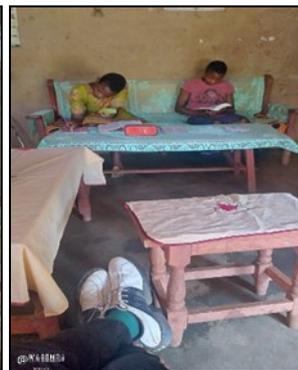


## AFRICA WORK



Brother Wabomba George is seen here preaching on the radio in the Elgon District of Uganda. He is a zealous evangelist and the work he is doing on the radio is resulting in a great harvest of souls for the Lord's kingdom. Below is a picture of one of his Bible studies and also another couple that he baptized into Christ on the left. His efforts are also presenting opportunities to meet denominational groups and hold open air meetings with their members.



Open Air Meeting.



Left Photo

Wabomba with a man in a remote region of Elgon who started his own denomination called Vision Church. He has been listening to the radio program and wanted to meet brother George. After studying with our brother he asked him to return on a Sunday and preach to the congregation, which brother George did. The man's name is Kamoti David. He has admitted having very little Bible knowledge, and after hearing about the original church he wants the congregation to be the church of Christ. **The restoration movement has broken out in Uganda.**

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# RICHARDS NEWSLETTER

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## THE FATHERS ABSENCE

According to the U.S. Census bureau more than 25% of all children live without a father in the home. There are 10 million homes in the United States with single mothers there are 2 million homes with single fathers. The consequences of children growing up without a close connection to their biological fathers are life changing and can be disastrous. The website of the National Fatherhood Initiative reveals the positive and negative impacts of fathers who are actively involved in their children's lives:

- ◆ Children with their father in the home do better in school.
- ◆ Children with their father in the home are less likely to be abused.
- ◆ Children with their father in the home are less likely to be obese.
- ◆ Sons with a father in the home are less likely to go to prison.
- ◆ Children with a father in the home less likely to live in poverty.

More points could be cited here but it is clear that children need their biological fathers just as much as they need their mothers.

God's word tells fathers to, raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Earthly fathers are tasked with the serious responsibility of bringing up their children to be faithful children of our heavenly Father. An absent father, even one who has visitation rights, is either totally incapable of fulfilling this duty or they are severely handicapped.

The absence of biological fathers in the lives of children is largely the result of the absence of the eternal Father of all mankind in the lives of the general population. Without God and His word to guide him man experiences all manner of hardships and tragedies. The presence of our spiritual Father in our families prepares our children to be the parents they need to be for their children. *CONT. INSIDE*

## THE FATHERS ABSENCE, Continued

Jesse L Sewell, a gospel preacher from the mid- 1800's, as quoted in his biography written by brother David Lipscomb, indicates that a child's training should begin 100 years before their birth. By that he is referring to the need for several generations of Christian living to be demonstrated by the grandparents and parents of the new generation of parents. By having the eternal Father influencing and shaping the lives of their forefathers the new parents are more likely themselves to be able to properly train their children in the way of righteousness.

Brother Sewell further expresses the idea that a child's training needs to begin before the child is three months old. How true this is. A child needs to see the overriding importance the parents place upon seeking a close and constant relationship with the Father above. This closeness is demonstrated by regular attendance at worship assemblies, daily Bible reading and study in the home and a fervent prayer life. As children develop they will also observe the parents efforts to conform their lives to that of the Savior. This will include a personality that exudes a loving, compassionate and forgiving spirit. One more important trait the child should observe in their earthly father is a desire to share the gospel with the lost.

Our heavenly Father wants, "all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). Jesus came to, "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). These facts need to be firmly planted in the minds and hearts of every child of God. While our children are still young they need to see and hear their fathers and mothers inviting friends and neighbors to worship service and Bible classes. Earthly fathers and mothers need to be involved in gospel meetings, mission campaigns and other ways of sharing the gospel with the lost. By their actions earthly parents will instill an urgency for evangelism and a love for the lost in their children, and bring about the next generation of fishers of men.

The church of our Lord is losing members and congregations in the United States at an alarming rate. The number of young men preparing to be gospel preachers and missionaries is decreasing. To reverse this trend we must recapture the zeal of first century Christians, who went everywhere preaching the word. Parents must place God the Father, His Son Jesus and the Spirit inspired word as the central focus in their homes.

*Scott Richards*

## OPERATION COMPASSION



James by inspiration of the Holy Spirit Declares, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). Brother Waldron started a good work of helping the often neglected widows of India and other places by providing them with goats by which they could have a small business to sustain themselves. In January a total of twelve widows were assisted in this way. In the first picture is sister S. Vijayalakshmi and her four children. She was baptized into Christ in 2018. She is 35 years old and her husband passed away from a heart attack. Sister T. Kala is seen in the second picture she was baptized in 2019, is 45 and her husband also passed away from a heart attack. Third is sister K. Maral she is 65 and was baptized in 2000.

We aid the young widows as well as the older ones due to the fact that the Hindu culture, which predominates, widows are considered bad luck and are often shunned by their own family. Once they are widowed the likelihood of ever marrying again is almost non-existent.

In addition we were able to help a disabled brother to reestablish his petty shop which he had been unable to operate due to Covid restrictions. As a result he had no inventory left and no means to restock. We helped him to restock his shop so he can provide for his family. The brothers name is R. Samuel and in 2002 he graduated from the Bible institute at Coimbatore.



### ENTRANCE EXAM FOR SBS

January 30 a second opportunity to take the entrance exam was given in Chennai. New classes will begin in March. Students must score 70% on memory work and the exam to be enrolled.

## HARVEST FIELDS REPORT

The Saturday Bible School (SBS) work also involves house to house evangelism following lunch. The four centers currently conducting classes in Tamil Nadu reported that in the month of January they made 224 house visits, conducted 72 Bible studies had 9 baptisms, 17 restorations and 3 new congregations were established. Below are pictures of the SBS class, Bible studies and baptisms.



### ODISHA

Sumit Nayak is seen in these pictures immersing our new brother and sister Manjhi into Christ for the remission of their sins. We rejoice with the angels in heaven and pray for their faithfulness.



### TRIPURA

Brother Mangal Hanse with Jiten Rongpi are working in Tripura and Mizoram in the north-east. They reported nine new babes in

Christ earlier this month in the village of Khedacherra, Tripura,