



Confirming the Churches
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March - April Report, 2020

Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

First, we are thankful to be able to tell you that we are free from infection of the coronavirus. Thank you for your prayers and inquiries. Of course we pray for you every day, and have included in these recent weeks a petition for your continued freedom from it.

For the past two years we have targeted March of this year to make a trip to visit with friends old and new in Arizona. We left home on March 4 for the first trip with the new RV we purchased in December. (It's a Reflection 150 Series 5th Wheel by Grand Design.) The trip took us through seven states and to visits with four churches (see a slide show here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZMOSfatXUw>). The original motivation for the trip was a visit with Sybil's school days friend. They have known one another since the fourth grade and have stayed in touch through all these years, but hadn't visited together for about ten years. Other friends from churches in Indiana and Illinois spend their winters in Arizona; we extended our stay to visit with them also. It's a long trip so we stopped for visits with friends in Missouri and north Texas on the way out, and with our son in east Texas on the way back.



Sybil & Glenda



After we arrived in Arizona we began hearing of governors closing various services, locations, and events. (I had looked forward to visiting a Cubs spring training game on our second stop, in Mesa, but baseball shut down before we got that far.) Until the last three days of our 26-day trip we had no other interruption to our itinerary or plans. Churches were meeting in northern and southern Arizona, but when we arrived in Tyler, Texas we had to worship with our son alone in the RV. We had planned to go from Tyler to the Memphis School of Preaching lectures, but that event was postponed to next year while we were still in Arizona. After Memphis we planned a few days with family in north Alabama. Memphis being cancelled we extended our reservations in Alabama and planned to stay for a full week. The day before we were to arrive the family there unanimously asked us not

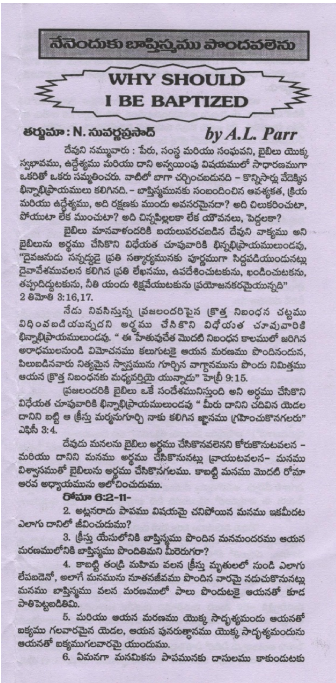
to come due to concerns about our having traveled such a wide area and been close to so many people. We cut our trip a week short and came home on March 30.

We printed four thousand more Telugu language tracts in Ibrahimpatnam during April. The students and staff of KRPTS prepared them for mailing to preachers in several districts. After the Bible these tracts are the primary – often the only – spiritual literature available to many in outlying communities. A tribal area church we have three times visited was begun through these tracts. Vijaya Rao gave this report: “the first time Brothers Satyam Babu and Hari Babu visited the tribal area they went there by carrying only your tracts. They distributed the tracts door to door. When the people there saw those tracts they held the tracts with their hands and they started reading the tracts. Then after that the church was established. AMEN, my bro really this all happened by your tracts.” He reports that 50% of the churches in Andhra Pradesh have received these tracts, and urgent requests come regularly from all quarters. We are trying to compile accurate statistics. We need to keep the tracts in print, and we appreciate your help in doing so.



Brother N. Vijaya Rao, preacher in Ibrahimpatnam, was in the hospital during the last week of April with throat issues that required surgery. We do not yet have particular information, but we have heard that the surgery was successful and he is now back at home. He himself has written to me that he is well but resting.

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



Example of a translated tract

Skype classes with Krishna River Preacher-Training School were on March 1 and April 13. Some of the students, in their preaching in the streets, had been asked about Lent. They asked me particularly to teach them how to answer those questions. That was our March 1 topic. On April 13 the students asked for explanations of various symbols in the Revelation. In every such class there are preachers from area churches in attendance. Each of those more experienced preachers expressed his sincere gratitude for the help with some the more difficult passages of that book.

The circumstance of virus-related international travel restrictions dictated that the Maillet family return to Canada earlier than planned. They arrived in the Moncton area in early April and have already reported what is for that province rare and extremely good news. He has begun private Bible studies with three who are not Christians. Our mid-summer trip to the Maritimes is still uncertain pending the removal of travel restraints.

The plan has not changed to be with the church in Houlton, Maine in July and August, but the uncertainties of the national situation have prevented our making any reservations or a specific agenda.

As of the end of March we have suspended the “God Has Spoken” newspaper column in Lincoln. In all the time we have printed the weekly column we have heard one acknowledgment from the community, and it came without indication of interest. For the same amount of money we can print 4,000 tracts in Ibrahimpatnam, or 1,000 here in Lincoln. In April we sent the money to relieve some of the suffering of saints in India now without day-pay jobs due to business closures and stay-at-home orders.

During our western trip we were often without adequate internet service. Still, we were able to continue with our Bible correspondence students, though with some long gaps between contacts. Over the two months thirteen students submitted a total of 92 lessons. Both numbers were less than we had in the previous two months, but the number and scope of the questions they asked was the largest I have received in the fourteen years I have been using these particular courses, paper and electronic. I answered questions and requests for information on over twenty-five topics, including the organization, integrity, inspiration, and authority of the Bible. Two asked how to become a member of the church. Two others were given contact information for the church in their areas, though there are no baptisms reported to me during these months. Questions we hear almost every month were not absent this time: whether evolution is true, what evidence is there for the existence of God, and whether baptism is necessary for salvation. I was asked what the Bible says about the COVID-19 pandemic. Several asked about our health and safety as we traveled. Two completed the final (the 6th) course in the International Bible Teaching Ministries program; one of them requested further study and continued correspondence with me for topical studies.

Confirming the Churches Bible Class was skipped two weeks in March due to our inadequate internet service, but otherwise continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 central time for about 15 minutes on Facebook. We also now are running a daily (Monday-Friday) Video Short Commentary at 6:00 PM central time on the same venue. These are 5 minutes in length and intend to explain words, phrases, or verses that are not always easily comprehended by the average reader.

Sybil and I pray daily for your health, faith, peace, and hope. We greatly appreciate your prayers and support, as also your words of encouragement and the reports of your own work. (Harrisburg recently dedicated a portion of their church building to the stockpiling of supplies for the relief of many afflicted by storms in northeast Arkansas.) It is our great pleasure to be associated with you all.

May our Father in Heaven keep you in hope of eternity with Him.

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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Contributions received January 1 - February 28:	
Lincoln Church of Christ	\$1,000.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00

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