



Confirming the Churches
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March - April Report, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, family and friends,

Praise God, we still have no Covid-19 symptoms. We pray daily that the same may be said of you and your loved ones. Much of our time in these past two months has been given to the sad task of reclaiming the farm after the buyer of three years ago defaulted on the mortgage. He left the house and ground in a terrible mess with trash of all kinds to be burned, recycled, and hauled to the landfill. We have three times made the two-and-one-half-hour one-way trip, staying a total of 16 days. The work will yet require several weeks of cleanup and repair before we can list it again for sale. We are alternating weeks so as not to get too far behind the responsibilities at home. (This report is being prepared and mailed a week early due to that travel plan. There is no internet service at the farm, and very little time for writing.) Before all that began we went to Michigan for a week to care for the grandchildren while their single-parent father had to focus on work. We got a surprise at home during the third week of April with an out-of-season snowfall and two nights of sub-freezing temperatures. The snow covered the ground and roofs, but was all gone before supper time.

Opportunities for service in the Kingdom continue to be enough to keep us as busy as we can handle, though personal contacts have been fewer than we have been able to report previously. Here is a look at the mission of Confirming the Churches during March and April, 2021.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

We were in Crown Point, Indiana on March 21 as I had been called to preach again in Wayne Ravesloot's absence. The Bible class studied observations on the book of Job. During the worship period I preached "Earnestly Contend for THE Faith" from Jude 3. It is a lesson that was suggested by Stephane Mailet in Riverview, New Brunswick for the lectureship he directed there in 2016. I first preached it there at that time, and have repeated it in three U.S. states and in India. Christians each time have expressed appreciation for its thoughts.

Lincoln. On March 28 I began teaching the adult class from the epistle to the Hebrews. In our last report mention was made of the second publication of my "Teacher's Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews." A few years ago I made a video series of lessons on the epistle for Krishna River Preacher-Training School. The PowerPoint slides used in teaching this course in Harrisburg, Arkansas are being reworked for this current class. During this reporting period I have twice led singing in the worship assemblies: March 28 and April 11 Since the first of April I have been posting weekly updates of the church's web site. You may keep up with that at LincolnILChurchOfChrist.org.

Ibrahimpatnam. The girl, Lakshmi, who was in the hospital as described in our last report has recovered and returned home. There is, however, increased concern in the church for the health of all members because a new wave of COVID-19 infections has swept the country. At least in some areas it seems to be having a stronger effect. Brother N. Vijaya Rao continues to be an excellent teacher and encourager as the preacher of the church. Even with the travel and assembly restrictions he has been able to preach week-day gospel meetings in area churches almost every week in addition to his work with the local church. We continue to send \$100 per month for food for widows and orphans in the church's Chris Parr - Mariyamni Home for Orphans and Widows.

Krishna River Preacher-Training School. The students continue to meet daily for instruction in Bible and the work of the preacher. No COVID infections have been contracted by the students or faculty. These are first-year students in the third batch of this school's operation. My monthly visit with them via Skype on March 28 concerned the biblical description of the relationship between God the Father and Jesus the Son. In India as in America there are some who teach the "oneness" doctrine that there is no differentiation between God and Jesus, while others teach that Jesus is not the Son of God. Students and faculty

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

were especially thankful for my listing of several dozens of passages that teach against both of these heresies. One student, having been strongly confronted by proponents of the oneness doctrine, begged me for additional verses on the subject. I showed him how to recognize them in his own study.

Scenic Hill and International Bible Academe. The Lincoln Christians gave individually over these two months \$505. They continue to impress both me and brother Samson in Hyderabad. These gifts in response to Samson's "dollar challenge" go toward printing and distribution of Bible correspondences. He reports that he has been able, with Lincoln's support, to print 1,000 lessons combined in three courses, and mailed in February 665 lessons to students. They have adult courses and junior courses in Telugu and an adult course in English.

LITERATURE

Tracts. The reprinting of tracts has been slower than we intended, but the slow pace is at least steadily forward. Our preaching, family, and farm work travel have hampered my writing and editing schedule. These combined with the printer's backlog have been contributing factors. What used to be a 1-week turnaround in the print shop has recently been 3-4 weeks, and once was even 6 weeks. I don't give him more than one project at a time. The reprint of "Keys to Understanding 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ'" came back in late March. I have sent "Spoken in These Last Days" for a reprint of 200 copies. An order was received last week from northern India for copies of all our tracts. The church is not strong there, few preachers travel to that region, and helpful literature is in short supply. They cannot use the Telugu language tracts we have in the south; their language is Marathi. But English is widely understood so they are at present downloading what they want from our web site. We will be watching for the opportunity to translate and publish in Marathi should the need arise.

Books. After the publication of the two commentaries in February I set out to finish a book started six years ago. It is still unnamed but is a compilation of sermons and Bible classes that I have taught more than half a dozen times in several U.S. states. It seeks to answer a question often asked of preachers: "Which version of the Bible should I use?" The first draft of the book was finished on March 18, but our travels since then have brought it to a near stand-still. I still expect to publish it in June. Other books have been distributed since our last report. Fourteen copies of the Hebrews commentary were given to the students of the class in Lincoln. Two copies of that book were bought directly from me, and two copies were purchased via Amazon.

Samson is making a final edit of the translation of "Introduction to Old Testament Books" and has begun translation of "A Teacher's Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews." He has also the commentary on Timothy and Titus, but has chosen to translate Hebrews first because there is greater need for it in the Telugu region.

ONLINE TEACHING

Confirming the Churches Bible Class. The series on First Peter ended on April 14. I scheduled various topical studies for at least four weeks following that. April 21 was on the current climate of hate in America and God's answer to it. The April 28 class has been recorded and uploaded. It is an explanation of the rationale of the class and the mission, and an appeal for support for our brethren in India.

Web sites and YouTube. Updates to the web sites made good progress until we started the travel to the farm. Uploads have continued sporadically over the past four weeks but the files are being updated offline as time permits.

Bible Correspondence Courses. Correspondence students have been even quieter since our previous report. From the first of March through April 24 three students have completed eleven lessons. One student has asked about the use of instrumental music in worship. That is currently an ongoing discussion.

Thank you again for your support. May God bless you every day.

In His service,



A. L. Parr

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www.acts1541.org

www.youtube.com/c/AIParr_CTC

Contributions received March 1 - April 24:

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$2,200.00
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Doug & Kathy Adams	\$400.00
David & Melissa Reeves	\$100.00
Various who handed me cash	\$150.00
Book Sales	\$61.08

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