



Confirming the Churches
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May - June 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 corona virus. In our entire county there have been to date only fifteen cases of infection. Most of these have been treated at home or as out-patients, and twelve are reported as recovered. 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.

Churches and Schools

We communicate regularly with the churches we have assisted in the northeast and Canada. We stay aware of their blessings and needs so that we can plan specific helps through literature and personal visits. The changing closures and quarantine policies in eastern states and Canada due to the coronavirus have today motivated our decision to forego mission travels for the remainder of this year. We plan to use the time instead to increase our video and print production with specific focus on the needs of those churches. Our web sites are in need of updating. Both of those and the two YouTube channels should see some catching up over the next two weeks.



The canceling of mission trips may not include Kalamazoo, Michigan. At last report the elders of the Mall City church were still hoping for a fall reschedule of our meeting originally planned for early June.

Stephane Maillet, now back in New Brunswick to work with the Riverview church, has sent an encouraging report. From a province in which the gospel has been very unpopular for more than a generation – and finding people to study it has been practically impossible – he wrote in part, “I am currently studying the Bible with 3 Christians who have since fallen away from the faith. They saw our online content (podcast videos/studies/sermons on the “Riverview church of Christ” facebook page) and approached me both privately and publicly in order to begin studying again. My wife is currently studying with a couple of her family members (cousins).” Stephane is also studying with spouses of two members of the church. He asks for our prayers for all of these.



Riverview, NB meeting place

Skype classes with Krishna River Preacher-Training School were on May 24 and June 21. The June class studied how a Christian should respond to Government-imposed restrictions on work, travel, commerce, and assemblies. We examined biblical examples and admonitions to serve God in faith regardless of circumstances. Elders, instructors, and students were encouraged by the information to continue doing the best they can to evangelize and teach. There has again been a border war in the north: this time with China. That region is far from the region in which we work. The country has also been plagued recently with locusts that stripped crops in a wide region. The brethren report crops completely lost as the Bible reports in Egypt and Judah (Genesis and Joel).



T. V. Samson Raj

From the mission account and from the contributions of many Christians we have sent \$1,600 to Ibrahimpatnam for the relief of suffering saints. Brother Samson in Hyderabad presented to supporters a “dollar challenge.” He suggests sending the price of “one ice cream per month” to support the printing and distribution of Bible correspondence courses. The Scenic Hill church has several thousand on a waiting list for lessons. Members of the Lincoln church responded very well to this promotion; their first month’s contributions have been sent to Samson’s sponsor, the church in Ripley, West Virginia.

Literature



Andhra Pradesh

N. Vijaya Rao reports that 50% of the churches in Andhra Pradesh have received our 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. Next week, if the Lord wills, we will print 4,000 more tracts, and then a like number the following month. The demand is such that tracts don't stay in stock long. The most popular tracts recently have been "Can a God of Love Be A God of Wrath?", "Spoken in These Last Days," "May We Study the Bible Together?", and "Should We Be Doing This?" These are all in the Telugu language. You may find the English version of each of these linked at <http://acts1541.org/tracts.htm>.

Online Teaching

Confirming the Churches Bible Class continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 central time for about 15 minutes on Facebook. This class is currently in a series on binding and loosing – examining the teaching and practice of those who divide the church over methods of fulfilling the Lord's commands for the work of the church. 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. Because our internet connection at home has been erratic of late – and because our travel often takes us to locations with poor or no WIFI – both of these productions are now pre-recorded. I am doing no regularly-scheduled live streaming at this time. I miss it, but this seems to be working better for our purpose.

Bible correspondence: Eleven students submitted a total of ninety-two lessons. Questions and requests for information covered mostly common topics. Two questioned the role of baptism in becoming a Christian. One wanted to know whether a previous sectarian immersion was sufficient now that truth is understood. One asked whether death-bed repentance would qualify for admission to Heaven. One asked whether the current pandemic is a punishment from God. One student completed the course in June, but has not yet obeyed the gospel. It never ceases to amaze me that people can read the Bible, read the exhortations to obey it, and still think that he is in good standing with God without that obedience. When a person ends the 80-lesson program without obeying I send a letter specifically explaining the gospel plan of salvation with personal exhortation. This last man answered that he is now going to pray to God for guidance and direction for the remainder of his life. His wife has recently begun to study with me. Perhaps she will see the truth and be convicted by it.



Sybil and I thank God daily for you, and pray for your perseverance in service to God. We greatly appreciate your prayers and support, as also your words of encouragement and the reports of your own work. 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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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

Contributions received May1 - June 30:

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$1,000.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Doug & Kathy Adams	\$400.00
Various who handed me cash	\$63.00

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