

# Looking Back, and Looking Forward

While COVID-19 continued to hamper many of our activities, the work of the Bible Mission continued. 2020 saw the transition of the chairmanship to Bro Dennis Paggi, with help and guidance from Bro Phil Snobelen, who will continue as a member of the CBMA Operating Committee, along with his duties with CMBC. Bro Phil has been a valuable mentor in the transition process and his years of service as CBMA chairman are much appreciated. We are thankful for the willingness of two incumbent council members who were reelected, Brethren Eric Hawthorne and Dan Styles. Our newest council member, Bro Antonio Howell (Jr) brings enthusiasm to his new position, and has already been actively involved in translation work for preaching materials in Spanish. Welcome Bro Antonio!

Bro Isaiah and Sis Rosie Tunnell are in place in Bolivia, ready to be more active when the pandemic subsides and allows more public work to be done.



We have been impressed with the adaptability of our ecclesial members and field workers in this year of quarantine. Already active on Skype in some areas, Zoom meetings proliferated throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as teaching, preaching and fellowship activities continued.

Costa Rica was able to hold their yearend conference via Zoom, with classes for all age groups, crafts, and even their traditional, though virtual Fogata (campfire). Sunday's activities included the final classes, four baptisms held at the hall following the appropriate protocol and the Memorial Service, with some at the hall and virtual speakers and readers.



Some of our isolated brethren have told us that after the pandemic is over, they want to continue with Zoom meetings because they have treasured the encouragement, teaching and sense of community which they are able to experience virtually, though in isolation during the last year.



As a committee, we spent some time discussing the advantages and disadvantages of virtual meetings. Our goal is to maximize the advantages and try to minimize some of the drawbacks of the virtual platform. We look forward to face to face visits as the pandemic begins to subside.

Finally, we thank you for your support in prayer and by your continuing financial contributions during 2020. May this be the year we meet together face to face....in Jerusalem.

### From the Past Year

Our September Newsletter brought insights into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon the activities of missionaries and ecclesias with many preaching and pastoral events curtailed and cancelled. At the same time all in the Americas have become united in the adoption of electronic platforms (e.g. Zoom), enabling brothers, sisters, youth and interested friends to enjoy fellowship and Bible study. What would we have done without it! Our Lord's blessing of resourceful individuals and the enthusiastic sharing of His gospel message continues as we continue into 2021.

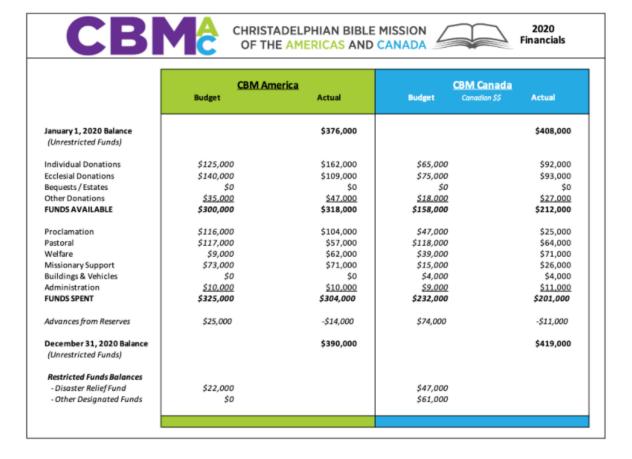
Our November Newsletter highlighted financial matters through the first three quarters, reflecting decreased activity in lower expenses. At that time CBMC appealed for donor support in the final quarter in order to end the year without drawing on past reserves. The response exceeded all expectations.

#### Support FROM Our Donors

Our 2020 donations from brothers and sisters throughout North America totaled \$530,000 (CBMA: \$318,000 & CBMC: \$212,000). Individual donations to CBMA and CBMC increased 9% (2020: \$456,000) from 2019 (\$417,000), with CBMC donors providing over \$100,000 in the 4th quarter.

#### Financial Support FOR Our Missionaries and Ecclesial Members

Pandemic restrictions on both travel and group activities resulted in the cancellation or deferral of many planned preaching and pastoral activities during the last three quarters of 2020. Our mission expenses were \$505,000 in 2020 (CBMA: \$304,000 & CBMC: \$201,000). This was much lower than 2018 at \$650,000. All of our donations were directed to our core activities in the Lord's vineyard.



Gospel Proclamation is the cornerstone of our activities. In 2020 we spent \$226,000 (45% of our expenditures) on preaching work. This money was spent mainly in advertising, venue rental, transportation and financial support of missionary families. Our outreach touches dozens of ecclesias and hundreds of brothers, sisters and youth, so a large portion of our expenses are for pastoral needs. We spent about 25% of the brotherhood's donations (\$125,000) on ecclesial needs such as hall rental, Sunday School supplies and Bible School attendance.

While our focus is on preaching the word, welfare funds are always available when necessary; especially in response to pandemic needs. We spent \$133,000 (or about 26% of our expenditures) on the welfare needs of our brothers and sisters in mission ecclesias.

The overwhelming majority of the work done to promote Bible Mission activities is performed by volunteers, and it is for this reason that we are able to keep our administration costs so low - only 4% of our expenses (\$21,000) in 2020. The majority of these expenses are communication and fund raising to the North American brotherhood.

## For the Coming Year, 2021

Our budget for 2021 is \$560,000. Both CBMA and CBMC budgets for 2021 (CBMA: \$360,000 & CBMC: \$200,000) were prepared in the face of COVID-19 uncertainties and reflect a mix of expected and hoped for activities and programs for the year.

Please do your part to support the vital work of proclamation and pastoral outreach in our mission areas.

