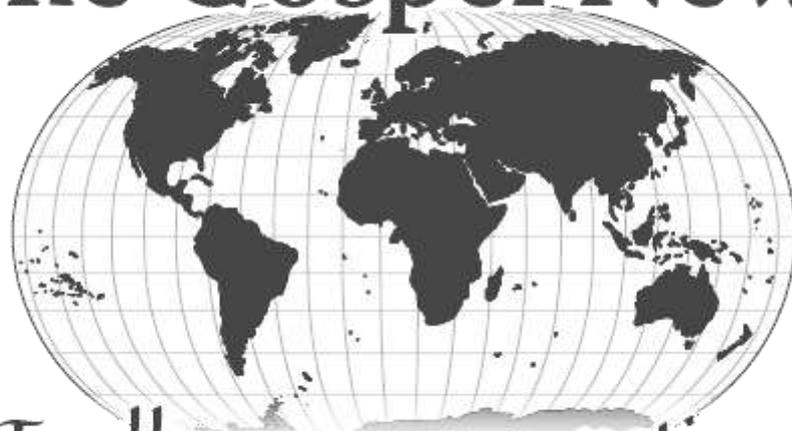


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

Editorial When Troubles Mount Up

"Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live" (2 Kings. 20:1). What a disaster! Hezekiah was 39, yet he had no heir to the throne and now he was sick unto death. *Trouble on trouble*. To make matters worse, the Assyrians were invading the nation. He had known that would happen; in fact, he had provoked the action by rebelling against Assyria in refusing any longer to pay tribute (2 Kings 18:7). His trust was in the God of Israel and in the word of assurance received through Isaiah the prophet.

Assyria would invade. They would take many towns, but they would not overthrow Jerusalem. Then they would be destroyed on the mountains of Israel (Isa. 7:17; 8:7-8; 10:12; 14:25).

Hezekiah's whole strategy was based on reliance on the word of the Lord. Since Jerusalem would not be taken, it was prepared as a haven of refuge for any whose towns were overrun. Walls were repaired, towers built, water courses altered and the army organized to withstand any siege. More importantly, the people were prepared spiritually: "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria nor for all the multitude that is with him...With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah" (2 Chr. 32:2-8).

Harm to the ecclesia

Hezekiah was the key person in rallying the faith of the people. The princes were of no use; they wanted to rely on Egypt as their primary means of support (Isa. 30:1-5; 2 Kings. 18:21). The king knew that such action would spell disaster. If God were forsaken in favor of Egypt, they were doomed, so he thwarted the princes at every turn. Then, at the most critical time, he was smitten with a disease akin to leprosy (2 Kings. 20:7).

It was as if God had turned against him and had deliberately marked him as one rejected by the Lord. All his plans were crumbling; the policy of defiance based on faith in God was abandoned for appeasement. Strip the temple of its gold and its treasures, take any money available and buy peace became the government's new policy (2 Kings. 18:14-16). And now the prophet came with the ultimate word of defeat: "Hezekiah, you are going to die."

The key verses

That is the picture which emerges from a careful reading of the record. Two passages are key in putting the pieces together properly. First, that illness and invasion occurred at the same time. In response to Hezekiah's desperate prayer, the Lord's answer was, "...I will heal thee...And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria" (2 Kings. 20:5-6). And, second, that his reprieve gave him time to produce an heir. "Manasseh [successor to Hezekiah] was twelve years old when he began to reign..." (2 Kings. 21:1). Manasseh was born during the 15 years added to Hezekiah's life.

Given these two points, the whole picture falls in place. A little work is needed as the record is in Kings, Chronicles and Isaiah. But the pieces are all there; and when they are put together the scene is one of desperate trouble for a man of outstanding faith.

A righteous man

Hezekiah "did that which was right in the sight of the LORD according to all that David his father did" (2 Kings. 18:3). He had done nothing to deserve this accumulation of trouble. To this point in his reign, he had labored mightily on God's behalf: "And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah,

and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered" (2 Chron. 31:20-21).

Be not dismayed

What turmoil must have been going through Hezekiah's mind. What heaviness lay on his heart. How could he be stricken at such a critical time? It wasn't just a matter of his own health - it was all the harm being done to the ecclesia. They desperately needed him to rally them to God. And then to be told he would die! Without an heir!

It can happen

We have all experienced problems of one sort or another. We have all known ill-health, the loss of loved ones, frustration and disappointment, financial distress, ecclesial strain or family difficulties. If we are going to make it to the kingdom of God we must be able to endure problems and learn from them.

But sometimes the difficulties do not come one at a time. Sometimes they will pile up one upon another, as if there is no relief. It is as if God, has turned against us and become our enemy.

Job knew the experience, for he was deprived of wealth, possessions, servants, family and health. Paul did, too, when he was imprisoned, forsaken by friends and slandered by adversaries. The Lord Jesus Christ was deserted by his followers, despised and rejected of men, wounded, bruised, tormented and crucified. Those who saw the scene felt that God would never permit one of His faithful ones to be treated like that: "We did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (Isa. 53:4).

Endurance possible

It can happen. A time can come in the life of a faithful person when one problem piles on top of another until we feel like we can't take it any more. But, by the grace of God, we can bear the burden. He will not try us beyond what we are able to endure (I Cor. 10:13). He will not bring an accumulation of troubles on the person who cannot cope with it.

That does not mean the faithful will automatically respond correctly. Job did not and was reproofed for his words. Hezekiah struggled mightily: "Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward" (Isa. 38:14).

God has promised a way of escape that we may faithfully withstand any circumstances that come into our lives. That does not guarantee we will avail ourselves of His relief, however. Some will not hold fast to the end and will turn against God when tribulation arises (Matt. 13:21).

The only way we can endure the trial of trouble upon trouble is to heed the words, "Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction" (Psa. 119:92). The word of God will not be our delight, however, if we have not made it so on a daily basis. Let us do that now that we might endure faithful unto the end.

Don Styles, (USA)

News from Africa

news from burundi

CIBITOKÉ

We thank you so much for your steady correspondence and the Bibles. We ask for forgiveness for the delay in replying; we have a big problem with money for sending letters etc., we even have a problem with language, for we do not know much English. I now send some photos for publishing in *Gospel News*

Bro. Kashindi-Bin-Nyassinde

news from cameroon

BANGEM

We wish to announce that we had three new born babies in our ecclesia on 30th January 2004, their names are Bro. Victor Mesumbe, Sis. Alice Ntungwe and Bro Ringsly Epie. We pray that God Almighty will guard them and give them strength so that the gospel of God continues to spread world-wide.

Bro. Felix and Bro. Elongson

KUMBA

"The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth He has given to the sons of men". "No one has ascended into heaven, but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man". "And the Lord will become King over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and His name one" (Ps. 115:16; John 3:13; Zech. 14:9).

Sis. Therese Lene



Photo: Sis. Therese Lene

LIMBE

I received *Gospel News* and it was a blessing to me, knowing about my brethren in other parts of the world. With me, my health is improving and things are getting better. I was in hospital for four months. The picture is of me returning back home from hospital.

Bro. George Ewi



Photo: Bro. Ewi

MUTENGENE

I am a cabinet maker and hold a diploma in woodwork and small business management, also a certificate of apprenticeship. I am unemployed, but make furniture for some ecclesias, like benches, tables, chairs, blackboards etc. Please, can any Brother send me a woodwork catalogue?

Bro. Brian Ebong

news from ghana

KUMASI

I'm now in my third year and currently doing my teaching practice in a village a few kms. away from the college. I teach English language, social studies, agricultural science, religious and moral education, life skills and Ghanaian language in the Junior secondary school.

Bro. Kofi Agyekum

SHAMA

It is very sad to report that our Bro. Evans Dwame Anyiglah has fallen asleep in Christ. He was baptised on May 21, 2003. He had an accident and was rushed to hospital at Sekondi, where he was admitted for two weeks and later discharged, but he died within a few days. I have had two attacks of malaria. The last one happened when I went out to buy food and, returning, I suddenly fell down on the roadside where I lay for a while before I was able to get up and continue to my house. Sis. Cecilia travelled to see her senior sister at Kumasi in December. I am still preaching the word of God here and at present have students; if our Lord remains away there may be two or three baptisms. People here are showing a great interest in the gospel; although many of them go to church, they lack good teaching of God's word. We pray that the Lord will come soon and that we may all enter into that great Kingdom.

Bro. Joseph Oppong

news from kenya

BARICHO

We had hoped last year would bring the Lord's return, but although the signs continue to build up, the Great Day has still not arrived. We pray this year may see our Lord's second coming. We can be sure we will continue to see more signs to strengthen our faith as the time approaches; Israel is still at the centre of it all. As we look around the world with all its troubles, we realise that it is completely beyond man's ability to put things right. Jesus said there would be distress of nations with perplexity and men's hearts failing them for fear. It does seem that the terrorists are able to strike wherever they choose.

Bro. Eliud Ngayo

BULUMBO

I am thankful for *Gospel News* by which I am gaining knowledge from the views of Brethren and

Sisters from all over the world. Please continue – don't give up. I thank Brethren for the work of translation they are undertaking. I was happy when I read in *Gospel News* that *Bible Basics* has been translated into Swahili. Those Brethren who sacrificed for this work will be blessed..

Bro. Moses Sande Joumer

BUNGOMA

I have read the CAT booklet, 'Women in the Church', and note that the arguments are supported by Holy Scripture, whereas the other denominations dwell on events of history.

Bro. John Kwyala

CHUKA-MERU-SOUTH

I am fine and still in the race towards the Kingdom, for I have learned, like Paul, that nothing can, or will, separate me from the lover of God which is manifested in Christ our Lord (Rom. 8:39). Right now I have written a message in Swahili which I intended to put on tapes, but I have no money to do so. Hope the Kingdom will be here soon. The last word: Can I get about three *Bible Basics* in Kiswahili? I also need a good King James' Bible, if possible.

Bro. David Aphaxard

GISAMBAH

I thank Bros Rob Splint and Kizayi who came to my house and shared the breaking of bread and the wine in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified on a tree because of sin. I pray for my Brothers and Sisters and our friends so that we might make an ecclesia in our area. I also thank Bro. Ernest Lavuna, who showed me the way to the Kingdom. I won't turn back like Lot's wife when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, or like somebody who puts their hand to the plough and looks back; such are not fit for the Kingdom of God (Lk. 9:62). Please send me *Bible Basics* and Sunday School material.

Bro. Solomon Abukika

KABABU

In a village in Kenya a man died and was buried. Later, the man's wife was convinced by a dream that her husband wanted his watch, so she took the watch and buried it next to his body. A young man secretly dug up the watch and used it for years until it wore out. No harm came to him. If the dead man had had the power to influence the living, he surely would have punished the thief who stole his watch from the grave. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 says, "For the living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun". So we must stick to the Bible, Brothers and Sisters, because man's teaching is faulty.

Bro. Nicholas Odhiambo



Photo: Bro. Nicholas Odhiambo

KAMUKUYWA

I am sorry not to have let you know that the *Bible Basics* you sent arrived safely. I gave them to

friends and think they are enjoying reading them. For this reason I request you to send at least three more, one in Kiswahili, to give to other interested friends.

Bro. Patrick Wafula

God will fulfil His ancient promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and He has invited Gentiles to participate in the same benefits (Gal. 3:8-9). The three steps to salvation are (a) belief (b) baptism and (c) obedience. What must we first believe? According to the Scriptures, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his Name" (John 20:31). It is also written in the epistle to the Romans (1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that *believeth*, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek". In step two we find that baptism is followed after belief, "He that *believeth* and is baptised shall be saved; but he that *believeth* not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Paul, as an apostle of Christ, says to the Galatians, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29). Thirdly, we should in our Christian life obey God's and Jesus' commandments. With the help of the *Bible Companion* we should read God's word daily.

Bro. Moses Kutukhulu



Photo: Bro. Moses Kutukhulu

KITALE

It's a long time since I wrote to you. I have been in Tanzania preaching the gospel. I'm happy because *Gospel News* helped us in reading more good testimonies from many Brothers and Sisters all over the world. We have arranged a mini Bible School for September and December.

Bro. Martin W. Chemiati

KITISE

Thank you for the book. My wife was bitten by a very poisonous snake but, thanks to God, she is now going on well. Here at Kitise it is very, very dry. As you know, people are all different – some ask whether there is any help for us, others ask whether you will come to visit us. But I tell them that if they hear my voice, they also hear yours, because we understand the same gospel.

Bro. Daniel Maingi

KOBUJOI

This picture was taken on the rocks of the Nandi Escarpment. There is a steep section and the background shows the sugar cane Belt Zone. The place is called Kapuényele and is a tourist attraction area. Things have been moving towards establishing an ecclesia at Nandi Hills town and I managed to travel to the town to meet up with Brethren in charge of the Rift Valley region. The meeting was successful, being blessed by our Heavenly Father.

Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir



Photo: Bro Geoffrey Chirchir, back, second from right with friends.

MAKINDU

We had a good 2003 and hope God will continue to bless us. Thank you for the good job with *Gospel News* – keep it up! Enclosed is a photo of the members of the Makindu ecclesia and one of myself.

Bro. Nicholas M. Nzuki



Photo: Bro. Nzuki



Photo: Makindu ecclesia

MBITA

I have a baby boy, 9 months old, and I named him Duncan. He is suffering from a bent foot, forcing me to take him to the hospital for an operation; he is young enough that the foot can be treated.

Bro. Daniel Ogembo

MWANDEO

Almost every one of us is expecting Jesus to come soon. The Bible promises us that Jesus will truly come (Matt. 24:36-39; Luke 17:26-27). The day and the hour no one knows, but the Father only, and the days will be like the days of Noah (Gen. 6:5-8), and "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12-14). People will be lovers of earthly things, forgetting their God (2 Tim. 3). Matthew ch. 24 is like a mirror for us to watch. Many of these things are happening, but the end is not yet, therefore we should endure all the sufferings so that Jesus finds us ready for salvation.

Bro. Nicholas K. Mutuku



Photo: Bro. Nicholas Mutuku with some of his family

In the beginning God placed man where everything was free (Gen. 1:28-30). There was a river in Eden for watering. Problems started when Eve ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6). From that day to our own, problems have increased daily in the world and man has turned away from God. Genesis ch. 6 tells us how God decided to punish mankind for their evil by destroying them with

a flood. And we all know it is the same in our own days due to the fact that man has turned away from God. Let us all keep close to God and everything will be OK.

Bro. M. Lugo Jefa

NANYUKI

I appreciate copies of *Gospel News*, they are not wasted. A friend and I (who studied the Bible with others) were caught and convicted of holding a gathering without a certificate of registration as a known church community. We were mistaken as being a certain sect that was not registered and was against the government, the so-called 'Mungiki'. Therefore the two of us were said to be the ones leading the gathering and were sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but now we are out and are continuing with our studies, for it is for our benefit.

Francis Kinandu

NDHIWA

I appreciate the work you do of informing those who work for the Lord of what is happening in the world. I am always grateful when I read *Gospel News* and I make sure I go through it and understand it. I always pray for the oppressed and hope God will answer my prayers. Jesus said (Mark 10:29-30) if we leave things in this life for his sake and the gospel's we shall receive a hundred fold with persecutions (repeat, persecutions), and in the world to come eternal life. We should therefore preach the gospel of our Master without fear of persecution, knowing it is part of our heritage.

Sis. Dorine A. Mboya



Photo: Sis. Dorine Mboya (right), with friends

NYONGONGA

I thank you very much for constantly sending me *Gospel News*. God's mercy is wonderful, and I really appreciate the spiritual feeding you have been offering me for so long. You have been using your resources and energy to see to it that we get the word of God right at our home turfs and on our door steps. I really appreciate the effort you make to give this spiritual food to so many Brothers and Sisters in all corners of the earth. May the Almighty God keep you safe and prolong your life in order to keep on serving His children. I am a Sunday School teacher here.

Bro. Benson A. Ngadi



Photo: Bro Ngadi

SINDO

I started receiving *Gospel News* May/June 1999 to date and it has made me grow spiritually in

reading Brethren and Sisters' living witness to the true gospel. We pray for the truth to spread and encourage contributions to the Magazine. We wish you to continue the witness to the truth, and pray for Brethren and Sisters to stand firm in the faith. We pray for Brethren and Sisters where the truth is restricted, especially in Muslim countries. The topic of the pre-existence of Christ by Bro. John and Sis. Sally Palmer was of great spiritual help to us showing that the Scriptures are the best interpreter. God has provided the true evidence that the Bible is His inspired word, therefore it is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that we may be perfect to do the works of good (2 Tim. 3:16). No prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation, but holy men spoke from God as they were moved by the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20,21). The God of the Bible is the Creator of heaven and earth; He is King eternal, invisible, the only wise God, the Almighty. God has the power to create and destroy (1 Tim. 1:17; Gen. 1:1; Deut. 32:39). The God of the Bible spoke through the prophets, apostles and through His Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal His wonderful purpose with man and the earth. He spoke through Moses and promised to raise up a Prophet from the family of Israel to whom salvation would be preached in his name (Deut. 18:15; 17:20 [compare Acts 20:20-26]). We must appreciate God's love in sending His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be Lord and Christ, the promised Messiah. We are looking forward to his second coming, he who is our only Redeemer, to take over the kingdoms of men.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

TONGAREN

I am grateful to God to be able to announce that Tongaren ecclesia has been blessed with three baptisms, all are daughters of the undersigned: Esther Kasembeli (wife of Bro. Moses Kasembeli), Getquin Mandako and Lowvine Nafuna. May God bless them as they now journey through the wilderness of this world to the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Isaac Kapa

WEBUYE

I thank God for His mercy which He has on us this minute. I have problems here and there; I need your prayers so that I may escape them. Don't stop sending books and other items, because they keep my faith strong in the coming Kingdom. They also help me in knowing more of the truth of the word of God and of His Son, Jesus. Be blessed with the Lord and continue doing His will until the Kingdom comes with our Brother, Jesus.

Sis. Dorcus Mabuka

news from mauritius

We must keep our lamps filled with oil and our garments clean. Thank you for the spiritual material you send regularly. I have retired from work, but bad health follows my footsteps and I take many pills to survive. CAT is the sower of seeds in every part of the world, especially in Moslem countries – a job considered to be difficult. Another fellowship has opened a little ecclesia here and one of our members has joined them.

Bro. Lilcan Ancharar

news from mozambique

LICHINGA

Thank you for your letter and the cards, which are helping me to read the Bible and know the truth. God be glorified. I and the Brethren and Sisters were happy to hear that you had been to Australia meeting with Brethren and Sisters whose ecclesia runs special English courses for foreigners, and do it by teaching them to read from the Bible. This is most interesting to us because most of us speak French, Swahili or Portuguese. Is it possible for us to be helped to understand English?

Bre. & Srs. From Lichinga ecclesia.

Comment: If anyone has suitable literature to help these Bre. & Srs. learn English, could they please let me know. MH

news from namibia

OSIRE

We want to move forward and share this Good News with our fellow refugees and compatriots outside the camp, but the restrictions within which we live do not allow us to be outside the camp. However, the ecclesia continues to meet and to work normally. Our worship meetings function normally, with a Sunday School. We continue with individual preaching and feel the need for more literature in French, English and Portuguese as well as Swahili (brochures, Bibles, etc). As for our Sunday School, the material we have only deals with the Old Testament. Since the baptism of Bre Kitego Sunguza, Etoke and Kashindi, other faithful friends are following the teaching. We continue to work with them and they are still waiting for baptism. However, we still have not received any letter about the Brothers in South Africa. It has been difficult to organise the breaking of bread at times because of a lack of bread and wine.

Bro Kashindi Ndubula

OTJIWARONGO

I am very happy to receive your letter together with *Gospel News*, in which I find much to help me to progress in faith and in understanding of the Word of God. I hope you will be able to continue to preach the living truth of our Lord, because many souls are suffering from sin without knowing the truth and the gift which has been freely given by God. Myself, I did not know of this truth, but through you I have received it. For God has enlightened you in order to reach me by the Bible, brochures and *Bible Basics* which tells about the truth and the grace of God. In this way, I strengthen my faith in Him who chose me long ago. We continue to meet together with all the brothers in Christ present in the camp as well as Godson Mulisho and others who are awaiting baptism. Some believers are no longer with us. We see the mighty hand of God in spite of the difficult situation in which we live in the camp; we stand firm in the Lord. Pray for us, that we may be further strengthened in the faith and encouraged to develop in our Christadelphian doctrines. God alone gives to each his reward. Go with us hand-in-hand to attain the Kingdom which has been reserved for us by the Most High.

Kitego Oredi

news from nigeria

ENUGU

The men of the underworld broke into my house last November and took away my money and other belongings. They beat me up, wounding my eyes, but thanks be to God for saving my life through the help of sympathisers who rushed me to the hospital. This I'm writing as a testimony, asking all Brethren to pray for one another for His perfect protection and guidance, especially in these evil days. This takes our minds to 2 Tim. 3:1-4 and Gen. 6:5, for violence and corruption have filled the earth. Remain in Him.

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

Thank the living God who brought me to the faith, where the word of God is preached without any respect of man. Please do not relent in sending me literature. Flesh and blood is a dominating force in all mankind, which started from the garden of Eden. The woman disobeyed the law and obeyed her lust and both she and the man were sentenced to death (Gen. 3:6,17-19; Rom 3:23; 6:23). Even the called, Abraham, played the part of the flesh when he told a lie (Gen. 20:2-11). King David did the same when he committed adultery with Bath-Sheba, the wife of Uriah and killed her husband (2 Sam. 12:1-7.). These men are key personalities to our salvation, for God made covenants with them which brought forth the Messiah. Unto Abraham the Lord God swore, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen 22:18 [Gal. 3:16]). Unto David the Lord God said, "...I will stablish the throne of his (David's seed) kingdom for ever" (2 Sam. 7). When that promised "seed" of the woman, came into the world, he taught us how we can conquer the pull of the flesh and gain victory for eternal life (Matt. 4:1-10).

Bro Golden Onuoha

KANO

Please forgive me for not having written you for quite some time now, this stems from the economic situation that has characterised the governance of our God-given country. To worsen everything, I lost the little job I was doing to keep body and soul together since last year. The underlying problems associated with this are better imagined. What an upheaval to meet the demands nature forces on one. For the past few months I have not been able to receive letters because of my inability to pay the rental bill of my postal box.

Bro. Chris M. Anyanwu

OSHODI

It is with joy I write this letter to you as we see the day of the return of our Lord quickly approaching. Hoping that you are keeping well. We remember Jesus said (Luke 17:26-30) what the world would be like before his coming. So with these signs, and many others, we know that the coming of our Lord cannot be far away. The question for each of us is, Are we ready for his coming? Ours is a high and holy calling; we are called to be sons and daughters of the living God and Brothers and Sisters of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we are promised a glorious future in the Kingdom Jesus will set up on the earth very soon, and we want to be in that Kingdom. Psalm 2 gives us a picture of the Kingdom being given to Jesus by God, his Father. There will be no soft option for those who rebel. We are told that he will rule them with a rod of iron. The fact is that we are in the time of the end; it's in our own interest that we are faithful stewards now. We all

want to be with our Master, Jesus Christ, in that day, but it all depends on how we live now. We all need to do our best to live perfectly, and when we stand before the Judge of all the earth he will welcome us into his Kingdom with joy beyond measure, with eternal life, to live and reign with him.

Bro. Victor Moon

UMUAHIA

I really thank God for the effort you people are making to keep the things of God growing, both in the area of preaching and in other things. It is quite unfortunate that I have had a break-down I plead that Brethren remember me in their prayers, praying that God will bring me back to normality quickly. I wish to use this opportunity to thank you for the bulk materials of Ibo Bible Basics. I am really happy to have them.

Bro. Lucky Eforibe



Photo: Bro. Lucky Eforibe

news from south africa

EDENVALE

I spent a profitable three weeks in the Transkei and our team have signed up over 1000 for the Correspondence Course; we have now covered about 26 towns and have only another eight to complete the Transkei proper. We still have a long way to go to complete the Xhosa-speaking areas. We have had a total response of about 1700. The next challenge is the follow-up! This trip I did 7550km. We now have a short-list of about 30. I really should be living there to do justice to the interest. We are hoping to build a meeting room, but are being delayed by forms. The drought in RSA is bad and in some parts is the worst for 88 years. Many subsistence farmers in the black areas haven't been able to plough because it's too dry – nor make bricks for that matter. The young ecclesia, started this year, went through a dip but is now fired-up again. I enclose the Xhosa *Bible Basics* done by Zwaiake; it is proving very popular. There is very little in Xhosa – even in the world generally.

Bro. Norman Durk

FERNDALE

Back here in Kempton Park we are quite happy; the ecclesia is slowly growing in numbers and in spirit and maturity. We, as an ecclesia, maintain a literature stand on the main street in Kempton Park near a busy Mall. The response from people is quite encouraging. One of the major things of this is that it is a permanent feature every Saturday from 10am to 12 o'clock, so people do start to know us. We have got a number of students from this. By God's grace we are

hoping to have some fruit from this.

Bro. Wacek

news from tanzania

KASULU

I appreciate your tireless efforts of preaching and encouraging Sisters and Brothers. It is very interesting that I get the opportunity to learn of how Brothers and Sisters are moving to our destination. In fact, it is difficult to put in writing all the benefits extracted from *Gospel News* – it would need more paper! I am eager to read news of my Brothers and Sisters and learning their views on the way towards the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Patrick Athanasi

KIGOMA

I travelled away from my region (Kigoma) for a period of four months, but fortunately I found your letter on my return. It is encouraging to hear that people in Middle East countries (most being Islamic) have received the true word of our Heavenly Father. I believe He will always enable Bro. David Jacob and others to spread His word there. We have started translating pamphlets and other hand-outs into Kiswahili for ease of reading and understanding.

Bro Alimasi Jacob

KILOSA

I thank you for the opportunity of becoming a closer member of the family in Christ and feel the bonds of fellowship world-wide. My mother and father have both gone to rest; my mother died in October, 2002 and my father in May, 2003, but I am still at peace, due to the truth that has been planted in my heart. The apostle Paul, in the epistle to the Galatians, shows that his authority was from the Lord Jesus alone, and that therefore his message was divine. He then insists that salvation is entirely by grace and not by law-keeping; this cannot give life. God gave the law to show men their need of a Saviour. Once they accept this, they are redeemed from the curse of the law, henceforth Christ, and not the law, is their rule of life. Paul closes by encouraging the saints to live in the enjoyment of Christian liberty and not to allow themselves to be put under the bondage of the law.

Bro. Alick Noah

KYELA

We are highly pleased that we have now instituted a new ecclesia at Kyela town. The Truth has penetrated hard into villages like Ipinda, Kanga and Tenende. Kyela town was in total darkness of the Truth, but we are looking forward to people responding to our preaching. Kyela ecclesia has three Brothers and one Sister.

Bro. Gasper M. Mwasimba



Photo: Bro Elius Kanyengela being given a piece of wedding cake.

MATAI

I would like to thank you because since you started to post books to me I have got good teaching. We all need to prepare for the Lord, so that we can enter the Kingdom.

Bro. Sabastian Lusale

MBOZI

Kindly send us additional copies of *Gospel News* for our library, which is becoming more and more popular here, mainly because you have printed news about our ecclesia. As a result many people are coming to learn Bible truth and about God's Kingdom. I am happy to inform you that I have already started construction of another residential house, after selling my home to pay Government debts last year.

Bro. Raphael M. Mkeya

TABORA

Thank you for *Gospel News*, it is always good to hear from distant Brethren and Sisters and very encouraging. I look forward to receiving it. Let's hold fast and be watchful as we know not the day or the hour of our Lord's coming.

Bro. Fredrick Misonge

UJJI

My family and I are very thankful to you for sending us the English language Bible Course/literature. We are really trying our best to study, but face a major problem of language. The English used in the Course material is very advanced for most of us, thus we get difficulties during study. Also, more people – many of whom understand Kiswahili language – would join our study group if the Course was available in Kiswahili. In fact, three quarters of the members of our Bible study group depend on the few who understand limited English to interpret the Course into Kiswahili, which is a very hard task, because the Swahili speakers can't study independently unless they have interpreters. We therefore have two kind requests to make to you: firstly, if possible, please send us an English language dictionary, since the only person who had a dictionary here went to college to study and we can't afford to buy one. Secondly, send us the Kiswahili Bible course materials to help our Brethren and Sisters here.

Bro. Wanea Mkosa

Comment: The first edition of the Kiswahili Bible Basics has been distributed. There is a huge demand for it and a reprint has now been produced, so further copies will be sent out. Any help with this project would be most appreciated.

URUMBO



Photo: Bro. Mathias Nyelele (right) with Bro. Michael Mpandachalo. Sis. Elizabeth Nyelele, child, and Sis. Elizabeth Michael (after Bible study). *Gospel News* is in the sister's hand.

UVINZA

I am very happy to hear that *Bible Basics* has been translated into 50 languages and feel many

people who speak those languages will be happy to have it.

Bro. Imani Dimanche

news from uganda

KABERAMAIDO

A rebel group known as LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) come from a tribe called Acholi people. They began fighting people, using pangus (swords) as their main weapons. As they continued, they learnt to use guns and still use them to kill people. Their aim is to kill civilians, burn houses, steal cows, goats, clothes, food, money. They don't want to take over government or even to fight with Government soldiers, but they are after civilians; they are just robbers and killers. Their activities affect Northern Uganda only and that is the very place we live. Now people are in camps everywhere with no proper food or shelter, clean water etc. Some people rent houses. This situation causes many diseases. I am just happy that many people are crying to God for help, so we are able to preach the word of God every Sunday morning to those who are in camps. In the evening we preach the Gospel news of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom. So I have learnt that sufferings bring us near to God; it is a good lesson for us all when we have sufferings (Heb. 12:5-11). Thank you again for your help in spreading the gospel news of Jesus Christ and God's Kingdom all over the world through the Magazine and books.

Bro. Opio Bosco

KIGANDALO

Many people feel that provided they change their life for the better there is no need to submit to baptism. How wrong they are; how ineffective all their efforts to do right. Consider the case of Naaman the Syrian (2 Kings 5). Elisha the prophet, a man of God, told him to wash in the river Jordan to cure his leprosy. At first he refused, but when his servant persuaded him to obey this specific detail given by God, he was cured at once. If we obey the word of God as closely as we can, we, too, can be cured and start afresh. But we may wonder about subsequent mistakes and sins, that is, those committed after baptism. As we know, by baptism we are associated with the death of Jesus Christ, and this event was a once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin, and those things which we do wrong in our new life in Christ are forgiven by prayer through our new-found Saviour. When we repent and ask for God's forgiveness, all our sins and errors are blotted out from the record and therefore we can go forward daily confident that, if we try to do right, God has promised to mercifully forgive us. God has offered us this wonderful opportunity through His word. Do we yet feel the need to start our life again? With our experience of the mistakes we have made and the desire to erase some of the dark patches of our previous life, here is a unique opportunity to start again – not this time on a life that leads to the grave, but on the road to immortality and the glorious Kingdom of God. God's way is the only way by which we can be reconciled to Him. This is the importance of baptism. It is an essential act of obedience, an essential part of God's way of salvation.

Bro. Colin Bwire



Photo: Bro. Colin Bwire

KISINGA

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Sis. Janet Shemeld for her wonderful efforts which helped me find the truth through sending the Bible lessons. I was baptised in the Name of our Lord on June 21, 2003, by Bro. Godwin Mugasi of Mbarara. I have continued to receive *Glad Tidings* and *Gospel News* and am still continuing with Bible studies. The preaching work is progressing steadily. We now have over 100 contacts – students taking either the 40-Lesson course or *Bible Basics* Introductory Course. Please send me more copies of *Bible Basics* and any book to help me in preparing public talks. I keep moving to help the contacts and teaching them what God really wants from us, although this task is not easy – going without food, walking long distances etc. I request fellow Brothers and Sisters to remember me and keep praying for this work.

Bro. Baluku Nicodemus



Photo: Bro. Baluku Nicodemus

LUGAZI

A believer's life is joyful, as an expression of obedience to God's call and such obedience, followed by walking and living according to God's principles, yields salvation. I am pleased with the work being carried out to redeem people all over the world, and especially in Uganda. The glorious message of the word has reached, and is reaching, many parts of the world. God is calling believers to arise and do exploits for Him (Luke 10:2), therefore as co-labourers we have a great task before us to sow God's word generously to help rescue people and set the captives free.

A Brother

MBARARA

Sister Jane, my wife, and Sis. Savana, my daughter, join hands in sending greetings to everyone. We are very much lacking *Bible Basics*. We are going ahead with the translation of *Bible Basics* in our indigenous language (Runyankore) for our non-English-speaking converts. Endeavour always to write to me as I feel bothered when time goes without hearing from you.

Bro. Godwin Mugasi

MT. ELGON

I thank God for the work you do in sending *Gospel News* which encourages us in reading the Bible. We must encourage each other and pray for everyone (read Lam. 3:25-26; Luke 15:10). Jesus said we are his friends if we do whatever he commands (John 15:14).

Hariet Wekeye



Photo: Mt. Elgon Sunday School

DOKOLO BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Update on our brothers in Uganda who are refugees in their own country after being driven from their homes by the Lord's Resistance Army. The BBC has recently shown horrific scenes of carnage caused by the LRA.

The brothers are very thankful for the help that we have been able to send to them, they were safe at the end of February and we pray that they still are. The brothers wrote:

"Thank God we are still alive up to now. We would like to express our appreciation to you for the assistance of money you gave us by bro Kevin and Paul (Paul Boyd and Kevin Rawlings saw the brothers during their visit in October 2003) . We pray that God may bless you... We also are very thankful for the welfare you are doing. The rebel activities is still going on. No means of going back to our farm lands until the rebel leader Joseph Kony is arrested or dead. He is fighting civilians but not the Government that is why he is in control of the villages hunting to kill innocent people like wild animals in the bush. And all people must stay in camps without digging. On the 4th Feb 2004 they attacked and kill many peoples living in Abia Camps, Apala sub city, 20 miles north of Dokolo and was reported on BBC radio, we think you might have heard. And many which are not reported. So we are like orphans and homeless wanderers, without farm land. We are not able to get food, soap, salt, clothings, pay school fees for our children in Secondary Schools, taking patients to be treated in clinics. Many of our relatives have died by rebels and diseases. We really praise God for joining us to you instead many of us would have died. Because of you we are able to buy food, soup, salt and take our children to clinics for treatment."

We have been able to get sufficient help through to our brothers and we have encouraged them to be sparing with the resources that we have been able to get through. God has helped them to stay faithful and they have been responsible with the money we have sent. They continue by writing:

"10th February we came back from Lira (where they had been staying) to Dokolo Township Camp because of lack of water and firewood and because the rent for houses is very expensive and also because transport from Lira to Kaberamaido Post Office is very high (Kaberamaido is where they actually lived - they travel back here during the day to get any post). So we are now living in Dokolo camp."

The brothers have asked if we can again assist them, this we will try to do. They also need our prayers, for strength, for safety and that they will be able to return to their homes. We (John and Sue Mathias) are hoping, God willing to see them at the Bible School in April, so please also pray that they can travel safely to see us.

The brothers conclude their letter by writing:

"Thank you for your Spiritual exhortations. What we are doing is reading the Bible and prayer. Our main prayer is that Jesus coming back should be soon to release us from this suffering

which is a very strange war, even to the life of our grandfathers. Now during this dry season, the fire is burning night and day through. And all grass house are burnt (rebels burnt the villages). So pray for us without ceasing. We hope to hear from you. In love bros Selestino, Bosco and Tom."
John and Sue Mathias

news from zambia

CHINGOLA

I received six Bible Basics printed in English and I have distributed them to my Brothers and Sisters, and we say thanks a lot for them. There are some books that I see from my Brothers who are in other ecclesias, but we do not have them in our ecclesia's library. Please, we would like you to send us books for use in our library.

Bro. Pinoty Chimbele

CHINSALI

August, 2003. Four baptisms in Mandona's village in Lubu River (interviewed by Bro. Glen Mitchell), now our Brothers: Edwin Mfule, Charles Kangwa, Jimmy Katongo, and Joel Mutale. Please send them copies of Gospel News (in total, six copies of GN are required.)

Bro. Ignatius Chilekwa

KABWE

"Let down the nets", based on Luke ch. 5. I feel there is something to learn considering the way Jesus and the fishermen became friends. It is simply teaching us to spend more time with God more than anything else in the world if we are to prosper in everything that we do. But again, we must bring more lost sheep to light in our various fields. I am trying to imagine how Simon Peter and the others responded when Jesus came by and started teaching the crowd from the boat. What we have to bear in mind is that they had worked hard all night and had caught nothing and here comes Jesus and the crowd. If I put myself in Simon Peter's shoes I would likely have been rather irritated: Who is this man; he just walks here spreading the message. Shouldn't he be where he ought to be – in a church – forgetting that the word of God is to be spoken and freely shared wherever people meet. May Almighty God continue to richly bless your work as you try to spread the gospel. I can only thank you for all that you do, but God will give you a perfect reward.

Bro. Lapulani Malata

KAFUE

Whilst stressing the need for persistence in prayer, Jesus narrated a parable (read Luke 18:2-8). Are we among those seeking to be avenged of an adversary? There is a way out. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Obviously this is the time of need. Our much-needed help and succour is at the place of prayer – let us go there now.

Bro. Lotson Kayuni

KASAMA

We are glad to have this wonderful chance of writing to you. Here in Kasama we have a long list of Bible students who need to be visited by us. Some of them stay in very remote areas and feel neglected if they are not visited. The problem is that some areas do not have roads that can be

used by vehicles. We are arranging for a fraternal gathering with our Brethren and Sisters in Chinsali, God willing. The number of our Sunday School youngsters is increasing, for which we are very thankful to our Heavenly Father and to their parents for allowing them to join with us.

Bro. Joshua Muchili



Photo: Right to left: Bre. Willis Simbowe, Nelson Bwalya and Joshua Muchili

We lack Sunday School teaching material here which is a big problem for us. The translating issue is also very important because some aspiring students of the Bible are Memba speakers and are missing most of the good news published in English.

Kasama Ecclesia

KAZEMBE

I thank you, in the Master's Name, for the literature sent to me. Continue sending to me; I need them because they are so educative and informative. Is it possible for you to assist me with the Concise Oxford Dictionary? Even an old one. I also received a book entitled, 'Why Are We Here?'

Bro. James M. Kanbobe

KITWE

I am sending you an application form for a student who wants to know the truth. I still have three copies of *Bible Basics* in French. God willing, I am planning to go to Congo, to a town near the border called Sakania, I will use my bicycle. God willing, it may be that He will open a door for the spreading of His word.

Bro. Robert M. Muwele

LUNDAZI

I love to travel to meet my family in Christ, I spent some days in Mzimba, Malawi. I only wish I could be there in UK to meet you all; I feel I know many of you already, but if the Lord wills it we will meet in his Kingdom.

Bro. John R. Chulu

LUSAKA

I would like to do journalism and work at Radio Christian Voice, but some people are not with me on this, some with very good reasons. I really want to know what your thoughts are. I would very much like to play gospel music and preach to a lot of people through the media. We formed the Youth League in September, but the attendance is terribly poor; at first it was between six and 13, but lately it's between three and six. I prepare the Bible quiz and something for our 'Health Corner' and come up with topics for general discussion – it's quite a task. Other activities include drama, games, choir, poems, but with that poor attendance all we do are the Bible readings and singing – and sweeping the hall. For nine weeks last year we were with Silas from Mufulira. However, he mentioned some problems the Youth League is facing there, which are exactly what we are facing. We can just pray and trust in God and His Son to help us in situations like these.

Sis. Bevelyn Tembo

I am a nephew to Bro. Herbert Tigerepasi and Sis. Luna is my aunt. I have been a Brother since 2000 and I am the one who sleeps at our ecclesial hall here in Lusaka since it was built.

Bro. Ephraim Mwamje Mambwe

Thank you for *Gospel News* and your letter. It's wonderful to hear how the truth is being spread far and wide. I pray for God's increase and blessings. I am 29 and have been a Christadelphian for about eight years now and I would love to continue feeding on God's truth and increase my knowledge of Him.

Bro. Paul Chembe

MUFULIRA

I could have written before, but had to go to the farm where Dad and Mum wanted me to go. I spent a week there, came back for the Sunday service and the following Monday I had to go back to the farm. Again, I stayed for another six days and came back, and that is when the malaria started. The weather is not the same – the water there is not chlorinated (purified) in any way – straight from the well into the cup and you drink. Also, mosquitoes hit me badly. I am always praying for you and those involved in producing *Gospel News*. May the Lord always be your Guide, day after day, until His set day. I was very pleased to see the article in *Gospel News* entitled, 'Doing Good', which Sis. Bervelyn and I wrote. Not only that, there were (are) a lot of other articles which I enjoyed reading like the Christmas issue and the Pre-existence of Jesus. You are doing a tremendous job and I pray that the Lord will keep blessing you every passing day until His appointed time. Even so, come Lord soon!

Bro. Silas K. Chishimba

Thank you all for the good work you are doing in Christ. No one will remove us away from God our Father (Rom. 8:37). God is love (read Ex. 34:5-7). May our Lord open the way for you so that you may still go on to preach the gospel. "How shall they hear without a preacher? How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:14-15).

Bro. Charles Daka

NAKONDE

I am the third born daughter of Bro. Zacchaeus and Sis. Eunice Muntete of Nakonde and was baptised in August 2001. I was really overwhelmed with joy to be born into this wonderful family of God. My hope and prayer is that our merciful Father will lead us all into His Kingdom. I have enjoyed reading articles by my Brethren and Sisters all over the world. It is amazing to see the way the true gospel is reaching 'dark' places – i.e. the Arab world – where people have been denied the opportunity of hearing the word of Life; indeed, nothing is impossible with God. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14). May Jesus come soon to reward all those who love his appearing.

Sis. Esther Muntete

NCHELENGE

I am out of profitable employment. I used to work as a financial accountant. I have a problem with my mitral valve, making the heart unable to carry out its functions properly. I am thus unable to walk over 50 metres; since 2002 I am confined to my yard. I wish to tell Brethren and Sisters around the globe about my state of health so that they can remember me in their prayers. May our walk to the Kingdom be shortened by the return of our Lord.

Bro. Chisela Mwaba

NDOLA

I lost my blood sister, called Orpa Mwanza, last year. May our Lord Jesus soon come, when he will judge this world in righteousness and when there will be no more death nor poverty and God's will shall be done on earth as it is done in heaven. It is only the fool that says in his heart, There is no God (Ps. 53:1). May God bless you for the wonderful work you are doing.

Bro. James Mwanza

PEMBA

I have a friend who wanted to know more on the issue of the Holy Spirit. One question he asked is, If the Holy Spirit has been withdrawn, how could it have been left with us? You can send me any material on this subject. Muzoka is a small township; even our nearest Post Office is some 15km away and we are in between two bigger towns – Choma and Monze – about 45km both ways. I was happy to receive some book marks from the Brothers/Sisters in New Zealand. I am enclosing a photo taken during my graduation ceremony last December.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

SOLWEZI

I wish to thank the Brothers and Sisters in New Zealand for the hand-made book marks they sent via Bro. Marcus. I also thank you for other booklets and for the love shown. I know we have lost some beloved Brothers and Sisters from our 'family' in 2003. The Almighty God has been merciful to us, so that we can make up what is lacking in ourselves so that we can enter the Kingdom of God. I strongly urge my Brothers and Sisters that we should shed more light on those outside our Christadelphian family so that they become part of it. Although we are isolated from each other, we are together in prayers.

Bro. Joseph Kapimpa

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

We read in the letter to the Ephesians that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. No one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church. For we are members of his body. So this is our example and we have become the body of Christ through baptism. Gen. 2:22-24 tells us that the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken from man, and he said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, for she was taken out of man. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they shall be one flesh. We have become Christ's 'bride' through his death (Adam's sleep) and his wonderful resurrection.

Bro. Fibion Ngozi

Thanks once more for the leaflets etc. so that I can communicate with you. Things are very difficult in our country these days. I could hardly afford to purchase the postage, since I am out of employment. Quoting from our Master in Matt. 24:9, we are prepared to be murdered for the sake of our Lord's Name, as is happening in some countries, but perhaps this is just "the

beginning of sorrows" (v. 8). Thanks for everything and much love in our Master's Name.

Bro. David Yelulani

CHEGUTU

The good Lord continues to bless our numbers. Please join us in rejoicing in the baptism of three more babes into Christ last November 15, they are: BAUTIE MBEWE, GOMBA P. BANDARI and TOFARA GIBSON. We have met to join those of our numbers near and far in the act of remembering our Lord's sacrifice by partaking of the emblems. We are overjoyed by our increase and hope our Lord will continue to bless us all so that we preach the Good News of the promised Kingdom, which binds us together, even though we are separated. Let us all strive hard and toil in the Lord's vineyard and at the appointed time the Almighty will definitely give us our reward.

Bro. Itai P. Tembo

Thank you very much for the *Bible Basics* which are of great use as I have so many students who needed them; that was wonderful. The situation in our country is not good, but we hope God will intervene and restore peace to His children and destroy hunger and poverty. God says in Hosea 11:1-2, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my Son. But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me". Our Father in heaven loves and cares for us, but we let Him down by running to the things of the earth. A man was a servant of the Lord and living in poverty. God heard his prayers and he became a rich man. He turned away from God and thought it was better to enjoy his money; he could not be found reading *Gospel News* nor praying, but he enjoyed his money; "When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud, then they forgot me.

Bro. Farai Phiri



Photo: Bro. Farai Phiri with the carvings he made at Africraft, which are sold to help Brethren and Sisters.

CHINHOYI

I would like to thank you all for *Gospel News*; it is a magazine full of encouragement, testimonies, preaching and all good news from the Bible; I thank all who contribute to it. I would also like to thank Sis. Ruth Owen for the book she sent me; I did not write to her due to unaffordable postage prices. I would like to know much about the nation of Israel – ancient and modern times – if you have books and maps about it. As we await the coming Kingdom, let us always think about Jesus Christ who died on the cross so that we might be saved.

Bro. Moses Ajiweka

GUTU

I am sorry to hear of a Brother from Uganda who is experiencing a very gruelling life with his mother, the problem being that of religion. In most cases the tension usually occurs when one

finds the real truth about the Kingdom of God. I know it's hard to keep going when life keeps throwing us curves. I have a few words of encouragement to all in such a situation. As part of the Christadelphian family, we might think that we have made a mistake. We must always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because we know that our labour in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). We must devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful, as other religions depend on human tradition rather than on Christ (Col. 2:8). We must set our hope on the Lord so that he will deliver us from such hardships. We must endeavour to instruct those who oppose us, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Bro. Tarirai Raphael Nyandoro

GWERU

I travelled to Rimbi and met with Bro Moses Dhlakama there. We talked about many issues regarding our ecclesias in Zimbabwe. In the evening we had a Bible talk from Bro. Moses based on Babylon (Iraq): that the garden of Eden was in Iraq (Gen. 2:14) He also took a quotation from Rev. 14:8, "Babylon is fallen" – applying to both literal and spiritual Babylon. Bible Class was on four themes from Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy: (1) my beloved son (2) sound in the faith (3) in season and out of season (4) hard times. After the Class, Bro. Moses showed me a project at Rimbi being funded by Meal-a-Day fund. I then left for Mutema, and met Bro. Patrick. Bro. Patrick arranged a meeting at Tangan; we met two Brothers and one Sister. The next Sunday Bro. Patrick and I went to Mutema and started with Bible study from 9am to 11.30am, which was well attended. After that we had our Sunday service.

Bro. Dzinga Sumburera

HARARE

I give my thanks to God who has been my Guide during my 13 years working in Harare. Now I am leaving Harare as my employers are leaving for Ireland. I am going to accompany my wife in isolation at Nyanga. The isolation will be only for the flesh, but in spirit we will be together. We always remember each other in prayers and writing as Paul did, "I always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in my prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:2-3). May the love of Christ be with the Kawara family who were very supportive of me during my 13 years in Harare.

Bro. Israel Mutunduwe

May God bless you all who do His work. I also take this opportunity to thank Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Milburn for bringing the truth to us. We were in darkness, as we thought we went to heaven when we die. We thank you also for sharing with us what you know.

Sis. Lassie

RENCO MINE

I am 17 years old and attend the Breaking of Bread service at Masvingo Rural ecclesia every Sunday. I have read *Bible Basics* and it really helped me, most especially where I was in doubt.

Simon Mudavose

Letter from Bro Davison Mupariwa

Isolation member in Chishuma Magunje, Zimbabwe

Thank you a lot for sending me *Gospel News*. It's helping very much to improve my Bible studies and also to learn how my brothers and sisters around the world are living and what they think and know concerning the coming Kingdom of God which Jesus Christ is coming soon to set up on this earth. Sadly, I would like to comfort brothers and sisters who are in trouble for the truth in the Bible. Don't worry too much, brothers and sisters, Jesus is coming very soon to wipe away your tears. Jesus is going to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We shall all be happy in this Kingdom.

May I take this opportunity to thank Brother A.D. Liwawa of Malawi in his exhortation on false prophets which was in the Nov/Dec 2003 *Gospel News*. It touched me a lot because I am surrounded by a lot of these prophets here. I was a hard nut to crack. I have Jesus as my prophet who is at the right hand of God pleading the case of his true believers. Keep on teaching, my brother. May you write me a letter with more teachings on that.

I am now struggling in Chipapa, with a place beside Elephant Walk Hotel along Kariba Road. I am doing a lot of work here to clear the place of scrub to make a good field. If possible I would like help to buy good maize seed and fertilisers to give me a start to become independent.

It is very hard to attend Sunday services in Chishumba/Magunje every Sunday because of bus fares. I would like to thank Bro. K Smith of South Africa for sending me exhortation papers.

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from albania

TIRANA

I am living here with my sister because of some difficulties in my home where I refuse to marry the man my family chose as he is not a believer. Life is very hard for us here. Please pray for us.
Sis. O

news from azerbaijan

We are very pleased to report the baptism of OLEG and pray that he will reach God's Kingdom; and further, that his family and friends who are eagerly studying Bible Basics will also decide for the Truth.

I have been preaching to a man by internet, who threatened to kill me when I said I was once a Moslem but have now converted to Christianity! I pray for all of us, I pray on and on and on. The sisters here also send their greetings and love to all.

Bro. N

news from belarus

BARANAVICHI

I am getting people here to read *Bible Basics* and even to answer the questions at the end of each chapter. However I have a problem in discussing about the trinity with one woman, I do not know whether to stop the discussion or endlessly continue.

Sis. Larisa

I feel very bad that I get so many letters from England but I cannot reply to them in English. We are meeting regularly on the 2nd Sunday of every month with the brothers in Minsk and it is a great joy to us.

Bro. Leonid



Photo: Bro Igor and Sis Lena with (centre) Bro. Aleksandr who is very active in his town.

BOLBASOVO

I have recently returned from a year working in Czech, this was necessary for me because of the dire economic situation in Belarus and my need to support my elderly parents. Life is very hard for me, I need to return there again to work, and it is so hard mixing and working all the time with worldly people. I was able occasionally to travel to Prague to make the breaking of bread with Brother Milos Bednar. May the Lord keep us all in His way to the Kingdom.

Bro. Igor

LUNINETS

We were happy to get the exhortations sent to us by brother Steve from Australia. Of course we prefer anything we can get in Russian language, but we love all contact with our brothers.

Sis Natasha

ORSHA

I am coming out of prison in a month's time. I am praying continually to the Lord God for His help as I really do not have a roof over my head and to find work will be very hard, also I have no relatives to help me. My God and my spiritual family are my only hope, so please pray for me. I am also very sick, I have spent a lot of time in the prison hospital with tuberculosis.

Bro. Oleg

TERESHKI

Thank you for sending the booklet about alcohol, this is a very needed booklet here. Several alcoholics died in this village this winter. Our village is dying, it is becoming empty as people leave it and die one by one. It is very depressing for me. Only reading the Bible and getting your letters is a comfort to me.

Sis. Anna

news from croatia

ZAGREB

Things are getting worse and worse. It is very hard to live alone in Croatia. My salary isn't enough for rents, so my parents help me, I made some debts, but I manage somehow.

I just like to sing to the Lord . I think I'm not good "fisherman of people", either that or the people in Croatia don't want anything else apart from their familiar doctrines of hell, satan and trinity, and not the doctrines I tell them. But I do know that God will put my life in His order!

Sis. Anita

news from israel

BEER SHEVA

We are very happy to look back and know that we were the first Christadelphians baptized in this land, we are very grateful for this honour. We see that we have changed for the better over those years, and we are thankful to all who visited us. We can hardly see to write letters these days but we want to write these words of thanks for the Truth.

Bro Viktor & Sis Nina

PETAH TIKVA

Even though I am Jewish, I find life so hard here in Israel. I had four complicated operations as a result of my fall, so life is hard also economically for me I have a desire to return to Russia but I know life will be hard there too. My faith is in the return of our Messiah!

Bro. Itzhak

news from italy

Thank you for this (information about a Ghanaian Brother moving to Italy). We will gratefully take our Brother under our care and will write to him shortly. It is wonderful to hear of another Brother in Italy, that gives us three now so we are slowly growing. We met with Bro. Naizghi who came to Italy as a refugee via Sudan and broke bread with him at the end of Feb 04 in Rome. He was a contact of Duncan's and although he baptised himself, our Brother is well and extremely faithful, an inspiration to us all as he faces his daily hardships so well through his faith and love for God and His word.

Simon & Anna Phillips

ROME

I am having my interview soon about my refugee status. Life is hard for me here. But I love you all and remember all you have done for me in showing the truth to me from Sudan to Libya even to this place where I now am.

Bro. Naizghi

news from kazakhstan

ALMATY

Here our news is that my sister in law is about to have a baby, we are so poor and lacking in food and clothes, we can only pray to God. My dream is still to one day visit a Bible School. Our lives seem miserable but we are hoping only for Jesus to return, we pray for this each day.

Sis. Lena.

[Clothes etc. have been sent to our sister].



Photo: Bible School in Kazakhstan

news from latvia

BALVI

Every time you come here I feel I gain something more spiritually. I am very happy waiting for the return of Jesus. All here send their love to you all.

Bro. Kaspars

Sister Valentina is not feeling well and I too am not well. We endure our situation, my only hope is that life will work out better for my son. As the Bible says, we are pressured on every side, yet we have hope and will not give up. I continue my work for the truth each day.

Bro. Petris

GOBUSALA

Our situation here is very bad as we urgently need to pay our land tax and other things, otherwise we may lose our land on which we grow our food. We are so glad to know and remember in hard times that we have our brothers and sisters also struggling and believing in God.

Sis. Svetlana

JELGAVA

I truly believe that we *can* help each other with our prayers, not only because it is written so. So I keep praying about my relatives, about you, about myself, about... I really believe if we truly trust in God, that He will act right in the same moment we pray for our need. And I think He is with me, I have no doubts about it... But I have many unanswered questions: why this is happening to me, why should I suffer? But He knows better than I do.

Bro. Janis

LIEPA

I continue very sick, it is hard for me to get a consultation even with a doctor. I am trying to hold on in my self and in my faith.

Bro. Viktor

PILTENE

I feel I am going much deeper in my relationship with God. In the midst of all problems I thank God for things like that the sun is still shining. When I cannot sleep I have created a habit to thank God for all blessings. In this area I have no fellow Christadelphian, most religious people here are Catholics, Lutheran or Adventist. I think about Daniel who was also very alone, who prayed on his knees to his God.

Sis. Olga

REZEKNE

I very much missing not having many brothers and sisters here for fellowship. However I have two people who I believe are ready to be baptized here. The magazines are very wonderful and encouraging but I need people also! I see from the Bible that we have all been given many gifts which we are to use with people!

Sis. Anna



Photo: Sisters receiving kindly donated vitamins

RIGA

I may soon be moved to another prison, I need your prayers about this.

Bro. Anatolijs

TUKUMS

I am facing a lot of problems, including having things stolen, and also ill health. I am only looking forward to the next Bible School to meet with brothers and sisters.

Sis. Vaira

VILANI

For the first time I will not be able to come to the next Bible school. I suddenly seem to have so many things going wrong with my health after this winter, it is as if my body has not gotten over the winter. I remain firm for the truth.

Bro. Fjodjor

news from lithuania

We are very happy to announce the baptism of LUBA after a careful study of *Bible Basics*.

LENTVARIS

I am just so delighted to be baptized, it is beyond my words to tell you how I feel! I have been

distributing leaflets around here. I was even chased by an old woman with a stick in the railway station, when I left leaflets around there. Then some days later there was a fire there in the very waiting room where I gave out the leaflets and it was destroyed, so I wonder if this was some judgment upon them? I pray for you all even those I have not seen!

Sis. Luba

VILNIUS

I am as always very grateful for brothers and sisters remembering us in our problems.

Sis. Tanya

news from moldova

We are delighted to report the baptisms of IRINA, VALENTINIA and LILIJA in Chisinau. May God guide them towards His Kingdom.

CHISINAU

I am earning about \$35 / month as a lift operator but this is just not enough to clothe and school my two children; I get no support from my former husband as he is alcoholic. I pray to God for help, as unless I meet the bills on my flat I will be evicted.

Sis. L

I am very much praying for you as you meet difficult and dangerous situations. But God hears our prayers, as I have learnt in my life. God in the end will resolve all our conflicts.

Sis. Elvira

OLANESTI

I am reading very carefully both the Bible and the literature sent me, I am truly thirsty to grow in knowledge and I am so happy with all I learn.

Sis. Natasha

news from norway

I'm having a very nice warm Spring time. I continue reading the Bible and praying to God each day. I write quite a lot of letters to Christadelphians in many countries. Linda is a big girl, she recently celebrated her 2nd birthday. I get *Gospel News* regularly. It's always very interesting to read. A lot of people are baptized in Latvia. That's very fine. It's amazing how God works in our lives.

Sis. Helena

news from pakistan

We are delighted to report a large number of baptisms here from various locations in this large country. A very successful trip was made here by members of the Bible Basics Follow Up Team in conjunction with local brethren; a return trip is planned soon, God willing, to address the many pastoral and preaching issues which there are here.

KARACHI

I am willing to go to Afghanistan. I trust the Lord is opening a door for us to enter with the gospel message in this part of the earth. I am so glad about the joy of Brother Saeed in sharing his faith with his other brothers, he needs encouragement.

Bro. F

SAHIWAL

Since we had so many baptisms of women here recently, we held a seminar for Sisters about women of the Bible and very many Sisters came. We had a very good time.

Sis. S

I was thinking this Easter about the words of Jesus on the cross when He said, "Father forgive them". This was so very wonderful of Him and I keep thinking about it.

Sis. Sa.

TOBA TEK SINGH

Thank you for your prayers. Thank God Brother Rasheed's matter was solved peacefully. We had prayer meeting and remembered you all and the one who managed to help us out. Not only Brother Rasheed is thanking you but the whole of his family.

Ash was invited by Brother S at his place Where he invited some other people from different cities like Harapa and Boranwala. They were interested in Christadelphians. So Ash went straight there after settling Brother Rasheed's problem.

Sister S

news from poland

POZNAN

We are very happy here after our wedding. We would like to have come to the Bible School in Riga but unfortunately we don't have such an opportunity just now, but our prayers are with you!

Bro. Henryk and Sis. Eugenija

news from russia

We are delighted to report the baptism of NATASHA (Krasnodarskij Kr.), ROMAN, GENNADY and MAXIM (Belgorod Obl.); may the Lord keep them on their way to the Kingdom.

ARMAVIR

We were so really sorry to miss meeting with Brother Duncan when he came here. We have many problems here, as our electricity has been cut off. We are so proud we are counted your

friends!

Bro. Aleksej

BASHKORTOSTAN

I am very grateful that you made the journey to us and enabled our baptisms here! I and Sis Larisa are so enjoying reading together, so many unclear things are now made clear to us as we read the Bible daily.

Sis. Natasha

DONSKOJ

I was so sorry not to have been able to come to the last Bible School. I tried very hard to rejoice because others rejoice, as we are commanded to, trying to share the joy of you who were there, but I admit it was very hard for me as I so miss you all. My situation here is still very bad and I have no human hope left.

Sis. Ekaterina

IRBIT

Our situation is really bad as we are still without documents, as refugees. Because of this I have problems at work and they pay me less and also threaten me that they will fire me from the job. Tolya also was not paid by the theatre in the end because they say they have no money. Our debt for our flat utilities and heating is rising too. We pray on our knees for God's help, we try by all means to preach the word to others and we always are reading.

Sis. Nadia

KAZAN

I and my wife pray for your missionary work each day. Sadly the men I work with are not open to my preaching to them. We read the Bible each day and we so enjoy meeting with Sis Ludmila and our ecclesia to break bread.

Bro. Andrej

I feel so concerned for the brothers and sisters in so many places, I feel I ought to be travelling to see so many. I pray for so many and love and miss you all. The breaking of bread meetings at my place are going very well.

Sis. Ludmila

I have been thinking how grateful we should be for the freewill which God gives to us. I admire the brave work you do in Moslem countries. Having lived in a Communist state we can well imagine the problems caused by secret police and those who do not allow the exercise of freedom of conscience. We love you and pray for you always.

Bro. Viktor

KORKINO

We and all of us in Korkino ecclesia are planning to go to the Bible School in Kazakhstan. We have been thinking, that we truly serve God alone and not men, in all our service, and if we keep remembering this then we will never have divisions between us.

Bro. Alexei

KRUTAYA

The winter is very long in passing but it gives time to meditate on the things of God. I still remember the graphic slides we saw at the winter Bible School of our brothers and sisters in

much greater need than we are and I pray for them.

Sis. Tanya

MOSCOW

We are very happy here and welcome you to join with us here at our breaking of bread at any time. May God bless all the service being done for our brothers and sisters!

Bro. Igor & Sis. Tanya

POKROVKA

I am praying for the Bible schools, that they work out well, even though I cannot attend myself. My son is learning English at school and I am trying to learn as well so I can have more contact with my brothers and sisters. So from cold Siberia I send warm greetings to all my brothers and sisters everywhere.

Sis. Svetlana

RZHEV

I went to Moscow to the meeting at the flat of Bro Igor, I couldn't find the flat, so I had to return home, and I had problems with my parents as I borrowed the money to get there and they understood I would return it. I have such problems with them. I so long for meetings with other brothers as I am alone here.

Bro. Sasha

SARATOV

I returned very happy from the Bible School and was met off the train by my grandson. Here in Saratov we are meeting together for the Bible readings regularly and we always have such good discussions, beginning by disagreeing with each other and then ending up in agreement. I so miss my children who are still in Kazakhstan, it is just too expensive for me to get to see them.

Sis. Raisa

SHANINO

I am sorry not to have written recently, this is because of bad health. Many letters have gone not answered and I want to thank you all for writing, and to forgive me also for not being able to come to Bible Schools because my heart is not strong now. I very much miss you all and am only hoping for the Kingdom of God.

Sis. Tamara

SHYOKINO

I am really disgusted by the hypocrisy of the Orthodox church, I have given instruction that when I die I will not be buried by them or in their church, I see them as similar to the Pharisees of whom Jesus spoke in Matthew chapter 23. I am feeling very lonely now my wife has died. I am always eager for any new books to read about the truth.

Bro. Boris

TALITSA



Photo: Bro Sasha, his Mum and Wife.

TOMSK

This is now the second Bible School which I have missed. I am very disappointed. Here in our village my family and I are so isolated both from our brothers and from society generally. We pray only for the quicker coming of the Kingdom of God and we believe that what we hear happening in the wider world is proof this will happen. So we are continuing here, and we love you.

Bro. Ivan

VELIKIE USTYUG

I am so sorry not to have written for so long. The truth is that for 15 months I have been lying here in a tuberculosis hospital. My temperature is often 39.5, and I get little exercise as my coughing and breathing is so difficult. I urgently need medicine against tuberculosis. There is poor service and equipment here. Another sadness is that I am the only Christadelphian here. However in my ward, there are two men to whom I preach, I read the Bible to them each evening as they are too weak to read. I ask all brothers and sisters to pray for me and for them.

Bro. Vladimir

VOLGOGRAD

We greatly appreciated the articles about how to approach members of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Russian edition of *Gospel News*. We very eagerly read everything, and are very interested in the position of the Arab world against Israel, which we see as the great sign that the end is near.

Bro. Sergej & Sis Ludmila

Although your recent visit to us was only brief it was wonderful. Our new sister Galina is growing in her Bible study. She reads each day. Please all of you note that my PO Box has been closed down.

Bro. Viktor

YELETS

We are always eager to receive your preachings, may God give you blessing in all the work done by you for Him.

Bro. Vladimir and Sis Nina

news from serbia

BELGRADE

I am in need of some English language copies of *Bible Basics* as I also am seeking to interest people by every means possible in the truth of the Gospel. I am in touch with a woman in Holland and I ask you to send her *Bible Basics*. Also I am now talking to my sister.

Bro. Vladislav

SMEDEROVO

Thanks for your endeavours for us, especially praying for us. People are in big trouble, because they don't see things from the spiritual side, rather they have rejected the true Gospel of Jesus. Pressure of materialism becomes all the meaning they have in life. They are on the wide road. I

have hope for a better world in the Kingdom and therefore I will spread the word of God.

Bro. Nenad

SUBOTICA

Dear brothers and sisters!

I thought a long time what to write. What could you learn from me new or what you already don't know? If I say to you, that I am fighting and I am the smallest, you will say: "Also are we". If I say to you, I give the best what I can for the Gospel and good news preaching, you will say: "Don't we do this all?". If I say to you that I have problems, you will say "We all have it". But if I ask you, Do you know the difference between a street with two lights at each end of it, or a street with all burning lights all along it, then you will understand which differences are between a country like Serbia where we are not many Christadelphians, and a country with many of you. So brothers and sisters help us, pray for us. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). So let all lights in the dark street keep burning and let the lights which burn already burn brighter, so many would find the way, many walk in the darkness. Thank you in advance, because I know that prayer will get to God (Acts 10:4) like that of Cornelius and He will generously answer. And you my brothers and sisters I call from the bottom of my heart to join me in spirit as we break bread together in memory of our loving Saviour Jesus Christ.

Bro William

news from turkey

ANTAKYA

We are working hard here to forgive those who make sins against us. But we must remember that only God is perfect. I hope that here in Antakya we can bring more people to Jesus. There must not be even a suggestion of money or benefit for those who want to accept Jesus. We don't want to have a situation where people only attend our meetings when people come from England. It's not possible to be both a Moslem and a Christian and this choice is so hard for people here.

Bro. Mehmet

VAN

I am in a rather hard situation here as although my refugee papers were finally accepted, I am under threat of being sent to live in northern Iraq as it is now supposed to be safe and quiet there. I know this is not the case especially for one like me who converted from Islam to Christianity, so I ask your prayers and support that this will not happen.

Bro. H.

news from turkmenistan

I have been very busy sending out slippers and bags to those who ordered them and I so hope that they arrived to you safely! I am going on OK here despite problems. I wish to send greetings to you all!

Sis. G

news from ukraine

KHARKOV

We have just done the breaking of bread here together and we decided to write to you to send our greetings and love and support as you all labour to take the Gospel to others.

Sis. Ludmila

POLTAVA

I continue with my work here of writing Bible studies. We so enjoy our meetings together. Sis Ludmila and I are very concerned about the danger for the work in Muslim countries. We pray about this and we discuss it amongst ourselves. We are very worried about the situation and we want all of you who are involved to know how deeply we respect you and pray for you.

Bro. Gennady

I am so hoping to come to the Bible School in Riga and see my dear brothers and sisters again.

Sis. Ludmila

Nothing can be stronger than prayer...those who truly and humbly pray surely receive help. Thank you for the encouragement to pray. May God bless you.

Bro. Anton

news from uzbekistan

TASHKENT

I very much love you all who write with me. It is now hard and even dangerous to talk about Jesus Christ openly here. I therefore pray so much for God to bless the dangerous work you do in taking the Gospel to people in Moslem countries like ours.

Bro. Oleg

News from the Americas

news from canada

A recent group of immigrants from various areas of China have a desire to study the Bible. I met the leader of the group, Henry Wang, and his wife Dorcas. The Wangs call themselves 'Christians' but are not members of the church whose facilities they use for their evening gathering once a week. They invited Bro. John and me to attend their group evening and offer our insight into the scriptures. It was at this meeting that we became aware of their desire to study the Bible. The Chinese immigrants have very limited knowledge of the Bible and a paucity of material on the scriptures, but their desire to have further insight is a marvel. They need reading

material which will open up the word of the Lord. If you could offer the book *Bible Basics* in Chinese and/or further small pamphlets on the scriptures it would be greatly appreciated. The group is approximately 10-15 in size. I feel that having some material written in their language and given into their hand for their personal use could impart the Truth to this group. It would give the Christadelphians opportunity to reach out to a body of seekers who badly need direction on the narrow path to the Kingdom.

Sis. Judith Birney

Comment: They were thrilled to receive our Chinese literature and we await developments with interest. We would remind readers that *Bible Basics* is available in over 50 languages and we are pleased to help where we can. MH

news from jamaica

I am one of your readers. I was baptised into Christ in July, 1999. I attend the White Horses church. We are very small in number and meet together every other Sunday morning for the Memorial service. The number of Brethren is three and a Brother from Kingston comes and does the Breaking of Bread and exhortation for us. I am not working at the moment, but I try to do my daily readings in the day. Three of my children are Christadelphians, my daughter and her husband, my son and his wife and another son. Sometimes people just say something that they should not and make me sad. When I read *Gospel News* then it makes me feel good. I read some interesting words and then look again at them and think about them. I would like more poems in the Magazine. I've also been reading the dream revealed to Daniel in Daniel ch. 2. All we must do is pray for the Kingdom.

Sis. Joan Samuels



Photo: Sis Joan Samuels and her family

news from mexico

GUADALAJARA

We are at the end of our seminars here in Guadalajara. We were thrilled to have 30 attendees to the seminars given by Bro. Bill Rawson from Spain and Bro. Erik Alvarado from El Salvador. They are a wonderfully dynamic team who had the audience very attentive and participatory. Bro. Luke Moss's enthusiasm for preaching has been a wonderful asset to our group. He also is a

terrific help in leading others into the city to deliver leaflets as well as welcoming the contacts with his bright smile.

God has abundantly blessed us with the hands and the means to do this work. He has blessed our effort with people who really want to search the scriptures and learn of Him and His plan. He has provided more than our hearts could dream of and we are filled to overflowing with gratitude toward Him. May He continue to bless these people in their study of the scriptures.
Sis Cynthia L. Paiva

news from trinidad

I felt I truly owed you a letter of thanks for your great support in sending the Bibles to Trinidad so well in advance. Just a little synopsis of what transpired: We spent two very busy weeks with all the ecclesias in Trinidad and the one in Tobago. But the highlight was the special Youth Weekend intended to focus on "Tips and Tools" for Bible study. In addition to the Bibles that you forwarded, we also hauled close to 300 lbs of concordances and additional resources to support the special weekend. Bro. Sam Edwards arranged for us to use a country community centre that was able to house close to 80 Brothers and Sisters and young people for the weekend. On the Saturday we were able to use a spacious upper hall with tables and benches, which was perfect for the kind of Bible study we had planned. The CAT Bibles were distributed to all the youth from 14 up to 25 that did not have one and the concordances were given out on the same basis. We then had four study sessions, learning to use the centre margin references, using Strong's concordance, and doing some simple Bible marking using the wide margins available. I can't tell you how thrilled both students and parents were during the day. We hope and pray it will be a useful catalyst for further follow-up at the CYC and Sunday School levels. So, as I had mentioned many times, many thanks for your distant, but valuable help.

I have nearby on my desk some of the communications that you sent some months back regarding Bro. George Constantine. I wanted to let you know that I requested to visit him during the trip and it was very rewarding. I was accompanied by the same head guard as was with me last summer and he remarked about our previous meeting. He was very complimentary about Bro. George's conduct and affirmed that he was viewed that way by all the other guards that deal with him. When I had my one-to-one with George I asked him whether his spiritual and material needs were being adequately met and he assured me that they were. He is very thankful for the various subscriptions that he has and the kind letters of support. Likely you will know this, but in case not: this spring there is supposed to be a kind of test case run through the courts that will be related to a number of questions that impinge on bro. George's own situation on 'death row'. If the test case has a positive result, it may result in bro. George's sentence being commuted to 'life', or perhaps, something more positive. Bro. Sam Edwards alerted me to the fact that George is concerned about receiving the necessary financial support for an attorney, if he requires one - pending a successful outcome of the test case. So when I visited bro. George I raised this point and gave him complete assurance that such support would be available when and if. He seemed quite relieved and was very appreciative. I did feel that he looked in good spirits and good physical health and he assured me that such was the case. Marcus, I just wanted you to know this, given your commitment to Bro. George. If you get wind of anything

pertinent to this and would like to share it, would be very welcome.

Colin Badger

News from Asia

news from india

BARODA

Baroda ecclesia is born! Today is a great day for us! We have a plan to spread the Gospel here.
Bro. Nagarajan and Sis. Naomi

news from philippines

We are a Christadelphian family here in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. I'm glad to receive *Gospel News*; and my family and I are learning a lot from it and the pamphlets you send. My wife, Nerissa, was baptised in Hong Kong Feb. 4, 1996. When she returned here to the Philippines she shared everything she learned about the Good News and the Name of Jesus Christ. It took several years before I was convinced of the teaching, then gradually I started to reply to God's call. God bless us all for doing the right thing and learning about the true lessons of life. I was baptised on March 29, 2003. Reading *Gospel News* gives me lots of hope, both spiritually and mentally. I really enjoy reading the articles because, aside from boosting my faith, it really helps to pass my time, since I'm currently unemployed due to my illness. My heart is bursting with so much gratitude for the help we are receiving from ACBM, and I would like to thank them here in GN. Last August 16 my two children, Nyza (18) and Ogie (16), were also baptised and they are currently teaching Sunday School at Cavint, Laguna (my home town). I have another child, Rissany, who is only three; we take her every time we attend the Memorial meeting. I am suffering from an acute nephropathy with anaemia, but I'm really grateful to God that He didn't abandon us in time of trouble.

Bro. Sonny Ramos



Photo: Some of the Ramos family

News from Oceania

news from australia

Thank you for still sending me *Gospel News* and also for *Bible Basics*. I found them all useful in helping me to understand more about the word of God. I would like to ask if you have any books in the Chinese language; if there are, my husband is very interested in reading them; unfortunately, he doesn't understand English, even at home we speak Chinese and very little English.

Sister Julia

Alone

My dear brothers and Sisters, have you ever felt alone or forsaken? It is a true test of our Christian courage. It is a time when we need to dig down into the depth of what faith we have and to rely on it. When we are feeling alone it is then that we understand the principles from scripture of absolute faith. We do not have a blind faith, blindly believing in anything. Absolute faith is real trust that God is there to support us and sometimes that is only challenged when we feel alone and forsaken. Absolute faith is allowing God to really take control. We often say that God is in control of our lives, but do we really believe it? Is God in control of every moment and part of our life? It is that faith that a child has that his father will catch him when he jumps. Unfortunately we can lose this absolute faith, yet we had it when we were baptised. As we get older we tend to start over-analyzing situations and instead of just jumping like the child, we worry about the distance and this makes us anxious. It is the same with our Father. We say we want to do His will but still try to explain situations to Him. When we understand and believe that God is in control, it will change our perspective in life, because we may feel alone but we are never alone.

A question we need to ask ourselves is, Will God ever forsake us? God knows we have trials and temptations and that we need Him (Deut 4:31). He remembers His oath and promises to us. The world might abandon us but God never will (Deut 31:6). He encourages us to be strong because one of the manifestations of feeling alone is fear. If we truly believe that God and Jesus are with us all the time and that the angels encamp around us, we need never fear, it is a waste of brain space. It requires faith to say that God will never forsake us. It is easy to say it until we are in a situation where we feel alone. We need to understand that we have nothing to worry about because whatever happens is God's will. Yet there is a condition for God never forsaking us. We must truly trust and seek Him (Psa 9:10). If we don't want to be alone we never will be. The decision is entirely ours to make (2 Chron 15,2). Sadly we often turn to men who forsake us or we rely on our own strength. We need to remember that no matter what others think of us, God will always be there to receive us.

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Rimbi, Zimbabwe)

Should We Preach Only Smooth Things?

The suggestion appeals, but it is not in accordance with the pattern of the word. 'We do not find it pleasant to draw attention to errors of teaching or of practice that may be gaining a hold in the brotherhood, but it is a duty upon which we must engage unless we shirk our responsibility. It would be far more gratifying to the flesh to imitate the ostrich and hide our heads in the sand, refusing to acknowledge that danger looms, but such an attitude is a negation of the demands of the Truth'.

Isaiah was told, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). Was it to a people completely irreligious to whom he had thus to speak? By no means. Yahweh continues, "Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness". They were a people self-deceived because they refused to face the facts. They became impatient at the warning of the prophets and demanded that unless they could speak "smooth things" they should keep quiet (Isaiah 30:10). Because of their spiritual, self-inflicted blindness, because of their refusal to hearken, the indictment of God became even more outspoken through the prophets, and the nation was warned that, "Because ye despise this word", it would be completely overthrown (Isaiah 30:12).

Did those prophets render a service or a disservice to Israel? Was it an advantage to the nation or a disadvantage that the errors manifest in its midst should be openly revealed for all to see? Obviously it was the highest form of patriotism and service that the prophets could render. Such considerations should govern our attitudes today.

Remember, the condemnation that rested upon the Laodicean Ecclesia was not that it was affluent, but that it was spiritually blind. It "knew not" its true state (Rev 3:17). Its members saw an increase in the material possessions on every side and were filled with a sense of self-sufficiency in these things to the extent that they simply could not recognize nor acknowledge how spiritually "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked" they were. The same indictment can rest upon ecclesias today: because they exist in an environment that can induce such a state of spiritual blindness, where sickness exists, early treatment can effect a cure, but if it is neglected, it can become so deep-seated as to refuse to respond to such. Let us all by mutual consent ignore the problems facing the brotherhood today and soon we would be faced with a condition of things that will defy any curative treatment.

Life Expectancy. According to the 2003 World Health Report, the gap in life expectancy between rich and poor nations is widening. A baby born today in Japan, they say, can expect to live for 82 years. In Sierra Leone, however, average life expectancy at birth is a mere 34 years. In the Kingdom life for the mortal population will be considerably extended and one dying at 100 years old will be considered a mere child (see Isaiah 65v20).

Bro. Patrick Wafula (Kamukuywa, Kenya)

The Scriptures are Profitable

The scriptures are profitable for the purpose of reproof and correction. But how many people do you know who are even willing to be corrected when they are in error, to be reproved for the wrong things they do? People simply do not like to be reproved and corrected.

People love praise, they like flattery, but reproof and correction folk really hate. Now do you see why it is difficult for people to understand the Bible and agree on just what it says? The Bible is God's spiritual mirror. It shows up every flaw in our thinking and reveals every spot of our character. It pictures us as we really are, as God sees us and not as we like to think we are or as we would have other people see us. "For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. It cuts both ways and is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

When little children do things that are wrong, that have been forbidden, do they usually admit it freely and frankly? We are all only little children grown up. When our Heavenly Father speaks to us through His Son and reproves, rebukes or corrects us we usually do not like to admit our errors, our faults, our wrong ways. Now, the word of God has become twisted, wrested, perverted with almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable being read into it. Instead of teaching and expounding the plain simple intended meaning, instead of acknowledging the truth, men seek to justify their own ways by perverting the sacred and holy word of God. In this way, Paul was inspired to write (2 Tim 4:1-4) that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine. People have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned to fables palmed off as the truth of God's word. They tremble at the thought of what people say, instead of what the word of God says.

Finally, in John 13:34-35 Christ's declaration for love did not mean give and take, eating and doing things together. He really meant love from the bottom of our heart, a love that can lay down life for one another (John 15:13). The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good.

Bro Isaac Guzete (Craigmore, Zimbabwe)

The Eternal Word "Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm" (Ps 119:89).

In these fast moving days many are bewildered by the massive changes taking place. Their problem is not only that change happens, it seems to occur at an ever-increasing speed. Nothing seems permanent, fixed or stable.

But God is. In the swirl of rapid change, God's word is eternal. It neither fluctuates nor varies. It was, it is and it will be the same. You can rely on it. You can trust it. It will not let you down. When all else fades or fails it stands firm. It has never eroded or crumbled. It is indestructible. It neither decays nor deteriorates. It stands firm as a rock, immovable as a mountain. In the midst of the fleeting changes of the day it is secure, sure and steadfast. You can shape your whole life around it, build your destiny on it and stake your future on it.

The years come and go. Human wisdom flourishes and then passes out of fashion. Ideas have their day and are then abandoned. Personalities rise and fall. The word of God remains. It is the truth unchanged, unchanging, the light of our dark sky. Believe it. Trust it. Know that it is the one great unchangeable certainty in this changing world. Know, too, that Jesus is the word made flesh, and he is the same yesterday, today and for ever (Heb 13:8).

But how changeable are we?

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

God's Commands Are Always Creative

"Obey me, and I will be your God and you shall be my people: only do as I say and all shall be well" (Jer 7:23).

God never commands us to do something that is detrimental or unwise. There are times when we feel that to do what is right is so costly that it can only be harmful to our interests. We do not dispute the rightness of what should be done, but the cost of such an action makes us shrink from doing it.

The trouble is that we see the situation from a human angle and therefore it is incomplete and imperfect. We must have patience and not forget that the Eternal God sees the picture in its completeness. It is essential, though often not easy, to be obedient to God. There may be momentary difficulties, sacrifices and set-backs, but God is in debt to no man, and if we have the courage and wisdom to obey Him we will have the thrilling experience of seeing Him at work in our lives and in our affairs. This is one of the things that make a vital Christianity so utterly satisfying, the fact that God works His perfect will in our lives when you are obedient to His holy will.

Bro Stanford Kuuzha (Magunje, Zimbabwe)

High and Holy Calling by the Lord

As we see the day of the return of our Lord approaching we remember Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah" and, "As it was in the days of Lot" so shall it be in the last days before his coming (Luke 17: 26-30). One of the signs that Jesus gave in Luke 21 was earthquakes. We have recently seen terrible earthquakes in the world. Another sign was famine; with the increased population of the world, this is a fact. Coupled with this we have in verse 26, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." So with these and many other signs, we know that the coming of the Lord cannot be far away.

The question to each of us is, Are we ready for the coming of the Lord? Our calling is a high and holy calling. We are called to be the sons and daughters of the living God, brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ. Whether we live or die we are promised a glorious future in the Kingdom which Jesus will set up on the earth very soon, and the fact is that we want to be in that Kingdom. Psalm 2 gives us a picture of the Kingdom being given to Jesus by God, his Father. There will be no soft option for those who rebel. We are told that he will rule them with a rod of iron.

The fact is that we are in the time of the end. It is in our own interest that we are faithful stewards now. In Psalm 72:4 we read that Jesus will destroy the oppressor, verse 12, he will deliver the needy and the poor, verse 16, there will be plenty of food for all, and verse 19, the whole earth will be filled with the glory of God. We all want to be part of this time of joy.

We want to be with Jesus in that day, but it all depends on how we live now, so until the Master comes we all need to do our best to live perfectly and when we stand before the Judge of all the earth he will welcome us into his Kingdom with joy beyond measure with eternal life to live and reign with him. In the book of Habakkuk ch. 2:14 we read, "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

If we keep this picture before our eyes and aim to please God in all that we do, we shall attain to the Kingdom and the glory by His love and mercy. May the blessing of our Almighty God be upon us all as we wait patiently for the coming of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Joseph Oppong (Shama Junction, Ghana)

Tribute to Iran/Pakistan Brothers and Sisters

Stand firm in the tribulations and trials that you are going through for the Bible says, "Count it all joy when you face all kinds of trials" (James 1:2), for the Lord God promises that He will never leave us alone, but will always be there as our refuge. As your beloved brothers and sisters in Christ we are eagerly praying for you, and we are encouraged by your endurance and faith, since the time we read of the persecutions you are undergoing. Remember that from heaven the Lord God looks down and sees mankind (Psalm 33:13,18,19,20). Therefore brothers and sisters living in Iran and Pakistan, including all brothers and sisters around the whole world too, let us not lose hope due to whatever circumstances we are living in, let us trust our God without any doubt in His promises which should surely encourage us to live lives worthy of our calling. Brothers and sisters, remember that when a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies live at peace with him (Pro. 16:7). Therefore commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed (Pro. 16:3). May the Lord God guide and protect you and may His will prevail above anything else.

Lastly, my thanks for sending me the book, "Why are we here?" which I received with many thanks. Also I am requesting once again that you send me the following books: "Exploring Bible Language" by Alan and Margaret Fowler, other books and "The Book of Revelation" verse-by-verse exposition. I shall be happy if you will send me the books in question, God willing. I pray that the Lord God will be with you all as we are waiting for His Kingdom to come.

Bro. Harris Ndonga Mulongesha

The Wisdom of God is to Avoid Evil

In the book of Proverbs we are advised that the wisdom of God is not to be wise in our own eyes. We should fear God and avoid ways that can lead us into evil doing (Proverbs 3:7). In this way the God of patience and consolation will make us to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus (Romans 15:5). Further, in Romans 11:20-21 we are told that we should live by faith; God did not spare the natural branches, but cut them off because of their unbelief. This refers to the natural Israelites, when they did not believe their God as He taught them through Moses, and so they were punished accordingly. So we should not give praise to ourselves.

In one of the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ against evil, he said that we should have salt in ourselves, and have peace one with another. Our salt must be good (Mark 9:50). This calls on us to have good behaviour in the Truth. We should try as much as possible to be at peace with

everybody, and not only to particular ones (Hebrew 12:14-15). We, as brethren and sisters in Christ, should not love in a mocking way towards one another (Romans 12:9-10), remembering that we are all the salt of the earth. So let the light in us be seen by all people, that is our good works, which will always glorify our Father in heaven. We are therefore called upon to forsake all our own evil ways, so as to be the true disciples of Jesus Christ. "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16).

Bro Francis Wabuke (Maloudo/Bungoma, Kenya)

Translated into English by Bro John W. Muyala

Understanding God's Word – Proverbs 4:7

This is the time when each one of us thinks his understanding is in harmony with the teaching of the Bible. Yes, everyone can say that. But the question is, when we say we understand, do we depart from the system of this world? If our mind is caught up with the things of this world, then our understanding of the truth as it is in Christ is in vain. Let us read Job 28:28, "To depart from evil is understanding." This world is full of evil because man, from the beginning, refused to understand God's Word, which is Life. As a result death, which is evil, came upon us. So the only way to overcome this evil – death - is to understand God's Word as it is in Jesus Christ whom He sent.

What should we do to understand God's Word?

1. Study God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. Labour in the word and doctrine. (1 Tim. 5:17).
3. Have eyes of understanding (Eph 1:18; Prov 2:11). Solomon's exhortation says "Understanding shall keep you". These days we seem to be weak because we do not understand God's Word in the proper manner. May God bless us.

Bro. Nelson Bwalya (Kitwe, Zambia)

Resurrection and Judgment

This, like other Bible basic teachings, is sometimes difficult to be understood, not only by our friends (those who are learning Bible truth with Christadelphians) but also by some of us (brethren and sisters), especially the newly converted by immersion into Christ, when we come close to some Bible quotations, this is one of the vital reasons why we need to meditate by studying them especially after being baptized. We can't claim that we know everything and stay away from our Bible which is God's personal letter to each one of us.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

Several first principles: There will be a resurrection of the dead. Until then the dead are unconscious – asleep. The resurrection will take place at the time when "Michael" stands up for his people. There is not to be a universal resurrection (many, not all, of them that sleep will be raised). The judgment will take place after the resurrection, at which time some will receive everlasting life and others will be rejected.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained" (Acts 17:30-31).

When a man or woman has sufficient scriptural knowledge and knows what God has commanded, then they will be held responsible in the day of Christ's return whether they obey or refuse to obey.

The gospel is a wonderful invitation to love and mercy, but it is also a command to submit and obey. Only God knows the hearts and minds and understandings of His creation; He alone has given them the power to understand what He requires. When men and women know that they have received a command from God, this makes them accountable and responsible to judgment. We note that nowhere does the Bible say that resurrection and judgment only involves those who have been baptised. There is no statement exempting the disobedient from judgment - only those who are ignorant of the Gospel. There is no statement saying that man can decide for himself whether or not he will appear at the judgment seat.

Please read Romans 2:3-16

When God commands all who hear and understand the gospel to believe and obey, are they under law or without law? This is the important thing.

Is a person under law when God has given a command directly to him to repent and be baptised, and he is fully aware of it? or is he under law only when he himself decides to start obeying the command?

Who puts man under the law – God or man himself? Light, knowledge, understanding, an opportunity to know God and His will, this is how the Bible explains what makes a person responsible for judgment.

Romans 2 tells us of Divine principles. The evil in ignorance to perish like beasts or do evil in the face of divine law and be judged and punished accordingly (John 12:48 and Mark 8:38).

1 Corinthians 15:35

"How are the dead ones rebuilt, and for what body do they come forth?" So the question is not about the state of the physical existence in which the resurrected dead appear from the grave, but it is about the nature of the body they will receive when the full process of rebuilding has been completed.

Paul tells us to consider a seed which is sown and then germinates. There are different kinds of seed and they grow into different kinds of plants. Each set of seed is identified by its type, so we need not worry about the body we shall receive at the judgment because God will give us a body which preserves our own identity. Just as stars differ, so in the Kingdom incorruptible saints will differ from one another.

John 12:24-25

Here the dying of the seed is putting to death the old man: the germination of the seed is the creation of the new man and is completed when life eternal is given.

Galatians 6:7-9

These words from the apostle lead us to the idea that he is describing a process of being raised from a natural state in which we receive the gospel, to the state we will attain to, by God's grace, when we share the divine nature. Paul in his writings here shows to us the plan of God for which bodily resurrection is a part.

Lazarus King'oo (Yatta, Kenya)

God Knows our Destiny

Moses fled for this life to Midian and after a period of time the God of Israel sent him back to Egypt to lead His chosen people, Israel (Exodus 3:10). Jethro, as a priest of an unknown god, who also gave his daughter in marriage to Moses, came to know the one true God of Israel through that same Moses (Ex. 18:9-12). This means God knows each one of us and our destiny and also shows how God calls people from serving false gods.

Ruth was a Moabitess who used to worship Baal. Naomi preached to Ruth about the true and living God of Israel and she believed. Ruth realized how good and gracious the Lord God is and she forsook pagan beliefs and gave allegiance to God. For she said to her mother-in-law, "Your God is my God" (Ruth 1:16) and in v 14 of the same chapter we are told that she clung to her, or remained with her. In chapter 2 of the same book we are told how God richly blessed Ruth because she had (v.12) taken refuge under God's wings. She even became the ancestor of our Sovereign and Lord, Jesus Christ. See how fitting it is to fellowship with true believers of God and remain under God's wings for life, the ultimate result is God's blessing in His Kingdom.

Let us really be encouraged by the examples of Ruth and Jethro toward God. These two had made their decisions to serve God, that's why God also gladly received them into His fellowship. Let us continue with our hope, for it is written, blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he or she has stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him (James 1:12; 1 Cor 9:25).

Remember, God hates idol worshippers, He willingly received Ruth and Jethro after they renounced their foreign gods. We should all know that an idol is anything that comes between us and God. Anything that hinders us from giving what God requires of us, is a god in our heart, for which God condemned Israel (Ezekiel 14:4). We therefore need to cling not to transient things, but rather, denying all ungodliness, let us be like Moses, who refused to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time (Heb11:24-26). We need to renounce all unrighteousness and God will gladly receive us into His Kingdom, which will be set up very soon.

Bro. Paul Chembe, (Lusaka, Zambia)

Why Jesus Had to Die

Outside the city of Jerusalem is a place called Golgotha. There we see the man, the Son of God, hanging upon a cross – a man who had done nothing worthy of death. We see him hanging until he finally dies. We ask ourselves, as we look at the Son of God placarded before the eyes of the whole world, Why did such a sinless man have to die? What did he accomplish in his death? How are we forgiven through him?

Jesus had to die in the first place because he was mortal, he was subject to the nature which God had condemned to death back in Genesis 3. But more than that – why die on a cross? He died on the cross because God asked him to, as a representative man, for us, to show us what needs to be done to the flesh which we possess.

Hebrews 2:14 summarises one aspect of what Jesus Christ showed upon the cross: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." He destroyed whatever had the power of death, called here "the devil". What had the power of death? What is the devil? It is called elsewhere "the enmity", and results from the weakness of the nature we possess. This nature is the consequence of the first sin, so that every living person is susceptible to temptation, sin and death.

Therefore the Lord Jesus, in his life and in his death, destroyed every impulse to sin and declared this openly on the cross.

The weakness and frailty of mortality is inconsistent with God's eternal kingdom, and our bodies must be changed if we are to live for ever. If this was true for an innocent man, a man who had never succumbed to evil desires, then it must be true of us, too, who sin constantly. When Jesus allowed himself to be nailed to the cross, he was declaring that God's condemnation of sin was just: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness : that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:25-26).

Jesus showed that God was righteous in His condemnation of sin, and by sentencing Adam to a life of mortality because he was disobedient. Thus Jesus:

Declared God's righteousness for the remission of sins (Romans 3:25).

Destroyed sin in his body of flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14).

In the Lord Jesus Christ's death and sacrifice, God is exalted and vindicated and sin is destroyed and crucified. The moment Jesus died upon the cross the battle between flesh and spirit was finished, the desires and impulses ravaging through his body were put to death, the serpent power in him was destroyed, and the mind of the spirit was victorious.

What has the Lord's death accomplished for us? If we come in faith, honouring God, and identify with these principles Jesus showed in his death, God will forgive us. If we confess and declare our sins, recognizing just what position we are in, God will forgive us upon the foundation of these truths shown in His son's sacrifice.



Photo: Bro John Muyala during his missionary trip to Mwanza, giving the word of exhortation
Bro. John Muyala (Bungoma, Kenya)

Favourite Meal

A teacher once wanted to know which meals his students liked the most. One student said that his best meal was fish; others said fish, meat and chicken. One student, after careful thought, stood up and told the class that if you like food to the extent of choosing the best meal, you will find yourself worshipping food instead of worshipping God. The best meal that one should never miss is the word of God. It will help you to grow in harmony with man and God. Paul, who had tasted this food, was able to tell Timothy (1 Tim 4:8) that physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. Let us take the Bible as our favourite meal and we will find ourselves worshipping the one true God, the Father of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Bro Joseph Onyango (Suna-Migori, Kenya)

Personal Testimony

I want to thank God our heavenly Father for His power, mercy and love which has been shown to me. I also want to thank Harare ecclesia and Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Milburn. May the Lord increase their faith and love which they showed to me in 1999 when I became blind. Although I'm still feeling some pains, I must sing glory to God. If we read Matthew 7:7, 8; 8:1-4, 5-13, 14-16 and Luke 5:1-8 we learn that there is no one with the power of our true God.

Some people in my area were forcing me to go to traditional healers, but the voice of God rang in my mind saying, "Believe in Me and My Son and you will be healed?". John 14:1 says "Trust in God: trust in me also". So I say to you, my brothers and sisters, Jesus in my number one. No matter what other people say, to me Jesus is my number one.

Sis. Esther Chigiji (Mt Darwin, Zimbabwe)

The Saint - The Faithful in Christ "Signs" of the Saintly Life

After revealing the origin and Sonship of Jesus, John shows how Jesus identified as the Word made flesh by "signs" (miracles) which John said he recorded "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name". The eight signs begin with the turning of water into wine, and end with the raising of Lazarus. These signs were the proof and the guarantee that Jesus was both the Son of God and the Messiah. If for no other reason, said Jesus, "believe me for the very works? sake" (John 14:11).

In a similar way the Epistle to the Ephesians establishes the origin of the saints in Christ, and shows how the mortal saint can ultimately become the word of God, by incorporation into the body of Christ. Later, in seven ?signs? Paul shows how the saints can be clearly identified as sons of God: the signs that are the proof and guarantee that they are "children of light".

The first ?sign ? of the saint is his/her active response to the call of God with its characteristic unity of spirit, and its assertion of the fundamental and sevenfold teaching: "One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father" (Ephesians 4:4-6). The second sign designates the active gospel work of the saint: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; all having in some sense their counterpart in the ecclesia today, and all for the "perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11, 12).

The third sign indicates the way in which the saint should walk: "As children of light," who imitate God, the Father, in fruits of goodness and righteousness (Ephesians 5:1,8,9). The fourth sign exhibits the pattern of spiritual life lived by the husband and wife who are likened to Christ and the ecclesia (Ephesians 5:22-23).

The fifth sign is the way the spiritual life of the saint is manifested in the relationship between parents and children (Ephesians 6:1-4), and the sixth is the service which is rendered, not for the sake of self or master, but "as unto the Lord"(vs 5-7). The seventh sign is the armour the saint accepts as a soldier of Christ and which he uses against "the wiles of the devil" and "spiritual wickedness in high places" (vs 11-12).

Bro Lazarus Kingoo (Yatta, Kenya)

Preaching in Kenya Eastern, Nyanza and Coastal Areas

God always guides His people, and I thank Him for the safe journeys I have in my preaching activities. I thank CBM too for supporting me financially.

IKUTHA

This is an area which has been faced with many difficulties of wranglings. However, these have paved the way for the growth of the ecclesia. I was able to interview some people but they didn't qualify due to lack of basic teaching and conviction. I spoke about God, that He is One and He is the Creator. Jesus is the Son of God and the Holy Spirit is the power of God. I added that ecclesial life is bound by love. We took some time to prepare for the Bible School, which never took place as scheduled due to some difficulties. We pray that the ecclesias in this area may grow to the glory of God.



Photo: Bre. Martin Mulwa, Sammy Mutunga, Harison Mbeve

MAKULUMU/LEMA

Having an invitation from Bro. Jacob Mutunga of Nairobi and Bro. Lazarus Kingoo of Yatta, I was happy to attend their Youth Camp. I was given some topics to speak upon e.g. tradition and witchcraft and also politics and voting and exhorted on the Sunday. Many activities took place - teachings, games, drama etc. It was sad to leave each other.

GODO

This area is a new preaching place. Bro. Allan, UK, and his team previously visited this area. Recently the visit had proved very difficult – carrying drinking water due to drought. The sun is scorching and the famine is severe. There are many orphaned children due to Aids . The going has been tough and we pray that CBM may support this area with welfare.

PERANI ECCLESIA

The ecclesia is growing tremendously and it is thankful to CBM for putting up a tank. It is a dry place and presence of water gives the confidence of a kind religion. We are pleased to report the baptism of Bro. Mwangi. We pray for him that he will be a great asset to the ecclesia.

MWANDEO ECCLESIA

It was a happy occasion to witness the baptism of Peter Kyalo. He is now a Brother and we pray that God's blessings may be upon him as we look forward to the return of the Lord. He has been learning the truth for the last three years.



Baptism of Peter Kyalo

NYANZA AREA

We had the privilege of having our quarterly meeting here at Bondo. The main intention was to see Bro. Benedict Miruka who has not been well. We were happy to note that his health has improved. We pray that our Mighty God will shower down His many blessings for a quick recovery.

Bro. Sammy Mutunga (Ikutha, Kenya)

Sleepers (Matthew 26:36-46)

Gethsemane, 'garden of the oil press', lies across the Kidron Valley, somewhere between the city wall and Mount of Olives. Here went Jesus with his disciples after a very difficult and weary

day. Something occupied their minds: the emotions of the supper, sensed, but very little understood, lay just beneath their thoughts. There was something which eluded their minds about their Master as he said to them, "Tarry here and watch with me". Wearied with grief and anxiety, they fell asleep under gnarled olive trees. The gap between Christ and his men had opened on the road to Jericho and became wider still under the moon in the garden. They slept.

Here was Christ alone left to watch; the agony in the garden; He was "sore amazed". What amazed the Son of God in this most dreadful hour? Was it the depth of human evil which surrounded him? Was it the depth of the abyss into which he knew he must step to achieve man's salvation? Or was it the very pain of loneliness which grieved him? It overwhelms the heart.

Here was Christ, the only begotten Son of God, seeking, in the hour of fierce pain the hope and comfort of men.

God created man for Himself and for a purpose ? to glorify Him, and He desires man's loyalty, fellowship and devotion at all times.

We, too, can grieve the Lord by failing to "watch" with him during the very busy preoccupation of our daily lives when his return is so near at hand.

Bro. George Nuwuanjeah (Mungenge, Cameroon)

The Worries and Elations of a Westerner's First preaching Experience

My two dominant worries that prevented me going on my first preaching trip earlier was bizarrely 1. Food! the dread at the thought of anything non-western, bits of animals, gruel-type stuff or even curry and rice - as I detest and shudder at both. As God arranges things, I ended up in a place where they have not only rice but both curry and rice even for breakfast let alone every meal and snack, daily thereafter . . . Amusingly, the first exhort on my return home was about the monotony of the manna in the wilderness! The only way I could deal with this was just prayer - that God would not let that be an issue.

Rather I prayed that he would put me in the very best learning environment to help me grasp what experience I needed - to then go work somewhere more remote, God willing and to show me which country to visit without effort so I had no fussing about choosing that which I knew not. And the trip arrangements were literally as effortless as that! I virtually woke up one morning, after less than a week's vague enquiring, apparently booked on a plane to the country of God's choice – awesome. Thanks to the interventions of God and my precious sponsors; I wish all life's decisions were that provided for! Then perhaps they could be, if only we did a bit more praying by asking and trusting, ie leaving the question with God, rather than our western tendency of asking and doing ourselves anyway.

Secondly, I felt paranoid about lack of first principles - being caught clueless on the spot, and my shrinking from giving talks or being a focus in public! Well, that fear also still remained and, with only a week's warning before flying out for two months, preparation at home was almost zilch on that score. So I warned my hosts I just needed chucking in at the deep end and within

48 hours I was standing in the local dress, with a mosquito-bitten balloon-shaped ankle, in a third world village, talking through a translator for the first time in my life, to an audience of 40+! I soon distracted myself with ways of bringing stick-men into my mini-whiteboard teaching method, which lightened the intensity of straight lecturing for speaker and audience alike. The following weekend I was responsible for, and running, an 8-lecture first principles Truth camp, sharing the talks, while for my second month I was living on my own with a translator in a third world village, giving the whole 8-lecture weekend alone, plus 3-hour baptism classes daily with one village, and 3-hour daily unprepared open discussion/Q&A groups with another brand new ecclesia.

The latter were, until very recently, a pentecostal church, so this visit largely encouraged the transition from church to ecclesia.

The co-ordinating brother, back at base, was just wonderfully supportive and agreed that many things were experienced brother issues, but was convinced that God was in control and, had a brother been there, he may well have tackled the issues so head-on it could well have shut the group down! Instead, he felt God had provided a sister with the people and counselling skills for the job that neither of us would have planned or expected. How humbling to see God working so close at hand and to experience, in front of your very eyes, the realization and immediate willingness to change in those you are sharing God's words with. A humility rarely seen in the west.

Phew! Wow, it was sooooo awesome , so humbling, so thrilling, so enlightening, such a privilege, so right - just what the Dr ordered! You just have to go into almost open-all-hours prayer-mode where you feel like an open and hollow tube through which God is freely speaking and dealing. I understand more now how, without Holy Spirit gifts, we can still today say, 'Don't worry about what you will say in a challenging situation, as God will provide the answers'. Not at all to make us lazy and avoid the preparation work, but He is amazing - at the slightest little hint of 'Father Help!', bringing to a blank mind recollection of a verse you read somewhere, at sometime, in this connection. I don't believe He supplies us with answers we haven't been aware of, or done some work with at some stage.

The frequency with which I was giving talks or providing fluent explanations of stuff I'd never prepared, or ever tied together before, was alarming to me, yet it was all stuff I knew or had discussed in jumbled other ways at some time in my western upbringing in the Truth.

The upshot of this exploit was that in each of the two villages on the same trip, four were baptised as the result of one month's intensive work – that's an average of two baptisms a week. Sure, these mission fields are ripe for harvest but alas the labourers are few, unless someone likes to take the plunge and jump in at the deep end.

The Pre-existence of Christ - Concluding article.

John 1:1-4

Back to John's gospel. Now, we have seen that the beginning does not always mean the beginning of the world but in the New Testament it often means the beginning of the preaching of the gospel to those who would become the new creation (those baptised). It seems that John

1:1 is also talking of this new creation. The language is very similar to that in Colossians, and if we look at the first verse of Mark and also the first verse of John's letter (1 John 1:1) we see that both times it is referring to the new creation. In fact, every time that we read the phrase 'In the beginning' in the writings of John, it is talking about the beginning of the gospel, not the Genesis creation.

So this verse is not telling us that Jesus existed at the creation of the world. It is talking of the new creation that is the church that exists because of Jesus. Without Jesus there would be no church – he is the one who created it.

Hebrews 7:3

Some people think these verses are saying that Jesus did not begin and will not end. That just like God, Jesus also was from 'everlasting to everlasting'. We know God is the only person who has no beginning (Psalm 90:2) so what do these verses mean? Read the whole chapter and notice verses 1-3, 6, 11-15, 22-24. The Jewish people were saying that Jesus couldn't be a priest because he was not from the tribe of Levi. This chapter is showing that Jesus is a special priest. In the Old Testament Law of Moses, priests in God's temple had to be from the tribe of Levi and no other tribe of Israel. They had to be able to prove they were from a priestly line and that their parents were both Levites. They started their service as priest at the age of 20 and finished at the age of 50. The Jewish people knew that Jesus was descended from the tribe of Judah not Levi and he wasn't from a priestly family (verse 14) so they questioned how he could be a priest.

To show them that Jesus was a special priest, Paul reminds them of Melchizedek, the first mentioned priest in the Old Testament. The Jews accepted him because he was chosen by God, even Abraham honoured him. Then Paul compares Melchizedek with Jesus, who was also a special priest chosen by God. Neither of them were from the tribe of Levi, neither of them had parents from a priestly line, neither of them had started their priestly service at the age of 20 and finished when they were 50. But Paul is showing that this doesn't matter. God had chosen them for a special work, they were to be accepted as special priests. Paul is not saying that Jesus has no beginning or ending. He is saying that unlike the priesthood in the Old Testament, Jesus did not start being a priest at the age of 20 and finish at 50, Jesus is a priest FOR EVER (verse 17). All of these verses are just comparing the Old Testament priesthood with the New Testament priesthood of Jesus.

Hebrew 7:3,4	How Jesus fulfilled this...
'without mother and father'	Not from the tribe of Levi (verse 14)
'without genealogy'	Not from a priestly line (verse 6)
'without beginning of days or end of life'	Didn't start at 20 and finish at 50 (verse 16,17)
'remains a priest for ever'	Priesthood lasts forever (verse 17)

So, the priesthood of the Law of Moses in the Old Testament ended, but the priesthood of Jesus will never end.

John 17:5

This verse seems to say that Jesus existed with God before the world began and that they both had glory together. This is not what Jesus is saying. He is praying to God, his Father, asking Him to keep the promise that He made. From the beginning of time, God's plan was to give men and women everlasting life. This could only come through Jesus. Jesus is asking God to complete His purpose with him. Jesus does not ask God to give him back the glory that he had – just for God to give him the glory that God had planned for him from the beginning of the world. Jesus is saying that the time is now right.

We have to understand the language of the Bible. Remember God can speak about things as if they have already happened because he knows nothing is going to stop His purpose. Jesus also knows this. Look at how the Bible talks about the reward that WE will have as faithful Christians.

2 Corinthians 5:1 'we HAVE a building from God' (our spiritual body, not given to us until Jesus returns)

1 Peter 1:5 'inheritance ... kept in heaven for you' (our inheritance is the earth, not heaven. The inheritance is already ours, we are just waiting for Jesus to come and give it to us).

Matthew 25:34 'inheritance ... Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world' (God's plan for us was from the beginning of the world but will not happen until Jesus returns)

John 17:22 'HAVE given them the glory that you gave me' (the disciples had not been given this and neither had Jesus, it was a promise of future glory)

Now we know we haven't received our reward yet. Revelation 22:12 says that Jesus is bringing our reward with him when he returns to the earth in the future. *These verses are just saying that we will have this when the time is right because God promised it. Nothing can stop it happening.*

So the Bible is using language to show us how certain God's promises are, telling us that we HAVE something before we get it. In these verses Jesus is asking for what is his. He's not had this glory yet but in God's plan from the beginning it was something that He would give to Jesus. He would make Jesus Saviour of the world and a future king.

Finally, look at 2 Timothy 1:9,10 . WE have been saved by the death of Jesus. This work of salvation - everlasting life - was given to Jesus. This was God's plan from the beginning. And this purpose was revealed when Jesus was born 2000 years ago. He started doing the work that God had created him to do, 'this grace was given us in Jesus before the beginning of time'.

Salvation for us through Jesus was in God's plan from the beginning of the world too. But we didn't need to have grace (forgiveness of sins) until we were born because that is when we started to exist. But God knew that as humans, we would be sinners and would need saving, so He put this in His plan before we were born.

Bro John and Sister Sally Palmer

Wisdom Sets Men Free

The living scriptures say that blessed is the one who reads the Bible and blessed are those who hear it and follow what the good news requires of them. We should follow Jesus's footsteps, for only he offers us refuge from the coming storm, giving us promise of everlasting life in God's

glorious kingdom coming on an unknown day. To the new generation, let's weigh the consequences of not following the only one with the key to everlasting salvation. Let's think before we act. Rev.2:26 says, "To him who does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations." Let us be united in Christ to achieve this kind of power. We should learn to ignore the world and its people and let them know what the firstborn from the dead has got in store for them in the coming Kingdom. A security guard is employed to safeguard the assets of his master, and especially to give the master peace of mind at night. But during his presence thugs do get away with stuff. Even those electrical security devices cannot give a human being security. But the one who has chosen Jesus Christ to guard him, is assured of eternal peace of mind.

One day Jesus will return to the earth to end this world of uncured diseases and famine year after year leaving millions of orphans across the globe with no one to care. Why do innocent souls suffer the effects of terrorist attacks, yet they have nothing to do with the misunderstandings?

Why should we continue following this dirt path, brethren? Matthew 1:21 gives the answer, yes, Jesus is the answer. There is no room for quarrelling in Christ's family. Christ died in agony to give us peace with God. We must not spoil that heavenly peace by earthly bickering. God's power is there to produce fruits in those who let the word work in their lives. That word can work wonders in helping us to develop Christlike characters.

Bro. Jonathan Muparabasa (Magunje, Zimbabwe)

Unity and Hope of Life

The Bible, the Word of God, teaches us how to live with others in unity. We are told to love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). We were all created by God, the true God, meaning we are all one, created in the image of God and we must also love Him.

We love God and His Word, because it teaches us to lead a genuine life before the Lord, in faith and good works and gives us hope of life everlasting promised through believing in Christ and his grace towards us.

The Word of God keeps us united if we really follow what it says; the only division which is within the Word of God is the separation of the righteous from the wicked. But if we are in Christ we are one because Jesus' followers are as one big family. Jesus is the Head, the leader of the church and we are members of his body, so is the body separated? No, the body works in union, let us learn from it. If you want to get something the thought comes into your mind first, then you use your hand to get it. If it is too far away you use your legs as well as your mouth to negotiate. Through all this your eyes will be watching where you are going and what you are doing

The body is united, every part depending on each other, all being started by the brains located in the head. So if Christ is the Head then he issues commands to his followers (members of the body) who in response, will depend on each other to do the job (preaching and keeping the commandments) enabling them to perform their duties in a righteous way. When we are baptised into Christ there will not be any difference, we will all be one (Galatians 3:26), so brothers and sisters, if we have received Jesus let us live in unity with one another.

Now after unity, we have to have total faith and good works which please the Lord. Remember, if we claim to be Christians (the claim which comes through believing in Jesus) be careful, because there are some things which may seem right to man but are unacceptable to God. The major reason we are Christians - or Jesus' followers - is that we want to inherit the Kingdom of God. So there are many things which we must not do if we really hope for everlasting life. As already said, some things sound as if they don't cause any trouble but they are not righteous before our God. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:9 listed some of the people who will not inherit the Kingdom of God. He said "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God."

If we are real Christians we will show the glory of God in whatever we do. Don't let us be caught unawares when Jesus comes, live in faith and have patience. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Bro. Bautie Mbewe (Chegutu, Zimbabwe)

The Coming of the Lord Jesus

I am to tell you that the sufferings we have today Jesus Christ has suffered already. He was arrested and crucified on the cross and killed for us. So for today we know how Jesus has experienced this life. So I would like to encourage you brothers and sisters today. Don't forget what Jesus said about his coming. He said the tough life of today we are suffering is the same life he experienced. For sure the coming of the Lord is near so let us all understand this. In 1 Thess 4:16-18 it says "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first." That's what the Apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians, and it was said not to those people only, but to us also. Then in verse 17 it says, "After that we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, so will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."

Let me encourage you with the following words: Deut. 1:30-31 "The Lord your God who is going before you will fight for you as he did for you in Egypt before your very eyes, and in the desert where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." Job 16:5 says "But my mouth would encourage your comfort, my lips would bring you relief." As well again in Psalm 10:17 "Hear O Lord the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them and you listen to their cry." So the encouragement in the Bible is to keep in the ways of the Lord. Lastly, 2 Samuel 19:7. "Now go out and encourage your men: for I swear by the Lord that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now."

Bro. Fibion Ngozi, Banket, Zimbabwe

The Education of Mankind

The first epoch of man's history was when he was naive and innocent, in the Garden of Eden. He was without the knowledge of good and evil. After that I think there was another kind of epoch, until the time of Noah. During this time, mankind had a conscience about sin, perhaps he was reminded of what had happened by the flaming sword that guarded the entrance to the garden of Eden. But then mankind's conscience would have grown even stronger after the flood. Everyone would have known that the system of things on earth had been destroyed because of sin and rebellion. As the judgments of God continued over time, and the history of them was passed down, so people would have thought more about what is good and evil. All this time, God was making covenants with people - first with Adam, then with Noah and with the whole world, then with Abraham and (even) with him, those covenants became more detailed. So as God continued to punish sinners for sin and to teach all mankind about sin, so man's conscience grew, and the detail of God's covenant with man grew as well.

Then there came the time of the Law of Moses. Now everything was written down and defined, mankind's conscience was intended to grow even bigger, and the details of God's covenant were more developed and more detailed than ever before. An awareness of obedience and disobedience developed by all the different commandments of the law. Again, God repeatedly punished His people for their sins, so that they were living all the time with more and more consequences of their sins. Not only the result of Adam's sin and the sin of the world at Babel, but the result of the sins of the Jewish people themselves with all the various invasions etc.

But then all this was preparing mankind for the advent of Jesus Christ. We would only see our need for him by having had our consciences prepared. But God was very gentle, He slowly educated mankind, like children, as to the consequences of sin and righteousness, obedience and disobedience. God is still seeking to educate us all about the needs we have for Jesus. This is why He continues to develop our consciences. As God's people, our consciences are now developed by comparing ourselves not with each other but with Christ. We are convicted of our sins by Him. He is the light that has come into the world to reveal to us our sins. Each of the various epochs of God's education of man ended with a judgment: Adam being cast out of Eden, the flood, Israel going into captivity, the invasion of Jerusalem in AD70. Those judgments were to develop mankind. God is working in our lives; He teaches us about sin and righteousness, that we may have a better relationship with His Son Jesus and so that we might be made ready to enter His Kingdom .

Bro. Gennady (Poltava, Ukraine)

Exhortation: The fruits of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22,23 reads, "But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL, against these there is no law". Truly, brothers and sisters, this is a very difficult and big problem for people who want to be in God's Kingdom. It is so because one may think that having, or following, all these things could mean something else. Now let us look at them one by one and see how to achieve these things, because with God by our side we can make it.

LOVE: Love has got many definitions and many people use the word to express their feelings for many things such as people or animals to mention but two. Now for us, we can define this word

as "sincere": it is patient and kind, it does not harm, does not boast and does not envy, it does not fail. We should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our strength, with all our soul and with all our mind. This is the first commandment. We've also been commanded to love our neighbour as ourselves, because the Lord God loves us all ? and wants everyone to come to repentance. Therefore we have to test ourselves, whether our love towards others is as described.

God showed us His greatest love by sending His only son to die for mankind, so that through him, and if they believe, they may inherit God's Kingdom on this earth. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us love one another, for love comes from God(1 John 4:7-8.Matt.5:43-45).

JOY: "We must go through many hardships to inherit the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Whilst on this journey to the Kingdom, let our hearts be filled with joy, though going through problems. Our Bro. Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians said, "Be joyful always. Pray continually" ? 1 Thess. 5:16,17. Let us try to be like that.

PEACE: Are we at peace, beloved brethren, with one another? Are we at peace in our homes and where we work with our fellow-workers? Are we at peace with our neighbours and all the people around? At times we struggle within our hearts because there may be something wrong. Let our hearts be at peace ? all the time. Whoever does not love, has no joy and is not at peace.

Blessed are the "peacemakers" for they will be called children of God (Matt.5:9) and surely that is what we must be called if truly we are at peace and are trying to make peace where there is disorder and confusion. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since, as members of one body we were called to peace ? Colossians 3:15.

PATIENCE: Where there is love, there must be joy, peace and patience. We have to be patient with everything ? people and even the promises others make ? if we also have faith we will be able to get what we are patiently waiting for. If anyone owes us anything and tries to explain the reason for failure to pay, we must understand. All the same, if they don't pay, let us not force them to. And let us know that even if we may not owe anything to anyone, we know that we owe the Lord a lot, and because we want him to be patient with us, let us be patient with others, and not be like that unmerciful servant we read of in Matt.18:23-35, because what happened to him at last may also happen to us.

"And we urge you brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to everyone else and to each other" ? 1 Thess. 5:14,15. Therefore, brethren, we must not be selective, to whom we shall be patient and to whom we shall not be, otherwise we stand no chance of the coming Kingdom.

KINDNESS: Again, we have to be kind to everyone as God is to all of us. "And as God's people, let us be clothed with compassion, kindness, patience, humility and gentleness. We don't have to be hard on anyone because to show kindness is to love and care" ? Colossians 3:12-14. Bro. Paul tells us in his letter to Titus that God saved us through His kindness and mercy, from all our sins and other bad things we have done ? Titus 3:3,4. As it is this way, brothers and sisters, let us try to be kind to others also.

GOODNESS: Firstly, God created the heaven and the earth. When they were filled with light, He said "this is good". Again, when he made everything, He said that it was good. Everything He made was good and still good today. That means everything was full of goodness and no bad

side could be seen in them. We, being God's creation, should be good. Therefore, we must be good to all, and at all times let us try to do good to all those we live with, and to those in the outside world. We don't want to be "trees that bear bad fruit, that will be cut and thrown into fire". Let our good outside appearance match our inside thoughts. Our actions also must be good and pleasing to God. Let our hearts be filled with goodness, so that on that day the Lord will find us blameless and without fault.

FAITHFULNESS: Several people in the Bible are said to be faithful to both God and mankind. Let us take Abraham, for example. He was a God-fearing and faithful man, and was called God's friend. God promised him a nation of countless people. Though he had no child and was growing older and older, and his wife was barren, he knew God would fulfil the promise. He trusted God and everything he was told. Then in their old age he and his wife had a son, after a long period of promise. Are we faithful in what we do? If we are, do our actions go together with the faith we have? Let us consider Jesus' words in Matthew 17:20, "If you have as little faith as a mustard seed you can tell this mountain to move and it will do so".

GENTLENESS AND LONG SUFFERING Paul, in his first letter to Timothy says, "You must not be violent but gentle in everything you do" (1Tim.3:3). To the Philippians he said, "Let your heart be evident to all and rejoice in the Lord always." (Phil 4:4,5). For sure we know that our Lord is not violent and since we are part of his body, we have to imitate him and his actions. If he were a violent man, he would have acted violently to protect himself from being crucified. But he showed his complete humility and gentleness, he had to die ? as it was in accordance with the mighty Father's plan. If it will mean suffering and being mistreated, we accept it as Jesus did.

SELF CONTROL: We should always ask ourselves these questions: Are we self-controlled or do we make quick reactions when someone says or does something bad to us? Are we short-tempered? If we are like that, then our Christian discipleship is nothing. How do we show the world that we belong to the Lord when we are short tempered, or not self-controlled? Brothers and Sisters, there is nothing we can do to please God if we have none of these good fruits of the Spirit.

Bro. Silas K. Chishimba (Mufulira, Zambia)

"Fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm139:14 Part 4 The Heart

The word heart, in scripture, usually refers to the will or the spirit of a person. The physical heart is the 'pumping station' of the body, which is concerned with the circulation of the blood throughout the whole body. It is used also to describe the centre of the person, but when we apply it to the 'thinking' part of the anatomy we are really referring to the brain, or the mind.

The prophet Jeremiah states (Jer 17:7), "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose hope is in the Lord, for he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river and will not fear when heat comes, but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought and will not cease from yielding fruit". He continues (v 9), "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to the fruit of his doings."

David, in Psalm 45:1 says, "My heart is overflowing with a good theme, I recite my composition concerning the King ..." which is doubtless a reference to the Lord Jesus, the world's future King.

In the NT we have the words of Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, (Matt 5:8) "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God ..." and in Matt 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Let us look after our hearts, both physical and spiritual, so that we are able to serve God and be pleasing in His sight. Here are the words of a hymn we sometimes sing:

Oh blessed are the eyes, that see the living way,
To grasp the glorious prize of everlasting day.

Oh blessed are the ears, that hear the Spirit's voice,
And heed not carnal fears, but in God's love rejoice.

Oh blessed are the hands, strong in the power of prayer,
To meet the Lord's demands, and of his mercy share.

Oh blessed are the feet, that run the gospel race,
In righteousness to meet the Bearer of the grace.

Oh blessed is the man, who knows the joyful sound,
Salvation's wondrous plan, for him all things abound.

This shows God's concern for us all and his desire is for us all to be saved.

Bro John Wilson (Windermere, UK)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Jesus usually taught in parables based on the merciful love that God has for His wonderful creation, man. The father, whose son had wasted his share of inherited treasure, did not show hatred upon his son's return from worldly pleasure, but instead hugged him and gave him a tender kiss. He welcomed him into the warmth of the house and held a feast for him, despite the treasures that he had squandered. His brother was not happy over all of this (Lk 15:20-24).

This, and many more of Jesus' parables, teaches us about the love that God requires of us. The blood that Jesus shed for us on the cross of Calvary is the symbol of love. It is a reconciliation of the human race to God. We are living in the last period of the time when we expect Jesus to return to this earth to set up God's kingdom. We have to be like the prodigal son's father. We have to show love however much we are persecuted, because God's love is abundant and He forgives whoever believes in His son. If ever we don't show love like the prodigal son's father did, we are condemned to everlasting shame.

If we also read 2 Timothy 3:1-9, we will come to the conclusion that we are living in the last days of this order of things. The prodigal son was fortunate to have a father unlike many in our days. God is a real Father to us and so let us be guided in our lives by Him and daily read His

instructions to us in the Bible where He clearly speaks to us in a true still voice. Read the Bible today, as the only time left is today, because tomorrow may never come.

Bre Willis Simbowe and Joshua Mushili (Kasama, Zambia)

The Man Gideon

Gideon was one of Israel's renowned warriors. He was the son of Joash, the Abiezrite (Judges 6:11). Gideon was the one the Lord used to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Midianites. He was from one of the weakest clans in Manasseh and the least in their family (v.15). God decided to use Gideon for a purpose.

When Gideon was about to go to war against the Midianites, he first of all had thirty thousand men with him. But because the Lord does not work with numbers, it was reduced to ten thousand men out of the thirty thousand men. Ten thousand men were too many for Him to use, and eventually were selected three hundred men out of the ten thousand with whom he routed the army of the Midianites.

The Lord commanded Gideon the way he was to go about the war and Gideon went about it exactly that way and was able to achieve victory.

We are told that all that was written in the scriptures is written so that we can learn from it (1Cor.10:11). From the case of Gideon, we can see that the Lord already knew, before Gideon was born, that he would be the one to deliver Israel from their bondage (Ps.139:1-12). In the same way, He already knew, before Jesus was born, that he would be the one to save the world from the bondage of sin.

Gideon came from one of the weakest clans in Manasseh, and was the least in their family. In the same way Jesus was from one of the least towns (Bethlehem) of Judah (Micah 5:2).

That God used three hundred men out of thirty thousand shows us that He delights in humility and does not work with numbers. He is able to use a single person whose heart is right to achieve whatever He wants to achieve. He said: "so that the Israelites might not boast saying; By our own strength we have saved ourselves" (Judges 7:2).

Finally, if Gideon had not fought the battle according to the way the Lord had commanded him, he would not have succeeded. But because he fought according to the guidelines laid down for him, victory became his. In the same way, in our battle against sin, we must fight according to guidelines in order for us to succeed. We must look at the way Jesus fought his own and follow his example.

Comment : So, Christadelphians may be regarded as a small group ? but with God's help, and our personal commitment, the Gospel can be preached to all the world.

Bro. Lucky Efuribe (Umuahia, Nigeria)

Making Decisions

We always wonder about choosing what to do, how to do it, and when to do it!

We need to consider and copy the examples set for us. Let us take the example of Noah (Gen 6:9-14). Noah made his decision to follow the ways of our living God. His decision was right. He found favour with God because of his obedience. He was saved from the great destruction.

Many believers have a problem by forgetting that all our daily activities are guided. When we face life's problems, we forget our Guide who, during every flash of a second, is holding a leading rope for us. We all should be God-centred, not self-centred. When we choose a direction to follow, we have to think about God, if what we want to do would please our Heavenly Father.

When the Israelites were journeying from Egypt, Phinehas killed a fellow Israelite for taking a Midianite woman (Num 25:7-8). He made this decision in a critical situation, but it was the right one. God loved him for his action. Everything is possible and simple is any decision when made with God in mind. God should be the first to be considered. God knows what we want. He has given us a Redeemer who searches our hearts every moment that we live. He is the corner stone, the capstone.

We should be very careful in choosing which direction to take. In the chapter about creation, we find that God made us in His likeness. When He gave the first man an option, man made the wrong decision.

Our decisions must not be made from fear or in haste but we should consider first, giving much concern to God. Our consciences should be pure at all times. God is the controller of all creation, and we see in many scriptures that all His promises will be fulfilled.

The word of God stands firm. It will never fail (Gen 8:22). We have all made the proper decision to follow and live according to the word of God. Let us all be strong and make right decisions.

God loves us so much which is why He has given us the option of choosing to serve Him or of serving the world and perishing. He wants us to serve Him and live to glorify His name.

Bro Revi Chumboko (Kariba, Zimbabwe)

Press Towards the Goal

Previously, I was preoccupied by things of this world and with its desires. My life had no plan to follow, since everything that concerned Jesus Christ seemed unpleasant to me, I had failed to press on towards my goal.

Paul, writing to the Philippians, (3:12) clearly explains this subject. "I do not claim to have attained the goal, nor that I have already become perfect. But I continue to advance, to strive to grasp the prize in the race, because Jesus Christ has already grasped me". That is to say, without placing Christ at the forefront of our lives, the result is often failure, and we cannot succeed. In verse 16, he tells us to continue to advance in the direction we have followed until now.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us imitate the life of Jesus and try to live as he wants us to. We look firmly towards him, because he is the only one who knows our life. Let us no longer follow those who trust in fleshly things and whose God is their belly, they make themselves enemies of the cross of Christ. Such people fail to reach their goal. As for us, Jesus gives us power, safety, joy and salvation, as well as the guarantee of ultimately sinning no more. He will transform our miserable earthly body and make it like his glorious body, exercising his power and his authority.

Bro Kitego Shungaza Oredi (Osire, Namibia)

The Call

We have different calls in different ways: going to a ceremony, being welcomed to a party, going on a journey sometimes, and visiting. Those who are called, before leaving their places, prepare by dressing suitably, arrange transportation to be on time.

We were called to inherit the earth and life eternal in the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5:5) also we shall be made priests (Rev.5:10). We are waiting our incorruptible inheritance, undefiled and that fadeth not which is in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4). We cannot take this honour to ourselves (Heb.5:4). We shall be crowned by Christ Jesus. So let us not be ashamed by giving the testimony and teaching the truth of the word of God. We are partakers of the afflictions of the Gospel according to the power of God who called us with a holy calling (2 Tim. 1:8-9). God had a purpose when he called us, not because we were good, no; our Father in heaven didn't call the Jews alone but also us Gentiles (Rom.9:7-8,11 and 24-25). As we continue reading the word of God, Paul tells us that all things work together for good to them that love God, who are called according to his purpose (Rom.8:28-29), and Peter declared openly saying, this promise was for us (Acts 2:39).

Paul said, that to some people these teachings, or the word, is foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God – 1 Cor.1:23-24. In Mark 10:15, Jesus said that we must be like little children if we are to enter into the Kingdom of God. Our Lord Jesus continued to teach the people and us, too, that he came to call sinners to repent (Matt 9:13).

Brothers and sisters we really were called. Sometimes, as children of God, we can go astray in our ways and actions, but the encouragement in the book of Hebrews gives hope (12:6-8). Let us endure the chastening and scourging of the God of the God of love so that we are not bastards.

"You see brethren, our call is not to wise men after the flesh, not many mighty or many noble are called" (1 Cor.1:19,26,29). The labourers in the vineyard worked and received their wages, because no one can work for nothing. But our call is to be rewarded by our Lord Jesus when he comes to establish God's Kingdom on earth and we shall dwell there for ever (Ps.37:29).

So I urge every Brother and Sister in Christ to remember that we will be rewarded at the time of the return of Jesus (Rev 22v12). Therefore let us wait for our Lord in patience, because the gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom.11:29) AMEN!



Bro Edward Kunikina

Bro. Edward Kunikina (Mombasa, Kenya)

Thoughts On The Road

Walking along the street today hearing the Mullah calling the 'faithful' to prayer made me realise yet again just how strong Islam's influence is in this land and in the others where Islam rules. The culture is strong and Islam rules with a strong arm. Turkey is interesting because it so strongly desires to have a place in the western world and yet is reluctant to leave its place in the Islamic world. It also is different in the Islamic world in that it has stability and a government that functions and infrastructure that works. Its constitution is secular its aims integration. It is a bridge that crosses from one to the other and on a secular level, it does this well. But deep down, on a religious and spiritual level, the crossing is more stepping stones than bridge and the river is deep and crossing is dangerous and many fall and are drowned. The thinking is Islam, the way of life is Islamic, it is in the psyche. The police rule punitively and without interference from the government, it is well documented, and none wants to fall foul of them. Whatever theoretical freedoms are enshrined in the constitution carry little weight in practice.

In the west we can wander between bridge and stepping stones, but here, and in the stricter Islamic world, to follow Christ means that a true believer must leave family, friends and familiarity and face the dangers of the river with no lifeline to the bridge above. It is, maybe, the most difficult thing they will ever have to do. The rejection of their past life, the commitment to their new life that impels them to leave the comfort that we all desire, has to be stronger than anything else.

It is not difficult to draw parallels with our Christian walk and the difficulties we struggle with. We waver between wanting to follow Christ and not wanting to leave the things we enjoy and are familiar with. Like them, we can't shake off our past - or rather we are reluctant to, because it is the basis for who we are. None wants to be stateless. And yet Christ calls us to leave our homes, our families, our comforts and go into a harsh world that will forsake us when the going is tough and we try to stay strong to principles. Is it that we doubt His strength to hold us and keep us? I don't think so, not really, but rather that we don't trust ourselves to stay faithful and need to know there is somewhere that we will belong. We all need the affirmation that we are important within the lives we lead, that we have approval and that we are loved for who we are. To be thrown out of a system we desire to belong to is painful.

And even within our Christian walk we can suffer rejection by those who we considered true friends, and even by family. Betrayal, always painful, becomes even more so when done by those whom we trust. Rejection is a pain that robs us of vitality. It affects us on every level of our emotions. It is destructive. And yet, we shouldn't be seeking approval on an emotional level,

even though this is where we all function, but focus on the reality that our Approver is also the Man who died for us, and is now Lord of our lives and our Redeemer. We must also trust Him that He will give us the friends we need to journey with and the comfort we so strongly desire. Our prayer is that He will carry us over the river and bring us safely to the other side and to His glory.

L.E

From a Sister on welfare work in Turkey

The Great Commission ? Exaltation

We believe that holiness of heart, zeal for service, compassion for souls and action to revolution is missing in the majority of professing Christians. Without all of these things, we cannot fulfill the great commission that was given centuries ago by the greatest man who ever lived, Jesus Christ.

In Luke 6:12-16, Jesus had his own personal all-night prayer, at the end of which he gathered his disciples. Judas was one of those chosen but he never fulfilled his offered destiny. Why? Because he wouldn't pay the price.

God has chosen us and there is a price to pay. The calling depends on God and the choosing depends on us. If we go back and study this scripture, we find that Jesus was talking about two kinds of labourers. Jesus made disciples and asked the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. We can help to change the world by introducing men to Jesus Christ, the only one who can produce a changed campus, a changed city, state, nation and even a changed world. Jesus Christ was, and he is, and still will be the same yesterday, today and for ever.

Some lazy souls believe that the word "Go" was only for those eleven in verse 16 of Matthew 28. If that were true, where would you and I be today? The words of Jesus would have stopped at the death of his disciples. But God's people are commanded to proclaim the "Gospel" of Jesus Christ throughout the world in every generation (Mark 16:15).

The gospel of Jesus Christ is "Good News" to the living not to the dead, for our Almighty is the God of the living, not the God of the dead. So for those living with and around us, there are full reasons for us to take the gospel to them. Look carefully, you cannot spell the word GOSPEL without the word "Go" . Jesus said "GO TEACH", "GO BAPTIZE" and "GO MAKE DISCIPLES" of all nations.

These three, things GO TEACH, GO BAPTIZE, GO MAKE DISCIPLES, state our goal, responsibility and commission in the army of God. Jesus said, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted"etc. (Luke 4:18-19). It was the life style of Jesus when he was on earth to preach, for it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

The great commission is an obligation to every Christian, the word of God teaches it (Matthew 4:19; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:14-15). The gospel power requires it (Romans 1:16). The joy of heaven encourages it (Luke 15:10).

Jesus Christ is our best example of how to seek out and save those who are lost. Notice how he witnessed to the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-30). In verse 7 he made a tactful approach and in verse 10 he recognized a need and offered an answer. In verses 13-16, he aroused a deep interest in spiritual things. While in verses 16 and 18 he produced a conviction of sin. In verses 19-24 he corrected the misunderstandings which would hinder faith. In verse 26 he directed the discussion to a decision point, when a public confession of faith was made in verses 28-30.

Witnessing is taking a good look at the Lord Jesus Christ and then telling others what we have seen. We do not stand in the world bearing witness to the world. In this work, God has a part and we have a part. These parts are distinct and separate, but they work together. Do not confuse them. Our part is to use the tools, the BIBLE which is the word of God, the sword of the spirit (Hebrews 4:12), and God supplies the power. We can never convert a person; only God, through His Word can do that. We simply tell the story and back it up with consistent living. God will do the rest.

Bro. George Njuh Emi (Limbe, Cameroon)

Will He Find The Faith?

The eight signs of John provide a series of remarkable events that reveal the divine plan of salvation. We considered various features of these signs and some beautiful principles emerged. The first sign was the turning of water to wine (John 2:9); the second, the healing of the ruler's son (John 4:47); the third, the healing of the lame man (John 5:6-8). This first group of signs reveals the power of transformation that results from an understanding of the gospel message. We do not need to be forever doomed to the weak condition of our human nature. The doctrine of Christ can redeem us from such a condition, and strengthen us spiritually. Such a wonderful experience will bring us inner peace and spiritual health.

The next four signs occurred during the last year of the Lord's ministry. The turning of five loaves and two fishes into a meal for 5,000 (John 6:9), followed by the calming of the stormy sea (John 6:19-21), the healing of the blind man (John 9:1) and the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:43-44) speak in sequence of our need to ingest the bread, the word of God, and what we gain from it: a faith in, and vision of, God's purpose ultimately established and our salvation therein. In the eighth sign (John 21), there are parallels to the events that follow the resurrection, should we fall asleep before the return of Christ Jesus. One of these is the gathering together of the faithful from the last 6,000 years to share fellowship with Christ and one another. It is our eager anticipation to be a part of this group, but there are risks along the way of which we must be wary.

In Mark's parallel account (16:9), Jesus first appeared to Mary (who then ran to tell the disciples that he was risen), then he appeared to the two disciples as they walked in the country (and likely they told the other disciples) and then appeared to the "eleven". But in verse 14, Jesus "appeared" to the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. Matthew's parallel account (28:16) records that Jesus commanded the eleven disciples to meet him in Galilee (prior to his manifestations to them and 500 brethren as reported in 1

Corinthians 15:6). The eleven gathered on this occasion, but some doubted (Matthew 28:17). John chapter 21 records the last appearance of Jesus and there is no mention of any doubting.

There is another interesting point. John 21:2 mentions only seven disciples awaiting the coming of the Lord and who, with Peter's encouragement, decided to go fishing. They were busy when Jesus returned ? busy with activity that gained them nothing. The exhortation is urgent and important: if we grow tired of waiting, we should consider for a moment just how much time and effort we are currently expending in pursuing the things of this life.

What are we doing with our time? Consider how quickly we entertain thoughts such as moderation in our calling to a life of prayer and walking with God, or actual involvement in activities that do not, of themselves, involve God. There is no real reason why our thoughts and necessary daily activities shouldn't involve God. We select the materials with which we fill our mind; the activities we undertake, the company we keep; the topics we discuss. Let us be careful of a little moderation here, a little compromise there, for we could become weakened (sign 3), spiritual vision become blinded (sign 4) and resurrection be only an obscure and distant idea (sign 7).

Actually, human nature is a very subtle and adverse influence within us, continually prompting us to seek personal rewards and pleasures rather than future rewards and eternal pleasures through present discipline. What should we do so that we can achieve faith and sustain a faithful life until we breathe our last ? so that it will not be said of us that we doubted or grew tired of waiting?

We are supposed to stimulate ourselves to achieve this desire by considering the fact that our actual physical nature can be changed. Paul thought "as we have borne the image of the earthy (the nature of the first Adam) we shall bear the image of the heavenly (the nature of the second Adam)" 1 Corinthians 15:49).

?And we shall be like him?! What a glorious prospect is before us. Our present efforts to walk with God are imperfect at best, but by developing and maintaining an intense desire to walk with Him in humility and reverence, the Master can intercede and eventually we will be made wholly.

Bro. Patrick Wafula (Kamukuywa, Kenya)