

the dotted line

ICBM Newsletter

Mission Trip to Africa

Mike will be going to Liberia, Africa January 3-13, 2023. The purpose of this trip is to investigate what needs a village of blind people have that is near the orphanage operated by Psalm 82:3 Mission. ICBM will be taking over books that blind adults can use to learn to read and write braille.

English is spoken in Liberia. Some of the materials that we will be taking will be Perkins braille writers, paper, 12 copies of the books mentioned above, and lots of prayer.



Obviously, people will not be able to read braille in ten days, however, we hope to get them started and have teachers to use the print copy of the book to help them learn braille and of course we may have to go back from time to time. When these blind folk can read braille, they can read and study the Bible.

Please keep this mission trip in your prayers.

Preparing for Retirement

I, Mike, am planning to retire at the end of 2023. While we do not believe in retirement in the mission field, for the good of the International Christian Braille Mission, I need to retire. No, there is no strife or anything like that, however, over the years, many blind people in various church groups have started missions reaching the blind. The trouble is once they can no longer do it because of health reasons or death, the missions tend to close.

A few big denominations have been able to sustain missions reaching the blind, but most have been small, independent missions working with various different groups to reach the blind. Our board struggled with this problem. We want the Gospel and biblical teaching to be available to blind people until the Lord comes, if it be His will.

I have been working with Thomas Bleemel since June of 2019, that upon my retirement Thomas will assume the position of President of the International Christian Braille Mission. However, upon retirement, my wish is to be available for any help that I can be to not only the work among the blind, but any mission field. It is my hope and prayers that you will continue supporting the mission after I retire. Thomas will be working to increase the financial stability of the mission and to expand the outreach of the mission to more and more blind people around the world.

I know we have a tendency to get attached with a particular missionary in direct support missions. I agree that this relationship should exist, however, it is my will that you continue to support the mission and establish the same relationship with Thomas and his family, as you have with me, over the years. Please keep this transition in your prayers.

How Do Blind People Download Braille Books From the Computer?

Downloading braille documents from a computer involves running a print document through a braille transcription program. The computer-generated braille document can be either sent to an embosser to make a hard paper copy, or the file can be uploaded onto our Sharing library on our website.



Our patrons can now download the document onto their SD card or thumb drive. Braille readers can use a machine called an E-reader or a refreshable braille machine to read the braille documents. The machine recreates the braille dots using small pins that have the characteristics of braille dots. The reader can put the entire bible on an SD card and read it in braille.

For the first time in History, Blind people can take a small device with them anywhere and read books. I am thankful to the Lord for the people that have been able to do this. Many scientists, librarians, and patrons have worked to develop these machines. They are available from the Library of Congress NLS program on loan or can be bought wherever equipment for the blind is sold.

Newsletter by Email

If you would rather receive this Newsletter by email, we can do that. However, we will need your email address. If we can get as many people as possible to receive the newsletter by email, it will save the mission money which we will use for our service projects. If you want to start receiving ICBM's newsletter by email, please email secretary@icbminc.org to let us know.



We Would See Jesus

We have 3 high-speed embossers and learned the hard way, when we embossed and mailed out "Every day in God's Word," that we needed to purchase a Form Burster. We had enough money left of Bill and Alice Bartley's Gift to purchase one. This machine will separate both the tractor feed and fanfold pages, much neater than we can do it by hand, it also can keep up with the 3 embossers.

"We Would See Jesus" is not a large magazine, but we need to produce many copies. If Post Offices in many foreign countries are now opened up, the number will be between 800-900 copies.

Those Whom We Serve

J.B., T.B., and A.L. have all called to express their thanks for our audio publications. This would include *Standard Adult Sunday School Lessons*, *Standard Daily Devotionals*, *Christian Standard Magazine*, and *The Restoration Herald*.

We will add other publications to our audio ministry as we recruit volunteer narrators. Wes Golightly is a retired professor of music from Kentucky Christian University. He now lives in Richmond, Ky. However, being away from Grayson does not hinder him from recruiting narrators and assembling the recordings to be mailed or downloaded by our patrons. Thank you to Wes and all of our narrators. If you would be interested in narrating, please call or email us and leave a detailed message.

New Books in Braille

We have a new book available in Braille. *Practical New Testament Word Studies* by Donald A. Nash is now available in either hard copy braille or in e-reader format. Thanks to Devin Otte for preparing the transcription of this book for us. Don Nash is a past professor of Greek and New Testament Studies at Kentucky Christian College. Mike attended his classes during his time at the College, 1971-1975.

We also have new books: *The Holy Spirit, A Biblical Study*; *26 Lessons in Revelation*; and *Basic Bible Studies*. These have been converted to Unified English Braille and are now computer generated in place of the paper master. These books can be accessed the same way as described above for *Practical New Testament Word Studies*.

Gifts

Gifts may be sent by mail to our address on the front or by using the donate button on our website. Thank you. In Christ, Mike Smith and Thomas Bleemel.