



EXEGETICAL • VERSE BY VERSE • HISTORICAL-GRAMMATICAL HERMENEUTICS

BIBLE LESSONS INTERNATIONAL

A Great Commission Ministry: Evangelism and Discipleship – Matthew 28:18-20

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“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:18-20

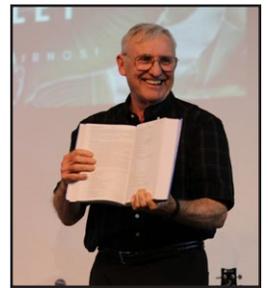
AN IMPORTANT UPDATE

On The Worldwide Ministry Of Bible Lessons International

In 1978 I began this ministry as a 501c (3) non-profit corporation called International Sunday School Lessons. I was pastor at a church in Lubbock, Texas at that time. Very early in my ministry I became very interested in a verifiable and consistent method of Bible interpretation. This has been the focus of my 50-year ministry. I want to make people hungry for personal Bible study and give them the tools/methods to do it. This has nothing to do with passing on my personal opinions about the Bible, but enabling people to study it for themselves and walk in the light they have from the Spirit.

God has wonderfully opened so many worldwide doors for this ministry! It is humbling to be used by God, to lift up His Son and to draw all people to him. This is a Great Commission ministry which has two parts: evangelism and discipleship. Both are crucial. Bible Lessons International is

doing both! For more than 40 years I have participated in partnership evangelism missions, and many church members and university students went with me on these



mission trips. Wow, what a blessing to see so many thousands of people come to Jesus.

As I visited with pastors in third-world countries, it became obvious that they had no opportunities for theological training and no

reference study aids! God broke my heart over this. I began to produce:

1. A seminar on Bible interpretation on video, which is dubbed into 13 languages.
2. Written, detailed commentaries using this method of biblical interpretation. After 50 years I have now completed the entire Bible. This is the fulfillment of God’s call on my



Bob teaching at conference in Juarez, Mexico

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life which I felt at the very beginning of my ministry. What a joyful and awesome journey it has been!

3. Written Old Testament and New Testament Surveys to help believers understand the central message and continuity of the Bible.

I believe that God has led me to provide all of these Bible study aids free worldwide via the internet. We currently have translations by native speakers in 48 languages. It has been a driving force to give materials to people who have no resources to study God's word.

No one can imagine how much this has cost. Over the past ten years BLI has spent two million dollars on translation costs alone! At this time I do not have the funds necessary to cover the cost of all the translation projects currently in process. We have never asked for money nor charged for any of the Bible study resources, but now, I need help! Our major source of funding has come from one wonderful family but they have told me that their current level of support can only continue for two more years and then the amount of their contributions (which would still be significant) would be smaller.

GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES

After twenty-two years of marriage, Areli and I are the parents of three young adults; Sarai (21), Rebecca, (19) and Josue (17). Based on their birth dates, our three kids are at the crossroads of the Millennial and Gen-Z generations. Areli and I are blessed.

One of the common denominators between Millennial and Gen-Z's is their desire and drive for the nations. No wonder Bible Lessons International is very attractive to young people across the continents. From its conception, several decades ago, the vision and mission for BLI was clear and simple: World-Wide Evangelism and Disciple-making; also the proclamation and expansion of the fame and character of Jesus around the globe through the teaching, preaching and exposition of exegetical verse-by-verse Biblical commentaries.

Every day, via email, social media, phone calls and personal interaction, our office is contacted with: testimonies, questions, replies and comments on how these free Biblical tools are enhancing churches, seminaries and people's spiritual walks with Christ through the Scriptures.

I am eternally grateful to be a part of a movement that Dr. Bob and Peggy launched, years ago, out of obedience and love for God and His church.

My early interactions with the Utley family began back in the Fall of 1992, when I arrived, as a Freshman, at East Texas Baptist

In light of this we have taken certain steps.

1. Reduced salaries and costs
2. Stopped almost all new translation projects

Peggy and I have reduced our salaries. We will use the money to cover the cost of a new person who will handle the daily operations of the ministry. We will still be involved in a consulting role and a few other things that Peggy wants to continue doing. The following article will introduce Vidal Muniz, the new leader!

If you know of someone who might want to help in this ministry please contact me. Give me the opportunity to share what we are doing to fulfil the Great Commission.

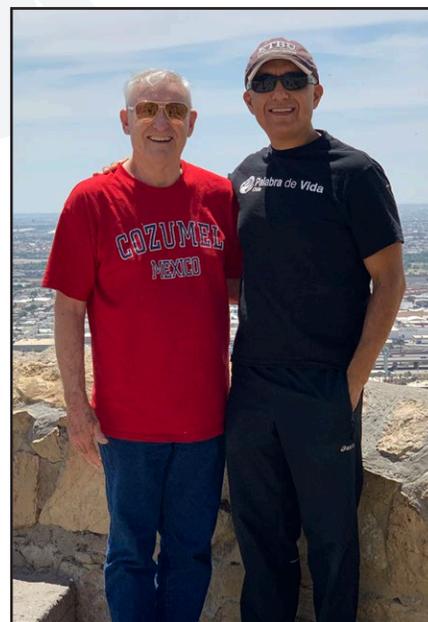
I have come to a place of personal peace about our financial needs. I would be so happy if God provides the funds to continue translating our exegetical commentaries, but if not, we will use our resources to keep what has already been done online. This is God's ministry, not mine.

– Bob

University in Marshall, Texas. As a 19-year old college Freshman, I was just coming out of the Lomas Verdes Baptist Theological Seminary in Mexico City, where I studied Church and Sacred Music during the summers of 1989-1991.

Dr. Bob continued to be my pastor and mentor even after graduating from ETBU, with a BA in Christian Ministries and a minor in Church Music. As the Lord opened the door for my seminary training at Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, Dr. Bob's theological influence helped me in multiple ways through my graduate theological and ministerial studies.

Even as a 29-year veteran in vocational pastoral ministry, I continue to utilize Dr. Bob's online exegetical resources on a weekly basis, not only for my preaching assignments but also my personal Bible reading. These resources are invaluable for pastors, seminaries, Bible colleges and churches, locally and abroad, whom I am able to reach, as the Lord allows.



Bob with new leader Vidal Muniz

In the last seven months, I have been able to present the Biblical Interpretation Seminar, “You Can Understand the Bible” in multiple venues in the USA, Chile and Mexico. God has opened the doors for BLI to partner with Theological Seminaries, Denominational and National Conventions, Associations, many local Churches. I have also answered several video calls with pastors from Cuba, Dominican Republic and Brazil.



Bob and Vidal teaching at Juarez conference

Would you please pray for the remaining of our traveling schedule for 2019?

August:

- Zuriel Baptist Theological School - Celaya, Mexico

November:

- Lacy Baptist Theological Seminary - Oaxaca, Mexico
- La Havana Baptist Theological Seminary - La Havana, Cuba
- “CRECE” National Pastors Conference - Mexico City, Mexico

As I continue to take the seminar, “You Can Understand the Bible,” to the locations listed above, please pray for:

- Safety on the road.
- Areli and the kids, as they stay home while I am away.
- Physical health.
- Availability of financial resources to fulfill the great commission.
- The Spirit of God to speak to seminary students, Bible college pastors, church planters and people around the world through Bible Lessons International.

These and many more opportunities to convey the Gospel around the world take place because of the generosity of your financial partnership and your commitment to pray for BLI.

As you prayerfully consider your financial support to BLI, I want to thank you in advance for creating opportunities for the BLI team to join what God is already doing around the globe.

– Vidal

All the Nations will Come:

God wants “all people” to come to Him. Because this is a Great Commission ministry we want to share some Scriptures which convey our commitment to fulfil it.

“And in that day you will say, Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make them remember that His name is exalted. Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth.” – Isaiah 12:4-5



“The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, And Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.” And it will be said in that day, Behold this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.” –Isaiah 25:6-9



“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.” – Isaiah 45:22



“Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD. To be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the sabbath, And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The LORD GOD, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.” – Isaiah 56:6-8

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LETTERS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

I know that these letters are addressed to us but you should realize that they also are meant for you because without you, none of our work would be possible! *(These emails are printed just as we receive them.)*

Thank you very much Peggy.

I do wish that what I do is approved by the Lord. But as much as I learn more from Bob's precious knowledge, I feel my heart becomes more and more blessed.

Some days ago I was explaining to a new believer about Luke, referring to Bob's Commentary. He was amazed and asked me for a reference. I sent him and his wife a copy of Bob's Commentary. He is shocked because

"nobody ever has detailed such information in any churches or groups so far"! I quoted him.

The problem in (name withheld for security purposes) is really huge. Christians have become a new version of the Corinthians. There is no official church anymore except Armenian church. People gather in home groups and I have heard that strange theological views are already among them. There is no official priest or preacher for them so those who are older in Christ have taken this responsibility, but they are clearly not qualified. You can't imagine how your commentaries are precious to them. I know some people in Armenia or even in US who just read them and say amen but do not really appreciate them! But for those older, and newer believers, in a country like (name withheld for security purposes)... this knowledge is truly mind-blowing for them.

God bless Bob for what he has done and bless you for being with him all these years to support him.

*Love and blessings,
Baback, ARMENIA*

Hello Dr. Bob

I am so blessed by listening to your video lessons and by reading the written materials. I am a pastor and teacher. I found your material is very helpful. Thank

you for encouraging us to learn from your rich knowledge.

God bless the rest of your journey. ETHIOPIA

I am writing to extend me and my friends greetings to u sir. ur ministry has done so much and has contributed to our spiritual growth; now we fully know

that without HIM we wouldn't have lived up to this moment. We also believed that He will do it for us. I so much love the word of God, no wonder

our Lord said man cannot live by breads alone but by every words that comes out from God. Finally we believed that He will do it in the book of Jeremiah 39:18 . And He said "surely I will deliver u". Tank u once again and my regards to our members over there.

God Bless u all, from INDIA

Mr. Bob Utley,

I glad the Holy Spirit lead me to your teachings. I'm not patting you on the back, but I'm glad God speaks to me through your messages. I'm a ordained minister also. But, raised in a Baptist church deep in traditional teachings. Since I got your commentary bible seminar CD, and I started rethink the way I'm taught about the Bible. I found myself not to be drawn to these self edifying teachings now-days. I found myself thirty for a knowledge of the love of God has for us sinners in the Bible. I find that just as Jesus Christ was crucified society does the same to minister if you don't conform to the way they believe you should preach. So I found myself on a search of God in text in a inductive interpretation of the Bible. So I separate myself from these self-edifying ministers.

P.S. Please pray for me and my family.

Bro. Don

Praise the Lord.

May I thank you all and so much to brother Alexander and Peggy have worked closely with me. Their guides and offer to allowing me translating the commentary has made my ministry easy and penetrating in Tanzania. Hallelujah!

It would be good if you could all know that we have reached where we are because of the translation work you have entrusted us with. We have managed a lot by the Grace of the Lord upon you. Thank you again!

My brother, since we started the translation three churches has been planted and 3 huge church building projects in country are on progress as you may see right from the field today as attached.

Pastor Isaya is in Pida and he is building the church in attachments by the 20% of my translation payments. Please consider Swahili translation that has kingdom of God building in mind. I am sure, any stoppage of it may cause a huge shake of the projects going on wastage of the already invested funds in the church building projects.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will testify more effectively than I have done and that the Lord's Grace would stand for the ministry I have through commentary translation.

Meanwhile, there are several achievements we have made out of the funds you pay me for the translation and I sincerely appeal before you and the Lord that you would continue supporting the church/ministry by continuing in giving us work.

Dr. Utley, thank you very much. We have done the following through it:

1. Our translation team has had a living.
2. Through translation we are equipped with sound doctrine that allows us reach others with courage.

3. Three huge church building projects are on progress as you may see right from Pida a village far from where I am.

4. We have started a small school to help poor, vulnerable and orphaned children in the community and classes are needed for them. "You are a blessing man of God to us in Tanzania!"

5. We have managed to support a number of children to afford educational materials, food and slightly paid their fee.

6. We have been able to support our outreach programmes and ministry within the town and villages as we bring new souls to the Lord through outreach.

7. My own life, family and ministry has changed so much for we can be sure of a meal after a meal, paying children's school fees.

Please Dr. Utley, may you know that the payments given to me are not doing anything apart from ministry and if maintained Tanzania will be turned upside down and see Jesus reigning and ruling.

Kindly again, give me further consideration because if this offer continues the church will grow, new souls will continue to be brought to Jesus, many poor will survive and I believe God shall abundantly bless you and one day you will be a witness when you visit Tanzania.

I look to hearing from you.

*Daniel, your humbled translator for Swahili,
TANZANI*



Orphanage that is being reached because of the donations from Daniel's translation payments.

I have just found you on the Internet and am tremendously impressed of what I have heard in you're speaking and am seeing in your website. I study the word

every day and have found that what I read is not necessarily the way I see it, compared to the Bible commentaries.

I have a great respect for the way you present studying the Bible.

I'm hungry to know every detail of His wonderful word and the way you present it makes it easier.

Not much younger than you, a little younger, but you may count me in as a new fan of yours, but giving God the glory for leading me to you.

Thank you for a life dedicated to God and helping others to Understand His word better.

Rick, pastor of a cowboy church, Texas



Bob at Wesley Methodist Seminary in Monterrey, Mexico in January, 2019

Dear Peggy,

I pray that you and Dr Bob are doing ok. This morning I was perusing my book on the message of the Bible (which I published two years ago in Albania). Going through the Bibliography, I came across one of the resources I used for my book: Dr Bob's own commentary!

What a blessed "coincidence" that, in God's provision, a few months after publishing my Albanian book I was invited to translate Dr Bob's commentaries into Albanian!

In Christ, Florenc – translator in ALBANIA

Dear brother Alexander,

Thank you for your message. For the past decade, it has been an immense privilege working with BLI. I have been blessed as a translator, as well as a disciple of Christ reading, meditating upon, and processing Dr. Utley's commentaries. I am grateful to God and to your team for the blessing of being your coworker.

I'm hungry to know every detail of His wonderful word and the way you present it makes it easier.

I will be focusing this summer and autumn on other projects. Still, I will remain available should the BLI plan new projects for 2020 and onwards. Just let me know how your plans are unwrapping.

In the meantime, I will be praying for the Lord's presence and guidance upon all the ministry of Dr. Utley and your team.

In Christ, Vlady Raichinov, BULGARIA

Dear brother Bob,

This past Monday, April 22nd, I was searching for true biblical teaching on YouTube and there you were sitting in a chair, of course many years younger and teaching on the Word of God and I decided to hear you out. Oh my word, I had to do more searching on other studies that you've taught and by today Wed 24th, just two days later I'm grateful to our dear Lord for bringing you into my life.

Thank you brother for your many years of studying the scriptures with the power of the Holy Spirit to help us the church to better understand God's Word in a whole new light.

I was baptized as an LDS and my wife was a Jehovah's Witness, but now we serve the One true God Almighty who rescued us later in our 30's (now in our 60's) to serve our dear Lord and Savior.

May the good Lord use you every day as you wake up to Him in awe and excitement of what's yet to come.

Many blessing to you and your wife Peggy. We'll be looking for you on the other side.

*Until nets are full. With all our love,
Don & Cindy*

Hi,

Thank you for your service and resource. I am a young 26 year old Pastor. I have deeply enjoyed the teaching of Bob Utley from afar, through preaching videos and free Bible resources. I grew up in Virginia in a Non-denominational holiness

church (no speaking in tongues) that stemmed from a Methodist movement. I then studied at Kentucky Mountain Bible College (a conservative, Wesleyan-Arminian College). I pastored 2 years in a Nazarene church in Kentucky before being called back to my home church where I am currently.

I say all this to say, Thank you Bob Utley for your teaching. Your studying of the Word has helped me tremendously. I truly hope one day to meet you and possibly have a discussion. If not here, then when the role is called up yonder. Your teaching and what I would say, Biblical realization of the balance between God's Sovereignty and Man's free will, is superb. You seem to stick true to the Word of God, not forcing in your, or a denominations, view.

I hope this finds you well, and I earnestly will be praying for you and your family that God is continually closer to you.

God Bless, Pastor in Virginia

Bob,

I wanted to let you know just how much I appreciate your verse-by-verse exposition! ... It so greatly complements my daily devotionals when I am at my laptop! ... Just listened to your classic Philemon 1 Bible lesson!

Too many preachers today spend so much time "off-topic," injecting opinions and irrelevant testimonies that detract time away from God's truth.

There is no substitute for verse-by-verse teaching and commentary to get to the heart of the matter and to the heart (and letter) of the language (Original Hebrew; Original Greek, etc.)!

God bless you, your family, and your perseverance in ministry!

Wishing You God's Best! Matt

Hello from Canada

I just want to say, first, thank you for being such a huge blessings to me and to the Body of Christ. My heart echoes the same comment that made on one of your Adobe videos, "Where have you been all of my life?" I can tell you that I have listened to your messages probably now thousands of hours. I have some downloaded from Adobe so I can listen to them at work.

Thank you Bob Utley for your teaching. Your studying of the Word has helped me tremendously. I truly hope one day to meet you and possible have a discussion. If not here, then when the role is called up yonder.

I only came across your videos last year as I was searching for material on the book of Galatians, which I felt the Lord wanted me to write a book about. The book is going to be published later this month. Thank You for those messages in particular, sir. I have a mention of you and

a quote from you in my book. I hope this is ok, sir. These are from the opening or introduction pages of the book.

If I may tell you a little bit about myself, sir: I am Nigerian/Canadian. I live in Canada (for the last 15 years), but grew up in Nigeria for the most part. I am in my mid-40's.

*Thanks, and God bless. Taiwo,
NIGERIA/CANADA*

Dr. Bob,

I am very glad to receive your message. I am pastor, president of a church association, director of an orphanage and professor of Bible school. I have a question for you: I have radio station in Haiti. I would like to ask you if you have interest to broadcast your training/teachings? I can take a time in the programing of the radio to do that. I would also like to use this training to do Bible study directly on the radio as well. Would you give me authorization to do that? May the Lord bless you!

Pastor Predestin, HAITI

Hello,

My name is Caleb and I'm a student at Liberty University. A few years ago I came across pastor Bob Utley's sermon and commentary videos, and I have been watching them daily as I dive into scripture and spend time with the Lord. His sermons and commentaries have allowed me to see scripture in a way that I never have, and my walk with Christ has become immensely deeper as a result. I'm not sure if you will see this message, but I just wanted to say thank you.

Caleb

Dear Dr. Bob Utley,

Thanks for the lessons. I am a teacher of hermeneutics at the Jake Memorial Baptist College in Monrovia, Liberia. Your notes are very very beneficial to me and my class. May the Lord bless you.

*Rev. G. Larque Vaye,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA*

Good day and many blessings Bro Utley.

I am a huge massive follower of your for a while. I have always been keen on the study of the Bible but until I started following your teachings you showed me something new and exciting.

I have always viewed the Bible in light of church tradition but since following your method of interpretation I feel God is speaking more clearly to me lately.

May you be blessed and continue to fight the good fight.

A fellow servant in Christ. Marvin

Hey Bob

Thanks for all the incredible work you have put into building this site and putting what seems to be your "life" work in it.

I'm a fellow Trinity grad, and went on the DTS for ThM work, and let me say you have some great work in here on the website. I'll be utilizing some of it myself in the coming months and will be sure to pass it along whenever I can.

Pastor in Florida

My name is Dr. Oladimeji Samuel, the Rector of Harvestime Bible Intl. Nigerian Study Centre. I am using this opportunity to humbly request for some of your materials to train our students most especially in the area of biblical interpretation.

Thank you. Dr. Samuel, NIGERIA

Thank you, Dr. Utley, for publishing free bible commentaries online. I came to the Lord 5 years ago at the age of 70 and have turned to His word (with very few exceptions) every day. You have played a big part in furthering my understanding of the scriptures, and I particularly appreciate that you are not dogmatic. You never try to bend God's word to say what you want it to say.

God bless, you, your family and your ministry. Cathy

Hello dear Dr. Bob Utley!

We appreciate your work in interpreting the Scripture. We will use it and will tell others about your commentaries.

Truly Yours, Dr. Fedir Stryzhachuk, Odessa Theological seminary, ODESSA, UKRAINE

Dr. Utley

I hope this email finds you well. For the past five years I've been searching for "true" Christianity. Long story short, I've come to believe the Catholic Church was established by Christ to be the foundation and pillar of truth. However, through my studies of the Church Fathers, the Bible and history, I lost Jesus and abandoned what He taught. I began to use my newly found knowledge in negative ways. Instead of educating or discussing, I was using it to prove myself. I guess part of it was because I felt like people from certain denominations were hiding things from me in order that I join their group. I have since realized that was not always the case. A lot of them were genuine people that had sincere beliefs.

That brings me to you. I saw a Adobe video of you discussing the Eucharist.

What pushed me to watch your whole sermon on it, I don't know. But when I got out of it, might be just what you intended.

I just want to say that I was incredibly moved by your humbleness, sincerity and faith. You reminded me to put Jesus first and become a more loving person. I was

I just want to say that I was incredibly moved by your humbleness, sincerity and faith. You reminded me to put Jesus first and become a more loving person.

starting to let denominational differences damage some of the relationships I cherish the most. In fact, I'm still trying to repair some of those. I still believe what I believe, but in terms of dealing with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I choose Jesus to be our first point of contact rather than theological differences.

Thanks again dr. Utley. You have truly made a difference in my life.

Gilbert, San Antonio

"For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory." – Isaiah 66:18



"And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me, says the LORD." – Isaiah 66:23



"All the earth will worship You, and will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name." – Psalm 66:4



"All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name." – Psalm 86:9



"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, for My name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts." – Malachi 1:11



"And He said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day. And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." – Luke 24:46-47



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." – Acts 1:8

Merry
Christmas 2019

A NOTE FROM PEGGY

The changes mentioned in Bob's letter may be surprising to you but it is inevitable that, as Bob and I grow older, that changes need to be made. However, it is always difficult to adjust to new things! For more than 40 years Bible Lessons International has been our life, and it still is. So, just to let you know, these changes are very difficult for us. It is hard to "let go"!

Bob's letter introduced Vidal Muniz as the new Director for BLI. He began these duties in May. He is coordinating Bob's schedule for teaching/preaching opportunities, especially in Mexico (he is scheduled for three of these this year and one has been scheduled for next January), and making all of the travel arrangements. He will be in charge of all the office procedures including bookkeeping duties, payroll, and other issues that arise.). He is already paying our translators when Alexander (our Translation Coordinator) informs him to do so. I will continue keeping records and communications with our contributors. I will also help Vidal with the paperwork for the Internal Revenue

Service. Vidal is also responsible for presiding over the website, coordinating with Doris and Charles.

Vidal lives in Pharr, Texas which is near McAllen. It is a blessing that everything can be done electronically through the Internet. We are now using office software (QuickBooks) which allows Vidal to communicate with me online. We thank the Lord for the technology which allows us to do this!

So, as you can see, things are already in place for the transition into a new era. We are excited to see what God is going to do in the future. Please continue to pray for BLI. We depend upon all of you to pray for us and to donate as the Lord leads. Thank you for being a blessing to us.

You are loved by BLI!!!

