



Confirming the Churches
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July - August Report, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, family, and friends,

Thanks to your prayers and the great blessing of God we are both still in excellent health and safety. With the end of August we completed a fifth month of cleanup on the farm. We spent less time up there due to appointments and duties at home and elsewhere, but that work still seems to be controlling our time. We were on the farm for eleven days in July and only six in August, primarily removing unwanted growth in the groves and taking down dead trees. We did get that assistance of our granddaughter Paris for one week in July. She impressed us and her parents by the way she jumped into the heavy work like she was born to it.

In this period we have been twice to Indiana for memorials for departed loved ones. On July 28 it was to Lebanon for the funeral of the mother-in-law of my brother Randy. Diana's mom had a caring spirit that made her an effective nurse and a much-loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. We enjoyed many happy visits with her over the past forty years. On August 21 the trip was to Rochester for a memorial for Sybil's uncle, Gary MacDonald. Gary had been a gospel preacher and professional printer for many years. It was he who introduced us the church in Houlton, Maine. He had preached there nearly 20 years until his retirement to Indiana about seven years ago. We have enjoyed following his work in Houlton and will miss the discussions we had about preaching methods, rewards, and challenges.



Gary MacDonald

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Lincoln. Thanks to the Lincoln church for sending an additional \$1,473.84 for the relief of the suffering saints in Ibrahimpatnam. It is a joy to part of a church that is always at peace and in harmony with the word, caring for saints everywhere and seeking the lost. Sybil is still teaching the teen girls on Sunday while I am leading the adult class study of the epistle to the Hebrews. On July 11 Kyleigh Adams was baptized into Christ. She is the granddaughter of the preacher, Doug Adams. Her dad, Travis, is one of our song leaders. She is one of the girls that Sybil has been teaching.



50th anniversary banner 2018

Ibrahimpatnam. There are still some Christians for whom it is necessary or wise to avoid crowds, but attendance at assemblies has stayed above 75% recently. Most of the members are still unable to work due to gathering and travel restrictions. As a result there is a constant need for help with food and health care. The elders remain constantly aware of the need, and see that it is met when resources are available. We have been able to add \$1,000 per month to those resources for the next few months. Since 2015 I have been invited to speak each year in the annual Bible lectureship that recognizes of the anniversary of the church's planting. The past two years my lessons have been via video. This year the elders asked me to deliver four lessons. Those have been uploaded to YouTube. Suvarna Prasad is already viewing them to prepare for the translation he will do when the videos are run for the assemblies on September 6.

Krishna River Preacher-Training School. The school has been able to continue because all of the students but one stay in the dormitory next to the church building, where the classes meet. My class with them on July 25 was "Churches Without Elders." Sometimes people think that elders must be appointed whether qualified or not, and sad conditions result. It is important to know that churches can function with God's blessing – did so during the days of the apostles – even when elders are not available. On August 22 the lesson was "Jealousy, Arrogance, Boasting." These attitudes have been observed in some Christians – even some preachers – in India. They need to be recognized and eliminated during early training, and whenever they arise.

Scenic Hill church and International Bible Academe. Brother T.V. Samson Raj is mostly recovered from his bout of Covid-19. His wife Christiana is recovering more slowly. She had a more aggressive infection. A significant shortage in his support continues

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

to hinder the magnitude of his work but he still gets out to visit with graduates and other preachers, encouraging them in their work. He preaches somewhere nearly every day, even participating in Zoom meetings of preachers for their further training.



Prabhudas Sarilla

Palakollu. Brother Prabhudas Sarilla asked me to teach a class in the preacher training program of the Palakollu church in the West Gadavari District of the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. Preachers and prospective preachers from four area churches of Christ meet there every Tuesday morning for continuing education and mutual edification. He prefers to use Facebook Live. I had not used that previously but we had a good connection for a class on July 26. I taught from my tract, “Why should I Be a Member of the Church of Christ?” It helps preachers in India to answer that frequent question.

Riverview. This church evangelizes the tri-cities of Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe in southeast New Brunswick in southeast Canada. Until Covid closed the border we have visited with these brethren for extended stays every year since 2014. We send a small amount of support to Stephane Maillet for his family’s sustenance. Except for his family’s needs the church is self-supporting. Stephane continues weekly personal studies with several individuals. Visitors from the community are in most assemblies of the church. Stephane also continues an extensive teaching program on several electronic platforms. You can find details of most of his work, including links to his daily program, at www.addedsouls.com.

LITERATURE

Tracts & Books. The writing of the translation book is complete. I am selecting and placing images to illustrate the text. When that is finished the entire work will be subjected to at least two proof-readings and then will be ready for the printer. The revised projected publication date is in mid December. Translation continues in Hyderabad on the Hebrews and Timothy/Titus commentaries.

Vijaya Rao reports 1,000 Telugu-language tracts have been distributed to preachers as he has traveled on preaching tours. He also requested on a recent call that I write and send a commentary on the book of Acts as soon as possible. That has been in the pipeline for quite some time, but has been down the priority list. The publication of my class notes on the Revelation and a reprint of the study guide on Prayer have been requested first.

U.S. distribution of tracts has been fewer than 100 so far as we know at present. We count what we send out in bundles. We have no information on their use after the leave us.

ONLINE TEACHING

Confirming the Churches Bible Class. I made new open & close tags for lessons beginning the first week in July. That same week began a 5-lesson series on miracles. On August 18 we began a new series of lessons on Second Peter. With that series another new feature was added to the videos: scripture overlays. Now the verse we are discussing is displayed on the screen. The goal is to make the videos easier to look at with the intent that more people will engage in the study of scripture.

Bible Correspondence Courses. Three students sent eight lessons during these two months. From my earliest days as a Christian I have believed that written correspondence – programmed or spontaneous – is an excellent method of Bible study. I always send notes with the lessons, trying to develop and maintain a personal relationship with students. This has generally encouraged students to return their own views on spiritual topics, and to ask questions that result in more complete and effective study. I also send links to online tracts and articles on topics covered in the lessons. In recent years there has been decreasing response from students; during the eight months of this year only one. Conscious of the need to eliminate something from my routine – and seeing much more encouraging response from my tracts, books, and online efforts – I have asked the administrator of the BCC program not to send me any new students.

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

In His service,

A. L. Parr

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Contributions received April 25 - June 30:

Lincoln Church of Christ	\$3,673.84
Egypt Church of Christ	\$200.00
Harrisburg Church of Christ	\$200.00
Elizabeth Williams	\$100.00
Various who handed me cash	\$355.00

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