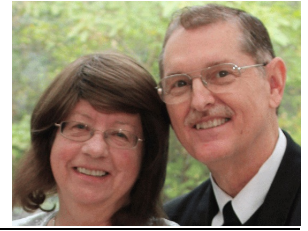




Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al & Sybil Parr
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January - February Report, 2019

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

Sybil and I pray that 2019 has been kind to you from the beginning, but more that you have been gracious to all whom you have met in it. Our winter schedule has continued, which is to say a lot of correspondence and online teaching, but has been interrupted by health issues.

Our year began with work on additional videos for KRPTS. I have been editing my 14-week series on Jeremiah and Lamentations. It has been a slow process due to a slight incompatibility between the editing software I'm using and the format in which the videos were originally recorded. It will take a while, but the brethren in India are not in a hurry; they probably won't schedule this class until next fall. The videos we prepared last quarter and sent over via brother Jack Honeycutt was delivered to brother Suvarna Prasad on January 12.

On January 9 Confirming the Churches Bible Class streamed for the first time on Facebook. I am enjoying being back live rather than pre-recording, then editing and uploading. We started with a study of modern problems in the church that are similar to problems that were in the first generation of the church. Paul's first epistle to the church in Corinth was our lesson plan because Paul addressed at least eleven specific problems in that epistle. I asked viewers to tell me what problems they had encountered and would like to study. The number of lessons increased overnight from eleven to twenty seven. Lessons to this point have been on Unity (I Cor. 1:10), Adultery (I Cor. 5), then we interrupted the Corinthian list to take up the suggestions of viewers: Apathy, Gossip, Attendance, Self-righteousness. All of these are archived on Facebook at Confirming the Churches, and some of them are also on YouTube. Lessons are currently scheduled through July 9, but if you would like to hear a lesson on a particular problem in the church please let me know.

On January 11 I began a new blog. New articles are published weekly on Friday on the theme "You Can Understand the Bible." You may read it at www.ConfirmingTheChurches.com. There were two weeks that I didn't publish anything there. Details on that are later in this report.

Several months ago I had suggested to two area preachers the possibility of starting a Bible study school in the region for all interested persons. On January 14 discussions were held with leaders from a half dozen churches in central Illinois about it. There didn't seem to be much optimism beyond myself and the first two, but all agreed to discuss it with their home churches and consider it again at a later meeting.

I graded 167 Bible Correspondence lessons in these two months. These studies have been especially encouraging recently. More students are asking questions, and some of those questions require a good deal of time. Recent questions have concerned elders in the church, the conquest of Canaan, the period of the Judges, the identity of the church, and the wrath of God. I don't know these students personally, of course, and all are from backgrounds of false or incomplete spiritual teaching. I try to meet them where they are spiritually and help them to move closer to Christ. One of my students was baptized into Christ the first week in February. Jennifer has continued to impress me with her sincerity in Bible study and pleasing God in her life.

Informal studies are conducted almost daily by electronic correspondence (Facebook, Messenger, e-mail, web sites, and several mobile apps) with preachers and other Christians in three countries. Subjects of those are generally of a textual nature ("please explain this text"), which is my favorite type of study.

The "Short Commentary by Al" series that began in the local church bulletin about 15 years ago has continued on Facebook (without the title) for the past 10 years. It is usually about 10 to 20 lines on a particular verse or subject and is posted on various pages (average is 6) depending on subject. I typically post it Monday through Friday, but occasionally skip a day due to travel

or work load. When it is posted it is always posted first on the Confirming the Churches page, so you can scroll through that page for recent teaching. It occasionally generates discussions with non-Christians and weak Christians. One of these was with a man who argued that the Bible is not the final written record of God's authority on earth today. He wasn't arguing for any other, but simply that the Bible is not authoritative.

That "polar vortex" you may have heard about around the end of January kept us in the house for two days, and that included Wednesday night. The high temperature was minus 4 and the chill factor was minus 27 (that's cold for around here). Most of the church lives out of town and had agreed not to drive the highways. Highways had announced that they would not be out doing rescues and had strongly urged people to stay off the roads. The others who live here in town had said that they weren't taking their small children out, so Sybil and I stayed home and studied with a preacher in a 1994 lectureship video. The time at home gave me time to work on the Timothy/Titus commentary and to catch up on some correspondence.



The monthly (though we missed January due to mis-communication on the date) video to Krishna River Preacher-Training School was on February 3. I call at 9:00 AM Monday their time, which this time of year is 9:30 PM Sunday my time. The Skype feed is routed through a projector and onto a screen in front of the class. Sometimes I teach a class and sometimes I answer questions. This time I taught "You Can Understand the Bible." The class is smaller now than previously. They teach a group for two years, then start another what they call "batch." The first batch was 15 students. The second is only 8. It was encouraging to hear that all the men in the first graduating batch are still preaching the gospel.

On the evening of January 5 I took Sybil to the emergency room. She had been suffering nausea and vomiting for about 24 hours. She has had at least six trips to various doctors and labs since that time and still they don't know the cause of her problem. She has had about every blood and organ examination we can think of and still she has bloating and nausea after practically every meal. The only thing the doctors can say is come back at various intervals for more tests and we'll compare results. She's not sick; she just has to deal with discomfort after eating.

On February 8 the family was called to my mother's side in a Florida hospital. We sat with her through her final hours on the 11th and then worked together through the remainder of that week in the necessary business.

We thank you greatly for your generous response to our previous appeal for Bibles for India. There will always be a need, and a Bible that would cost you \$30 here will cost only about \$3 there. There is never a deadline on those contributions, so please send what you can when you can. Thank you.

"God Has Spoken" continues to appear in the Lincoln Courier every Friday. You may read each week's column at www.acts1541.org/ghs.pdf.

We pray for you daily, and for all the churches, that each Christian will be a glory to God and a light to salvation to all who meet them. Do you know small churches in difficult locations that we may encourage? Thank you for your prayers, words of encouragement, and material support.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

Contributions received January 1 - February 28:

Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Lincoln Church of Christ	\$400.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Book sales	\$20.00

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