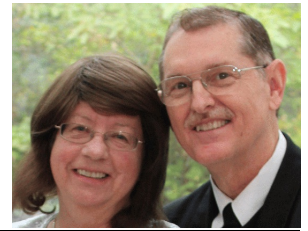




## *Confirming the Churches*

world evangelistic work of Al & Sybil Parr  
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### *March - April Report, 2019*

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

As I write this we are in the midst of a gospel meeting with our home church in Lincoln, Illinois. It is a great way to end this reporting period, which has been a time of communicating with brethren and scheduling our summer mission tour.

We have about 80 students enrolled in Bible correspondence studies through International Bible Teaching Ministries in Dacula, Georgia. During these two months 15 of them submitted a total of 129 lessons. We correspond regularly with Larry Dominguez, who was baptized as a result of these studies while we were still in Saline. He doesn't use a computer; we are sending lessons and personal letters through the regular postal mail. Larry has continued faithful to Christ even in the harsh environment of the Texas prison facility near Palestine.

The blog I started in January continues to receive compliments. The number of subscribers is small but the readership is a good bit larger. Something about the software interfered with several of the uploads, but the last two uploaded and displayed properly. The purpose of the articles is to urge Christians to see what the church was in the beginning and to consider whether some of the modern western customs might be taking us away from God's plan for the church. That, of course, is the theme of all of our work: the preaching trips, the printing, the blog, the Facebook page, the online Bible class, and the daily correspondence with preachers in several countries. You may read the blog at [www.ConfirmingTheChurches.com](http://www.ConfirmingTheChurches.com). If you subscribe to it you will get automatic email notifications when new articles are uploaded.



Confirming the Churches Bible Class, now on Facebook, streams live every Wednesday morning at 10:00 central time. I intend it for a 15-minute class to encourage greater viewership, but it typically runs 18 to 20 minutes. It is anchored to our Facebook missions page, Confirming the Churches. We have been in a series of topics that relate to problems in today's church that were also addressed in the New Testament in the days of the apostles. In the past two months we have addressed Pornography, Bible ignorance, not evangelizing, anger & bitterness, materialism, covetousness & greed, not giving sacrificially, judgmentalism, and "little faith." All of these had been suggested by Christians from their personal experiences in various churches. All classes are archived on the missions Facebook page.

After discussing with the church for several months what they wanted in it and how it should be presented, I have published a new web site for the Lincoln church. We're still adding content to it but the site looks as it will for the foreseeable future. Please make use of anything you can find at [www.lincolnILchurchofchrist.org](http://www.lincolnILchurchofchrist.org).

A long-running series in our "God Has Spoken" column in the Lincoln Courier has considered numerous truths about Heaven, including terms of entrance. These articles are not archived anywhere online, but you can see each week's current article at [www.lincolnILchurchofchrist.org/ghs.pdf](http://www.lincolnILchurchofchrist.org/ghs.pdf).

From the beginning it has been our intention to avoid long-term financial connections with the churches we serve. Our focus is teaching, training, and physical service as desired by the various churches. Occasionally we ask other brethren to contribute to legitimate needs in specific locations, and we thank you for your generous responses to those requests. There are, however, two works that we support directly. Both are in Ibrahimpatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. The Chris Parr and Mariyamni Home for Orphans and Widows provides shelter, food, and clothing for about fifteen destitute and homeless widows, and about 4 orphans in like circumstances (both numbers vary month to month). We send \$100 per month.

Our only other direct financial involvement is support (Also \$100/month) for the director of Krishna River Preacher-Training School. It is to that school that I make a monthly Skype video call for encouragement and teaching. Sometimes I teach a class on a particular topic and sometimes I spend the entire time answering questions of the students. This month I taught from my tract "10 Observations on the One-Cup Doctrine." That heresy has recently disturbed several churches in eastern Andhra Pradesh, so the elders asked me to teach the truth on it. At least two of the preachers who heard the class preached the same lesson the following Sunday. I sent to N. Vijaya Rao the text of the tract and money for printing. They have been distributing the tract where the divisive teaching has gone.



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

Working with correspondence students and area Christians we have been planning Bible studies in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia this summer. A family has moved to Fredericton, NB and has been talking with neighbors and co-workers about spiritual things. Correspondence students from two families in western Nova Scotia want us to come and teach their neighbors. A Christian in Halifax is ready to join us for that. We are excited about the possibilities. Please pray with us for the salvation of souls in those cities.

In March we twice visited the Crown Point church, and once the church in Hammond, Indiana. During the visit on the first weekend of the month we had the pleasure of joining the usual Tuesday lunch group at Golden Corral in Merrillville.

We were blessed to be able to help the Lincoln church several times recently. Doug Adams had health issues that kept him down for over a week, and at reduced activity for another similar period. On March 31 I preached "Is the Bible for Today" and "The Due Order." The first lesson answered the error that says that the Bible is not relevant to today's society. On Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> I taught "The Just Shall Walk by Faith" and on the 10<sup>th</sup> I taught the epistle to Philemon.

Sybil and I are both in excellent health. I had my annual check-up at VAMC in Danville, Illinois on March 7. At 69 years of age I still take no prescription medications, and see a doctor only for these annual check-ups. The only significant concession to age is that on April 9<sup>th</sup> I was fitted for hearing aids. I had been frustrated in trying to sort out one conversation from another in room of several, and had noticed inability to hear with understanding some voices in the higher frequency range. We're still tuning the aids but I think we're making progress toward improvement in both areas.

My 9-year-old Dell presented me with that dreaded "blue screen of death" in late March, so I spent about a week configuring a new Dell XPS desktop computer in early April.

Over the weekend of April 18-22 we joined the Michigan grandchildren in Louisville for their annual Lads 2 Leaders convention. Eight-year-old Vlad was awarded trophies in both public speaking (3<sup>rd</sup> of 12) and song leading (top 6 of 22). His puppet team was awarded second-place in their division of 8 teams. Over 1100 Christians attended from nine states.



That Sunday morning we had occasion to see an example of some of the modern digression in the church. Checking the web sites of the four churches nearest our campground location we chose to meet with the only church that did not advertise "Easter Services." We were in the parking lot when the preacher arrived. He apologized for being late because he and his family had attended the joint "sunrise services" of the Methodists and Baptists. Later he appeared to preach in a long black satin robe with red ribbons. In our conversation after worship he twice referred to himself as the pastor of the church. Friends, these things do not "speak as the oracles of God" (I Peter 4:11), nor do they "follow his steps" who suffered for us (I Peter 2:21).

On April 24 Sybil's sister-in-law, with whom she had been close, Lawona Barnes, died after suffering with bone cancer. Due to the local gospel meeting we were unable to go to Alabama for the funeral. We plan a trip next week to be with family.



On April 26 we distributed flyers in the neighborhood of the meeting house, encouraging folks to join us for the Bible studies. The theme of the meeting in Lincoln has been "The Existence and Authority of God." On Sunday we talked about "wrestling the scriptures," how to determine what is authorized, and reasons to believe in God. We'll end April with evidence of creation and the certain existence of God in Heaven.

May God our Creator and Judge – our eternal spiritual Father – bless you with peace, hope, and good health.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. L. Parr".

A. L. Parr

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[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 March 1 - April 29:**

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$400.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Mall City Church of Christ	\$210.00

**Thank You for Your Support**

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