

TheBible.net Newsletter



October 1, 2008 - Third Quarter 2008

Welcome to TheBible.net Quarterly Newsletter

We are pleased to present our first printed *quarterly* report. These reports will highlight the “big news” about TheBible.net and Video Bible Institute. Additional information including *monthly* reports, site statistics and more can be found online at www.TheBible.net/support



An Urgent Plea

Let me be frank.
We need your help.

In the Fall of 2006 the elders of the Central church of Christ (Martinsburg,

WV) agreed to oversee TheBible.net and Video Bible Institute. Their oversight began January 1, 2007. Since I was no longer going to be employed to preach full-time by the Media church of Christ, we had to raise support for this new work. I've been raising support for more than a quarter century, but I don't have the ability to raise full support in just three months.

In the first eight months of 2007 we fell more than \$45,000 behind in support. Let me rephrase that. In the first eight months of 2007 I *personally borrowed* \$45,000 to meet expenses. I could not afford to borrow indefinitely, so in August I started fundraising in earnest. Between the first of August and mid-November I traveled almost 9000 miles and

visited with Christians from nearly 60 churches. This effort yielded one-time and monthly support that has, to this date – September 2008 – netted nearly \$80,000. ***But we are still behind.***

How could that be? It's really quite simple. The money we raised last year paid our expenses for one year, ***but it never replaced the money we borrowed during the first part of 2007.*** So, one year later, even though we've managed to survive and carry on our work, the 2007 deficit remains. So far this year we haven't borrowed much, but we have borrowed. We personally borrowed money to cover half of our support in July and then half our support in September. The elders at Central loaned our work \$4000 to make it through August. The reserves from the one-time support that was so generously given last year is gone, and our current monthly support simply is not adequate to carry us forward.

As I said, we need your help. Please consider our needs as you ***read more inside.*** Our work has grown dramatically in the last three years and your support has made it possible. With your continued support we believe we can accomplish much more.

Financial Nuts & Bolts

Contributors have a right to know where their money goes. Your contributions pay for: (1) our personal support (salary, health insurance, retirement, etc.) and (2) a work fund (website costs, hardware, software, printing, postage, newsletters, secretarial help, advertising, etc.).

These two categories, when fully funded as originally planned, will total \$11,000 monthly. Yes, that is a lot of money. But given what is done with that money, especially compared to similar works in the brotherhood, we really think we provide a lot for the money.

Financial - Personal

The \$11,000 monthly we need to raise includes \$7,000 for personal support. How did we come up with that number? Good question.

Two expenses, *health insurance* and *housing*, make up almost half of that amount. Our health insurance runs \$1391.45 monthly, or \$16697.40 annually. Our initial figures in early 2006 budgeted \$1200 for health coverage and the remainder for salary. Health insurance increased nearly \$200 in October of that year, so our salary dropped \$200 accordingly.

Less than two weeks ago we received notice that our insurance premiums will climb \$480 per

month in October of this year. To reduce costs we will be forced to dramatically reduce the level of coverage.

Housing costs total roughly \$2,000 per month, including \$1300 for mortgage, \$360 for gas/electric, \$75 for water, \$150 for phone, internet, cable, etc. These expenses account for nearly \$24,000 annually. Together, housing and health insurance total \$40,000 yearly. That's just under half the total we need to raise.

Additional personal costs include auto expenses (fuel - \$4-5000 annually; insurance \$300 mthly/\$3600 yrly; repairs/upkeep \$1200 annually); life insurance (\$250 mthly/\$3000 yrly); food, clothing, miscellaneous (\$500 monthly; \$6000 annually). These figures total roughly \$60,000. The remaining costs include state and federal taxes, incidental medical expenses, contributions, retirement planning, house upkeep, etc. If you have a question about these costs, just ask.

Financial - Work

This will be a short section for one simple reason. We have no financial work fund. The bare minimum costs of web-hosting (roughly \$2000-2500 yearly) and postage for students papers, etc. is covered by the monthly support we have already raised.

We need to raise enough support to cover printing and mailing costs for newsletters, part-

time secretarial help, and other work related expenses. But first, we need to have our personal support on firm footing.

Our Staff

Some day I hope to introduce you to our coworkers, brothers and sisters in Christ that help us with all of the responsibilities needed to carry on a good work. Right now, let me just note that I function as the "chief cook and bottle-washer" for TheBible.net and Video Bible Institute. I take care of all of the webmaster, secretarial, fundraising, teaching, writing, grading, mailing, phoning and miscellaneous tasks that a full-time, fully functioning staff would. But, because I am just one person, I don't do any of them as fully or as competently as they need doing.

Volunteers Wanted

Sometime in the not too distant future we hope to organize a list of jobs that volunteers can fill. Stay tuned for more news.

Support Goals

Before the end of the year we need to raise \$75,000 in one-time contributions. That will repay the money we borrowed over the last year and a half and get us through 2008. We also need to increase our monthly support by \$2500-3000 by the first of the year. If you can help us with a one time contribution or monthly support, please let us know.

2008 Statistics

Month/Quarter	Visitors*	Pageviews	Year-To-Date
January	98,534	266,814	266,814
February	82,921	233,577	500,391
March	92,383	246,744	747,135
1st Quarter	273,838	747,135	747,135
<hr/>			
April	118,127	316,288	1,063,423
May	113,412	307,168	1,370,591
June	80,692	281,769	1,652,360
2nd Quarter	312,231	905,225	1,652,360
<hr/>			
July	82,518	305,909	1,958,269
August	77,934	275,164	2,233,433

From Uganda



Dear servant of the most High God, receive Calvary greetings in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and our King. Please accept appreciation for the great and excellent work you are doing for our Lord Jesus Christ in your area where He appointed you, and placed you to serve Him in these exciting days we are living in. ... [I am] a preacher of Mansa Church of Christ, here in Central Uganda ... a graduate of the East Africa School of Preaching. Our Congregation is among the 14 Churches of Christ here in Uganda ... thank you for that good work on your website. ...

From English Midlands



Dear Friends, Firstly I want to thank you for a wonderful Site. My Wife and I try to listen to a least one lesson every day. For us it has been a great source of enlightenment, joy and encouragement. Becoming a part of our daily routine. As there is no congregation any where near where we live so we are hoping to become a outreach for this community hence your lessons are important to us. ... It is our plan to go through all your lessons In time, it is such wonderful material and will certainly equip us to teach others. England is not a very spiritual place ... In Christian Love, H & S

From South Africa



Hi Jody: Thank you very much for the study notes . . . I just want to thank you for the great work you are doing in bringing the power of the Gospel to us here in Africa via the internet. I can not express in words the difference your website has made in my personal Bible study and my understanding of the Word of God. Thank you again, Your brother in Christ, M.H., Port Elizabeth, South Africa

These three messages are just a **sampling** of the hundreds we receive thanking us for the material available on TheBible.net. **Your support** helps us reach around the world.

Family News



The most exciting thing going on in the Apple household lately focuses on our daughter, Julia, in the center of the photo, graduated from Pennsylvania Homeschoolers in June. Along with her mother, she finished her third mission trip to Peru earlier in the month. Both Mom and daughter do well speaking Spanish, and both love the Lord's work in Peru. They stayed over after the current campaign ended to spend three extra days with the church in Los Rosales, near Lima, where they worked two years ago.

In August, Julia began her freshman year at Freed-Hardeman University. She hasn't declared her major yet, but she knows she is going to love being at FHU. She will room with Tabitha Cebrun this fall. Tabitha has been a fellow Peru campaigner for the last three years, and a fellow Christian homeschooler long before that..

Julia's graduation marks another major change in the family. When Julia graduated from high school Evelyn completed 24 years of homeschooling our children. Twenty-four years seems like a long time, but ask Jonathan and Benjamin and Julia, and I suppose at times they thought it would last **forever**. Everyone has asked what Evelyn is going to do now that she doesn't have a "job" anymore. But that's all taken care of. She wants to work (part time at least), write, help her husband some (hurray!), and stay involved with Bible studies.

Since May both of our sons are now living and working in or near The Big Apple. Benjamin has been doing web-work (UI Engineer) for nearly two years in New York City, and Jonathan is working with a financial firm following his graduation from Penn last December. More family news in future reports.

Remember to logon to <http://www.TheBible.net/support> for additional news and information about our work.

Thanks for your support ...

I may be the only worker right now, but I'm really not doing it alone ...



Without the generous support of congregations and individual Christians we simply could not begin to do the work we do every day. Your support keeps us warm and clothed and housed. It provides us life's necessities, and yes, even though we constantly struggle to raise support, it supplies us with many of life's luxuries too.

More importantly, your support allows us to create and maintain our site and school, each contributing in its own unique way to spreading the gospel of Christ and educating thousands of souls. From 2005 to 2006 our pageviews quadrupled. From 2006 to 2007 they doubled. It looks like this year will be nearly a 50% increase over last year. And all of it done by word of mouth and nothing more. Hundreds of men and women are studying God's word using the tools that you help provide. The value of our efforts, yours and mine, is hard to measure. Webstats and pageviews sound impressive, but ultimately we are about teaching and strengthening souls so God might be glorified.

Thank you for being a part of our efforts to spread the gospel of Christ and build up the kingdom of God.