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Confirming the Churches

world evangelistic work of Al Parr
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November-December Report

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Dear brothers, sisters, family and friends,

May your old year have ended with blessings, and your new year begun with ample opportunities for service, is my sincere prayer to our God and Father in Heaven. This last report of 2013 will tell of God's great blessings to this work, and of some exciting opportunities opening to us for 2014.

Last summer I preached in Saline an 8-lesson series on English translations of the Bible. It's a series that began as a single bulletin article in Commerce, Georgia in 1990, and was expanded into three sermons at the request of the brethren there. Then later it was expanded to a 6-week Bible class study at the request of the elders in Jacksonville, Texas. Christians often ask preachers to recommend a Bible version, and many churches have found this series helpful in understanding why certain are recommended and others are not. These lessons discuss major steps in the translation of the Bible through various languages from the original Greek and Hebrew to modern English. They also explore the three major philosophies of translation, and identifies the application of those philosophies in the purposes of modern translators. Enough attention is given to the extant manuscripts which preserve the text that the English reader can have confidence in selecting a version for his personal use. Having listened to those sermons on the Saline church web site (www.salinechurchofchrist.org/sermons/audio - search for "Introduction to Bible Translating Part 1"), supporter Sybil Peffley in Illinois felt strongly that they should be made available in book form. She volunteered to transcribe the spoken lessons into written form in order to preserve the presentation style along with the content. She has finished that work. The plan now is that I will edit the work to correct anything I may have mis-spoken, add information deleted in the interest of time when speaking, and add the charts and pictures that accompany the text. If the Lord wills, this should all be ready for the printer by the time the next bi-monthly report is due at the end of February. Your prayers for this work are appreciated, but I would also like to hear of any interest you may have in reading the finished work. It is my goal to be ready to announce publication and ordering information in my next report.

During the past two months five new tracts were added to Saline's BCC work. These were all in answer to questions received from students, and they cover questions on baptism, the ten commandments and marriage. One very rewarding event in this work was in seeing a young prisoner turn from a plan for suicide to finding a reason to live, hope for the future, friends in the church, and even now is referring other prisoners to our Bible studies. I took personal charge of his studies and correspondence after one of the ladies received his first suicide letter. Stephan's progress has been in stages, by small steps, but the transformation has encouraged the entire Saline church as I have read portions of his recent letters to the entire assembly.

I am being urged by saints in two countries to produce video lessons for DVD and internet distribution. It is something that I have thought of over the years, but never took time to learn. You may remember that in India last February we made a 7-lesson video series of my study guide on the Holy Spirit. That was done by a professional videographer, and remains in DVD format for distribution in India. There are a few DVD's available from some of my gospel meetings in the U.S., but there has never been an attempt to co-ordinate production and distribution. Now we are discussing that possibility, and expect to have a definite plan in place during the first quarter of 2014. If you have expertise or experience your suggestions, advice and assistance are more than welcome.

The personal evangelism class in Saline was suspended in mid-November, and is scheduled to resume the first Monday in January. When I made the announcement of the resumption date, one young mother, who had not been part of the class previously, told me that she intends to participate in it this time. I guess everyone is encouraged to see that his efforts to motivate others is achieving some success. Growth like this is evident in one way or another in almost every member of the Saline church, and in others through area visits, written correspondence, e-mail and Facebook connections.

I still post daily (Monday-Friday) on Facebook short admonitions to restore the spirit of devotion and evangelism to the church, and the appreciation for that effort is growing steadily. The number of followers to my Facebook page ("Confirming the Churches")

has increased. Favorable comments are added to almost every post, and recently almost 3/4 of my posts are shared by others on their own pages. All past posts have now been added to my web site (www.acts1541.org) under the "Articles" link, and I update that page weekly. Articles from eleven years' worth of newspaper columns are being added to that collection also, as are many from a series of bulletin articles that I have printed over the years under the heading "A Short Commentary from Al." Please visit the web site often to keep up with these additions, and the upcoming additions of sermon outlines and audio files.

The Sunday morning teen class finished the study of Foundations of Our Faith, and I am now teaching apologetics. That group has been divided as two of the women wanted to teach the girls, so I have only the boys. Only two are in the church family, and neither of them is consistent in attendance, so I don't teach every week. The boys, however, do seem to be getting much from the classes, and both are saying so. I continue to teach the Life of Christ to that adult class on Wednesdays. On Sunday nights I am preaching a series from Paul's prison epistles. The series is planned for one sermon (text, topical or expository) from each chapter.

Another letter was mailed in December seeking support for this work. You can see that letter online at www.acts1541.org/CTC2014.pdf. I still need \$2,000/month after April 1. This includes housing after I leave the house that the Saline church is providing. One long-time supporter has announced the necessity to cut the amount of their contribution in half due to changing demographics in the church, but two contributors have doubled their monthly amounts. At least one new contributor is expected to announce soon, but we still need your help in finding others who can help to support this good work.

The India mission that was scheduled for February has been cancelled due to some changes in one of the church situations in that country, and to the opportunities above mentioned for expansion of this work (the book and the videos) in the U.S. I have been especially requested to be in Ibrahimpatnam (India) in September, and am planning to fulfill that request.

Thanks to the blessing of God, my health has continued excellent, and I was able to enjoy both Thanksgiving and Christmas with children, grandchildren and my brother and his wife. Will flew up from Texas to join us for Thanksgiving in Michigan, and we were greatly blessed by three days on the farm in Indiana Christmas week.

Thank you very much for your support and your other interest in this work. May God bless you always.

In His service,

A. L. Parr
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Contributions received November 1 - December 11:

Greensboro Road church	\$500
Egypt church	\$100
Harrisburg church	\$200
Nettleton church	\$400
Drucilla McIntire	\$100
Sybil Peffley	\$200

(Make checks payable to Church of Christ and designate For: Al Parr mission work, and mail to the Greensboro Road church address in the header of this report)