

## THANK YOU & THANK YOU

First, I want to thank all of you for your prayers during my wife's illness and death. Your prayers were greatly appreciated by her and I and all of the family. We received well over a hundred cards of love and concern over the span of a year and a half that her health was failing. Following her death we have received dozens of cards, calls, emails and letters expressing condolences for our loss. We are very grateful for all of the love that has been shown to us during this time of grief.

Second, thank you to all those who support this work of training men to preach the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Earlier this year it was determined that Brother Waldron's health had gotten to the point where he could no longer do the work as he had in the past. In February I was asked to work with him and eventually take on the task of overseeing the work entirely. On April 1st we began our work together.

The work that brother Jim started so long ago will result in the salvation of multitudes of souls eternally. That work continues to go forward as we all work together for the advancement of the kingdom of God and Christ. My prayer is that God's richest blessings will be upon all the supporters of this work. Your support is greatly appreciated. As the apostle Paul stated to the church at Philippi this is "the fruit that abounds to your account" (Philippians 4:17).

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Since April 1st the oversight of the Richards/Waldron Mission Fund was assumed by the **TARA CHURCH OF CHRIST**. All checks are to be made out to the Tara church of Christ. We kept the same mailing address in order to retain the services of sister Virginia Rothery, who has worked with the fund for many years. She is a very capable and knowledgeable secretary, and her continued work with the fund has made the transition much easier. Please make a note of this important change.

## NEWSLETTER REFRESH

We are currently in the process of refreshing the newsletter. Please be aware that it will get a new look and a new name. Your feedback and thoughts are welcome.



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# RICHARDS NEWSLETTER

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## THE VIP TREATMENT

On September 8 Queen Elizabeth passed away at the age of 96. She was the longest reigning monarch in British history. While the British empires power and influence has definitely waned over the past century, the queen was still afforded great respect and honor. She received the red carpet treatment whenever she would visit a foreign country and meet with that nations leaders. To this day great fanfare accompanies any event in the lives of British royalty. Let me add here that it is right for us as Christians to give honor to whom honor is due (Romans 13:7; I Peter 2:17).

The world categorizes people. Some people are considered more important than others. Sometimes a person can be miscategorized. We can be guilty of looking down on those considered by the world as being of a lower status. This is a sin that we must be careful not to fall into. God warns us not to think of ourselves more highly than we should (Romans 12:3). Rich or poor we all will stand before God in the judgement as equals. James makes this point clear, "Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away" (James 1:9-10).

It is interesting to note that often the first thing a man will ask another man upon meeting for the first time is, "What kind of work do you do?" A man's work can define him. If we are careful we can judge a person based upon the type of work they do. The past two and a half years of lockdowns and business closings saw national governments determining whose work was "essential" and whose job was "non-essential." What a blow to the self-esteem of millions of people. They were told to go home and stay home because the work they did was not essential. Churches were told to close because collectively worshipping God and studying His word was deemed unnecessary by secular government officials. **Continued Inside**

## THE VIP TREATMENT continued

The Bible is clear, earthly wealth, fame, position and power will are not standards by which we will be judged. “For there is no respect of person with God” (Romans 2:10). As Job stated after the loss of his wealth and children “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there” (Job 1:21). Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) demonstrates for us that in the eternal realm wealth and status will not determine our eternal destiny. Rich or poor, famous or obscure, powerful or weak “We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10).

You may ask, “What is God’s standard for judgement?” In his vision of the judgement John writes, “I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:12). The books refers to the Old and New Testaments. Those who lived under the Patriarchal and Mosaic laws will be judged by those precepts. For those living during the reign of Christ we all shall be judged by the New Testament of Jesus our King (John 12:48). This includes people of all races, ethnicities and tribes. So, every soul on earth today needs to know the teachings of Jesus.

From the word of God’s perspective every soul is essential. Jesus told His apostles, and by extension Christians today, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Mark records, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Paul by inspiration revealed that God, “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).

Nearly 8 billion essential souls now live on the earth. To reach that many people it takes an army Christians who are prepared to teach, preach and influence their families, friends and fellow citizens to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We continue to be committed to the work of training that army to lift of Christ in their lives and bring people the saving message of the cross.

Scott Richards



## OPERATION COMPASSION

To care for widows and orphans is to practice “pure and undefiled religion” (James 1:27). Pictured are two of the many widows we recently were able to assist with goats or with the start of a shop to sell rice in their home village. In the above photo is sister Dhanapakiam 62 whose husband died of a heart attack. She was baptized when she was 12 years old. The widow with the bags of rice is sister Kannammal 78 whose husband died of natural causes. She was baptized in 1990. We are grateful that we could assist these widows in need.

## TAMIL NADU SBS REPORT

In Tamil Nadu, as in other places, SBS students are expected to spend several hours on Saturday afternoon doing door to door evangelism. This



helps build up the local church by putting into practice what the students have learned. Pictured above is a brother who is distributing written Bible materials. They are also able to engage in



home Bible studies, and the result is the harvest of souls into the kingdom of God and Christ. We pray these new Christians grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.



## THE PLIGHT OF THE BRU

Since 1997 the Bru (Reang) tribe of northeast India have suffered due to ethnic clashes in the state of Mizoram. Latest census figures indicate there are about 180-190k in the tribe. At the height of the difficulties 50k were in refugee camps in Tripura. There are still nearly 30k in the camps. Conditions are bad, sanitation is poor, food is scarce and medical care unavailable. The result has been a great deal of



death from disease and starvation.

The Tripura government is giving the people land, and some, not all, the materials for houses. For those still in the camps the situation is grim. Sleeping on a mat on a concrete floor in a room with several other families is not pleasant. We sent funds to brother Mangal Hanse to buy food and other necessities for the people. We cannot help them all, but we believed we should do something to help. Pray for the Bru people.