

# ***Missions in Media Update – Fall 2021***

***Greetings in the Name of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***

***Thank You for your continued prayers and support of our labor – we seek the fruit that abounds to your account (Phil. 4:17)—Russell D & Family***

## **NEIE—Eight Years in Operation:**

- The **Northeast institute of Evangelism** is now in its **eighth year** of operation. Currently we have **seven students**. Six are formal students, one is auditing. We are in the fifth quarter, second year, studying the **Life of the Soul Winner**.
- **New Students: Pray for Roger Jack** (auditing) and **Micah Jack** (formal). Brother Justin Guy, whom I've known for years, introduced me to this father and son team. He set up a ZOOM meeting and they both decided to visit the school; they signed up for the summer quarter; both have been attending classes.
- **2020 Graduates:** From Left: (yours truly); **Richard Joploh**; **Eileen Beothy**; **Derrick Miller**



- To Graduate in December 2021: Angelina Lee; Angela Perna; Marlene Bundridge.



From left top: Kathy Skolsky (audit); Kim Faircloth; Marlene Bundridge; Sandra Marti; Front: Angelina Lee; Angela Perna (all formal). Other formal students not pictured: Joi Artemus; Roger Jack; Micah Jack.

- **Back to the Bible Campaign in Childersburg, AL:** Brother **Derrick Miller** and I were able to travel to Alabama in June to work with the famous **Russ Blackwell** (Cox Blvd) and his band of merry soul winning cohorts! It was a tremendous effort, of course it would not have been pulled off except for his lovely wife **Judy** taking the reigns (LOL). **Russ & Judy** have been doing Back to the Bible Campaigns/Workshops for many years. The **Cox Blvd Church of Christ** is now a **new supporter** of our work and we cannot be more grateful that they have come aboard to help keep the ship afloat in the northeast! **THANK YOU COX BOULEVARD!**
- **Souls Added: 10 Souls were baptized and 2 restored during this effort.** The congregation at Childersburg was **very encouraged** and **involved** in the work. Brother Lamar Russell and his wonderful wife are doing a fine work there and need as much TLC as possible. **Please keep this congregation and the new Christians in your prayers.**



*Some of the new members at Childersburg.*



*Brother Derrick Miller...a soul winner!*

- On our way back home:** We stopped in for a visit during a Wednesday evening study at the **West End Church of Christ in Knoxville**. West End has been a faithful supporter of our labor for many years. **We are extremely grateful** for their prayers and financial support! When we first started our work in the NE, the Kingwood Heights (Murfreesboro) elders were the first to oversee the work. When they stepped down; West End stepped up to oversee for several years. **The elders at West End have been a huge encouragement—THANK YOU for striving along with us! A special thanks to Bob Waters and Bill Tankersly for always being in our corner through thick and thin.**
- Micah Jack baptized:**



*Part of what NEIE is all about...students learning the truth...will they obey? Pray for Micah—he is hungry & growing; wants to attend a Bible College!*

- **Monday night Acts Class:** We started a ZOOM class on Monday evenings to do more textual studies. Brother **Roger Shepherd** (Amridge U) started the course and then had to step down due to some health issues. Brother **Edwin Jones** helped to fill in and taught more than several of the chapters along with me. It was very encouraging to not only go through this book again, but to have a well-seasoned brother to teach. My brother-in-law **Milton Warrell** (Levittown, PA) a preacher and teacher at Lower Bucks CoC, along with Brother **Derrick Miller** and Sister **Eileen Beoethy** were in this class.

#### Concerning Media:

- **Baptisms:** Besides **Micah Jack; Tammy Willingham** and **Stephanie Nyuannes** were baptized into Christ. Please pray for all three, especially sister Stephanie. She was faithful in attendance until recently. The Covid madness along with her desire for “denominational likes” of the past have haunted her for a while, so I’ve come to find out after a discussion with her. I taught Steph (a co-worker) at Penn-Delco for quite some time. It was not a “rushed” study of the word and a baptism. This is one of those one’s where you scratch your head, pray and remember the parable of the sower. Tammy is doing well, but still struggles with a tainted past. Keep her in prayer please.
- **Derrick Miller:** While working his full time job (environmental engineer) brother Derrick is working on a new church plant in south Jersey around the Sicklerville area. Sisters Marlene and Sandra have been helping brother Derrick by inviting folks to join them for a Wednesday evening study. They had a meeting place, but just this past month had to give that up. The folks letting them use the hall wanted them to find another location. Please keep this effort in your prayers, that their able to find a new (affordable) location. Brother Derrick and his beautiful wife Anna have decided to worship with us until that work can be established.
- **Media’s loss:** Three older members at Media have gone onto their eternal rest. Sister Carolyn Cole; brother George Johnson and sister Diana Curenton. Carolyn had moved to the Media area to be with her daughter. She attended for about six months before she ended up in a rehab due to leg problems, then caught Covid. She was a sweet southern sister from Alabama. Brother George loved his boxing, his cooking and of course his eating of the same, but his greatest love was learning and sharing the word! Sister Diana Curenton (Derrick’s mother) passed due to sepsis. Sister Diana was a rich blessing to all of us at Media. She would hobble into worship with arthritic pain and sing! Afterwards she would share and encourage us. We miss these folks! We praise God that we were graced with their presence.
- **Our Son’s:** Please keep **Nicholas** in your prayers. He was hired at Shop-Rite (a local grocery) and a couple of months later left due to a misunderstanding with a customer. He is now considering Acme markets. Brother Sam Faircloth has just been hired to work there; Nick approached Sam about speaking with their management. Pray for Nick. Jordan is engaged! He met a wonderful girl—Lindsay DiGiovani – hmm, DiGiorgio &

DiGiovani...sounds just a bit Italian? More importantly, Cher and I are both concerned about their spiritual welfare. Please pray for both Jordan and Lindsay, not only for a good marriage, but a godly home.

- **The Vision:** Please continue to keep Media in prayer. We were hit hard this past year with the passing away of faithful people and the Covid “mayhem.” I can write a book on the up’s and down’s of this labor, but suffice it to say I really believe we’ve been able to continue because of God’s marvelous grace, Your prayers and obviously the financial support. We started into 2020 with a bang that turned into a whimper, not just for us but for so many across our brotherhood. Media’s Vision was/and now is to focus on Acts chapter two—to build first with evangelism and then organize as the early church did.
- **Cheryl:** Last but not least, my lovely wife has been by my side for sixteen years in this work of love. She has been and continues to be a source of strength and encouragement through it all. I am truly grateful for her! Keeping up with these three men? oh boy! She has been struggling with lower back pain over the last several months. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Your Giving:** I cannot say it enough...and as much as I say it...the words could never show the immense appreciation that Cheryl and I have for our brethren who have sacrificed that we might serve the King. To God be the GLORY! THANK YOU-ONCE AGAIN!

***In Christian Love, Russell & Cheryl and the Boys***

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Cor. 15:58)