

Preparing for the Future

The future will soon be here. What I mean is that a yet to be determined, years from now, I will step down from my leadership role of the International Christian Braille Mission. While that time has not yet arrived, my job is to do the following:

To secure a physical location for the mission. This goal has been pretty much achieved. As of last check, we still owe 15,000 dollars and I am confident we will receive that. It's the final portion of a building that cost over half a million dollars and is probably worth a million dollars.



I must find a successor. Lord willing, I have been showing Thomas Bleemel every aspect of working in this ministry. He is learning braille. I have applied for social security; this allows me to have some reduction in my pay so that we could increase Thomas' pay. We still need to raise much of his support, and we are working on it. This means that we are attempting to address the second goal.

While these goals were not designed to occur in any particular order, I will list this last, that is, to place the mission on a solid financial basis. Braille and audio are expensive and we are working with some older equipment. Our primary braille embosser is 20 years old. It is still working well, but we need to plan to replace it, along with other equipment.

This will be a slow process, but with the Lord we can do all things through Christ. Thank you for your kind interest and support of the mission. Please keep us in your prayers.

Barbara Went Home

by Michael Ray Smith

Barbara Jo Smith 10/31/43 - 4/8/20. On April 8th, Barbara went home to our Lord. She died of a heart attack. She did not die alone as I was holding her. She worked as a volunteer proofreader for the International Christian Braille Mission for years. We were married on June 20th of 1981. She was proofreading a braille document for the mission the day before she died. Her notes from proofreading on that last night remain in her brailer.



She was faithful to God, to the mission, and to me for almost 39 years. Though I miss her terribly, I know where she is, and with all my heart will strive to the finish so I can be with the Lord and with Barb for eternity. Barb was a gift from God and I will always cherish our memories together.

Social Distancing and the Blind

Social distancing is difficult for many blind people. When we walk, using cane or dog, and if we are totally blind, we may not always be aware of how much separation exist between us and other people. Please be courteous when approaching a blind person and remember as a sighted person you are the one who is able to help us in our social distancing. Blind people are dealing with the same mental and social problems as the sighted. We are all in this together. Trust the Lord and we will make it through.

Help ICBM With Your Donations

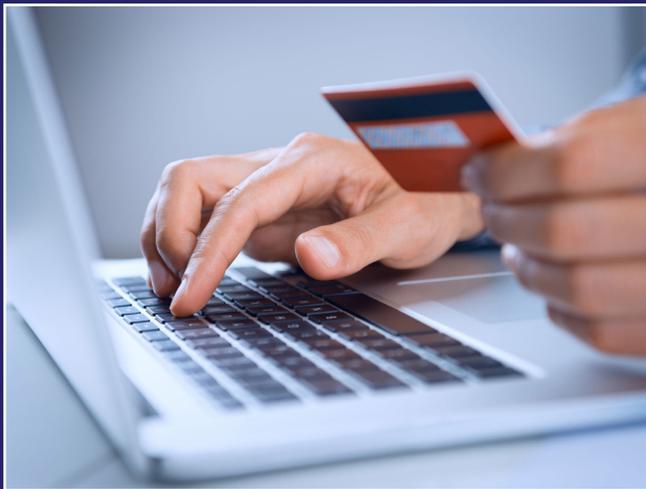
We are almost done paying off the building debt. We have come a long way from last year. In order to finish paying off the building, we still need \$15,000.00.

We tried to the best of our ability to keep expenses manageable and be as smart and efficient with our finances as possible. We are thankful to be in our new building. God has led us this far, and we have faith He will help us finish through this process.

Thank you to our contributors, for without you we wouldn't be this far.

How You Can Help

On our website, icbminc.org, there is a donate button at the bottom of the page. If you click it, it will take you to the website we use for donations. You can add a note, for a specific one-time donation for the building, or you can have a monthly or yearly donation on auto-pay.



Thank you in advance for all the help in assisting us. We greatly appreciate you and everything you do for the mission.

Braille Reading Contest

One of our patrons, who receives braille books from us, is reading them for her participation in a braille reading contest. S. C. devours the books faster than we can get them to her. She had read over 400 pages in braille, when I talked to her over the phone, last week alone from this writing. Of course, she asked for and we have sent more books for her to read. We wish miss S. C. God speed in this contest.

Just goes to show, you never know how the Lord works until He does it. I believe God gets joy when he places before us unexpected opportunities as we share the Gospel in various different ways. Please pray for S. C. that she may do well in the contest, but more importantly, pray that the Holy Spirit will work in her life, drawing her in a closer relationship with our Lord.



Readers Needed!

Are you an expressive, fluent reader? Do you want to help ICBM with their mission?

Readers are needed to record Christian materials that are not otherwise available to the blind. ICBM sends out recordings of Sunday School lesson books, daily devotionals, Christian Standard/Lookout magazine, and other materials to all visually impaired people who request them.

To read for ICBM, you must have access to a computer with a microphone, and a quiet time and place in which to record. If you live near Grayson, you can come to the ICBM office and record in one of our dedicated rooms.

Readers may work on their own schedule, reading as much or as little as they are able. Support is available for installing and using the free software that is used for recording.

If you are willing to read for ICBM, please contact Thomas Bleemel at 606-474-3411.



Visiting Your Church

If you would be interested in having ICBM come visit your local church, please call or email Mike and Thomas. We are looking to outreach as much as we can and communicate with you all personally. We would love to come visit and fellowship with you. We appreciate your help, Thank you.