



After the week of teaching on Romans, Bill taught for two more days at a pastors' conference on Christ-centered preaching using this same New Testament epistle for the conference.

It was a new exposure to the book of Romans for many of the attendees. One young man reacted angrily to some of Bill's teaching as he had not wrestled with Romans before. He was outraged by what he heard. That shows the power of Paul—2,000 years later, he still challenges us. If nothing in Romans challenges you, you might not be reading it closely enough.

Others in the conference calmed the young man down, and Bill made great connections with some of the pastors and young men at the conference. Now they see how to preach Christ preeminently, emphasizing his work and salvation by grace rather than informational, moralistic or legalistic sermons.

Romans: The Epistle So Big One Week Can't Cover It

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

Last month, Rev. Bill Wilton traveled to Ukraine and taught at the Kiev Regional Bible College, located in the southwestern section of the city known as Vyshneve.

There is so much material in the book of Romans that a one-week intensive class cannot cover it all. Bill taught just the first half of the book, chapters 1–8. Lord willing, Bill will return in the spring to teach at the Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine. He wants to pick up the class and finish teaching the rest of Romans, chapters 9–16.

According to Bill, the class went very well. While he had fewer students than in past teaching trips, the discussions were many. Some of the discussions were on the issue of total depravity of humans, that all of human nature is affected by sin. The students grasped how all of humanity is depraved, what that looks like in this world, and how unfortunately it shows up in the church.



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Devils, Demons and the Difficulty of Ephesians

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

Bob Clark and Jim Roszell returned from their eighth teaching trip at All Nations College (ANC) in Thika, Kenya. Bob taught a class on the devil and demons titled “This Present Darkness” and Jim taught a class on Ephesians.

The classes overlapped nicely. Their driver told them pastors rarely preach from Ephesians because it is too difficult. He might be onto something. Ephesians has terms like adoption, predestination, election, inheritance and mystery, which some readers find difficult. The class had a lively discussion on those terms and what they mean. Great emphasis was given to the words “in Christ,” for it is only in Him that these things come to us.

On Sunday Jim spoke in Muranga Town at a church plant, and Bob spoke at Christian Foundation Fellowship in Muranga Mukyu. They had lunch with Bishop George of Christian Foundation Fellowship, which has a network of 40 churches.

The bishop asked them to do a one-day conference for the CFF pastors when they return in February. Bob will teach on sermon preparation and Christ-centered preaching and Jim will teach biblical principles of giving.

Jim and Bob had dinner one evening with John Kimanikbe, the chaplain of Thika prison. He attended two of the class sessions and said they have an open

door into the prison. Lord willing, when they return to Kenya in February 2022, they will also teach in Thika prison. Their classes will be in the prison chapel, with both morning and afternoon sessions, Monday through Wednesday. Chaplain John told us that the prisoners need both theological and practical instruction.

They report the new walls and furniture, which ITEM supporters helped fund, have created in ANC an environment more conducive to learning. Bob and Jim enjoy teaching at ANC and have built relationships with the student pastors.

They testify they have experienced the truth of Paul’s words, “that not only do we impart some spiritual gift to strengthen the pastors, but we receive from them as well and by this we are mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.” (Romans 1:12).

Prayer Requests

1. A module on Christian Leadership is being taught by Will Hesterberg on Zoom to students at Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary in Riga, Latvia as well as to more than 20 Russian speaking students.
2. Jonson D. is teaching the Marriage and Family module to more than 300 students across many islands in his country.
3. Jobje Lammers, wife of ITEM board member Warren Lammers, finished her 17th round of chemo for pancreatic cancer, which is holding things in check, but she is now experiencing some side effects.
4. Saphira Torrens, daughter of Alister Torrens, president of Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine, needs to have an operation on her hand in early 2022.
5. The 2022 teaching schedule has to be filled despite many unknowns due to the pandemic.

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