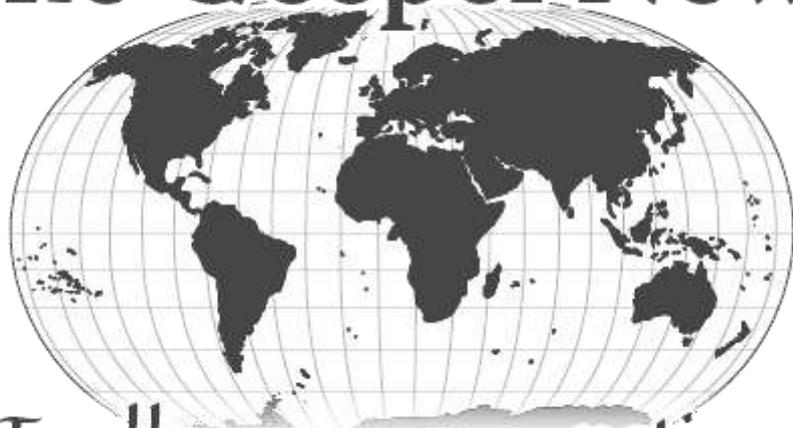


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



## **Editorial: Being Friendly**

Being friendly may not occur to us as a spiritual virtue we should develop in Christ. At best we may rank it well below faith, holiness and love and consider its practice not of the same importance as Bible reading, meeting attendance and prayer. Yet there are seven apostolic instructions that we should greet one another in a friendly manner.

### ***Apostolic instructions:***

“Salute one another with an holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16)

“Greet ye one another with an holy kiss” (1 Cor. 16:20)

“Greet one another with an holy kiss” (2 Cor. 13:12)

“Salute every saint in Christ” (Phil. 4:21)

“Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss” (1 Thess. 5:26)

“Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints” (Heb.13:24) “Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity” (1 Peter 5:14).

The *New King James* has “greet” for “salute” in Romans, Philippians and Hebrews, thus translating the Greek *aspazomai* in a consistent manner.

### ***Be friendly***

We may read the five references to “kiss” and feel the instruction is to avoid sensual kissing when greeting brothers and sisters. Furthermore, we may feel the “kiss” is a standard greeting in the Mediterranean world but not in our society. Those two points may be true, but they do not cancel out the primary point, “Greet one another” in a friendly manner. (Whatever the custom of our society, we should not underestimate the warm fraternal affection a pure and godly kiss can convey.)

Three of the verses (Philippians, 1 Thessalonians and Hebrews) specifically include mention of “every” or “all”. Evidently the same challenge existed in the first century as exists today: we find it far easier to greet some people than others. In that day, slaves would have much more in common with other slaves and the same would be true with the masters. Jewish believers would tend to chat more freely with other Jewish believers. Tradesmen would have more in common with other tradesmen; young mothers would congregate together to share their common experiences. But each person was to greet every other person; there were to be no groupings of brethren who talked only among themselves and ignored others.

Coming from a variety of backgrounds and different walks of life, we, too, face the challenge to be friendly with everyone. While there are many exceptions, young people feel more comfortable with those of their own age. It’s not hard for the elderly to share various remedies to ailments typical of their advancing years. Those in business have an easy time visiting each other and parents of teenagers have lots to talk about. But it takes a genuine effort to make sure we are friendly to all segments of our ecclesial family.

We’re far more likely to expend this effort if we realise it is an apostolic command to greet “all” the brothers and sisters.

### ***Great principles involved***

All would accept the greatest principle governing our attitudes to one another is that we are to love one another as Christ loved us. “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples” (John 13:35). None would deny that if we see a brother lacking food and raiment, the principle of love insists we provide practical help. Yet it’s pretty hard to claim we love a brother if we walk by him as if he didn’t exist or manage always to be so busily engaged with others that we never chat with him. Friendliness is a part of love.

Another defining principle is that we are to serve our brothers and sisters as if they are of higher status than ourselves. “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil 2:3). More often than not, an unfriendly attitude conveys the appearance of arrogance, as we may come across as thinking we’re better than the other. High-mindedness is directly opposite to the servant attitude we are to have. Part of being humbly disposed to others is to warmly greet them and to be as friendly toward them as is possible.

Being friendly is a direct apostolic command and is an obvious application of great spiritual principles, but...

### ***Excuses abound***

Our most likely excuse is that we are not outgoing; we are shy, quite awkward about greeting people. In many cases, this is a legitimate problem perhaps requiring an unusual degree of effort and prayer on our part to follow the apostolic command. It is well to remember that every disciple has more difficulty with some areas than others. The overtly anxious person, for example, may have great trouble exercising patience, or the depressed person being joyful, or the fearful person being faithful. If we are particularly shy, there are self-help tips summarised in various secular articles, which we can find at the library.

We may be embarrassed because we readily forget names or have trouble knowing what to talk about or fear we’ll get trapped into an extended conversation we feel unable to handle. A lot of us have these anxieties. Remembering names can be a learned skill or we can cover for our memory loss the way others do with ourselves, “Hi, how are you doing?” with a friendly smile usually acceptable. Some people have a wonderful knack for making pleasant conversation with almost anyone. Watch how they do it.

The other person really doesn’t like me or care about me, we may reason. That could be true, but that’s their problem, not ours. Let us greet them with a greeting of charity and put a great principle into practice.

Frequently at events we may find ourselves talking with our friends and feel so absorbed we just can’t stop to greet someone else. A nod of the head and warm smile will do as the other person can see our situation. Or a touch of the arm or fingers as we’re passing is certainly better than turning our head, completely ignoring the other.

We may not be outgoing or gregarious, but any of us can convey warm recognition with a simple smile if we work at it. In fact, we must, because being friendly is applying great spiritual principles as well as obeying specific apostolic instruction.

### ***An issue for parents***

Few children are naturally friendly on a consistent basis. Some will be unfriendly to virtually everybody while others will be friendly only when it pleases them. The parent does them a great favor if they are trained early on to be friendly to family and friends in the

meeting. Unfortunately, in today's world, a significant measure of caution must be exercised by children to strangers, but that surely doesn't apply towards those whom they know.

Years ago when my parents lived with us in their own apartment, they brought to our attention that our boys never greeted them. I was a bit annoyed at the complaint until I realized that friendliness was a command which the boys should be learning to obey in their youth. Those parents who apply consistent, appropriate instruction do the children a great favor for later years.

### ***Visitors among us***

One of the most discouraging reports is to hear from a visitor that he was ignored or coolly treated when he attended one of our various functions. That's the way the publicans and sinners were treated by the Pharisees, but not by Christ. He was called their "friend" not because he approved of their practices but because he was genuinely concerned for their needs.

Who should we imitate, Christ or the Pharisees?

### ***Necessary behaviour***

Being friendly is not something we're free to exercise when we're in the mood and ignore other times, for we are not called to be stand-offish, uncaring people. We are called to be friendly to all the diverse members of the body of Christ and to be people who are genuinely concerned with all people with whom we come into contact. This is an apostolic instruction and an application of the greatest principles of love and humility.

*Bro. Don Styles*

## **News from Africa**

### **news from cameroon**

#### ***FONTEM***

Bro. Nkeng Charles has retired from the Christadelphian School for the Blind and Handicapped and Bro. Amin Charles takes over. Those who know Bro. Nkeng Charles and wish to correspond with him should write to: P.O. Box 73, Fontem, Lebialem S.W.P., Cameroon, W. Africa. He will continue preaching in the villages.

*Bro. Nkeng Charles*



Left Bro. Nkeng and Bro. Amin

## news from ghana

### **SUBRI**

I am grateful for the two boxes of literature. This help has propelled me into serious activity in the Lord's vineyard. With this help one of my serious students in Adawso, near Koforidua, was interviewed and baptised in Accra (as Adawso is nearer to Accra than Subri). We now have our first Sister in Adawso; she has been attending the memorial service in Accra regularly. I am currently shuttling between Subri and Huni Valley in the Western Region, and Adawso in the Eastern Region. During the visit of Bro. Sykes and others to Ghana last year, two put on the name of Christ: Bro. John Ansah and Bro. Isaac Acquaye. The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. I pray that the Lord of the vineyard will appoint more labourers into His vineyard. With support, I hope the gospel will reach the uttermost part of the world. I have contacted the four enquirers at Ateiku; they are now on the *Bible Basics* Introductory course.

*Bro. Francis Kotei Odiko*



Photo: The two brethren baptised last year, Bre. John Ansah and Isaac Acquaye

### **SHAMA JUNCTION**

I am very happy to inform you that at last I have received the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, some other books and cassettes of hymns from America. Is it possible for you to send me extra copies of *Bible Basics* for further distribution, as people are still requesting it from me. People are very much interested as I explain the Bible to them. Present events in the world really tell us of our Lord's coming and we must hold fast to the end, helping one another on the road to the Kingdom of our Lord.

*Bro. Joseph Oppong*

## news from kenya

### **AHERO**

I am not well and underwent a long period of illness, but this does not hinder me writing or reading the Bible. We have a hard time talking to the villagers concerning the word of God. The area here is dry and many people live in extreme poverty. They get to understand what we say, but what seems important to them is that at the end of this present life they have a decent burial – leave alone an everlasting consolation in the future Kingdom. As a result they turn to their churches that have large welfare groups that offer them support when people die. Do you have a Bible puzzle book? I like doing puzzles. We lack many aids to Bible study like maps/atlasses of Bible lands. Coming to the Middle East peace process, I wonder why PM Ariel Sharon has shown a sign of bending; he started by standing by his guns, but what is in the news recently is a betrayal. They are just leaders by name, but of no quality. There's no point in hunting for a man's head and at the same time singing a high tone of attaining peace. The Middle East news bulletins pierce my soul.

*Bro Lawrence K'owiti*

### **BULIMBO**

In our country we are fine – and that's spreading the gospel. I take this opportunity to thank you a lot for *Gospel News*, it helps me to ginger up my faith; I find it so interesting and it guides me in day-to-day prayers. My main problem is that I don't have *Bible Basics*. I request you to please send it to me. I have so many non-Christians who are willing to join with me in relation to salvation, but due to shortage of gospel literature I am unable to convince them.

*Bro. Sadique Bukhebi*

### **BUNGOMA**

People in Kenya and the entire world are being encouraged to stand for Jesus, even in difficulties, and some of them from other denominations are turning to our faith through *Gospel News*. We are lacking biblical materials like *Introducing Bible Basics*, *Bible Basics*, *Bible Companions*, Bible concordances and other necessary materials.

*Bro. Nimrod W. Masula*

In some developing countries leisure time is a rare commodity, but in western lands youth often have more time on their hands than they know what to do with. Whether your leisure time is a blessing or a curse depends upon how you use it. So I urge my fellow youths, who don't know how to utilise their leisure time, to read the Bible and Bible-based publications; by so doing they will be using it profitably.

*Sis. Caminah Simigo*

### **GISAMBAI**

I thank Bro. Rob Splint and Bro. Kituyi who came and shared the baptisms of *Bro. Solomon*, *Bro. Walter* and *Bro. Patrick*. Wonderful things are being promised by God in His word to this troubled world. We read in Num. 14:21, "God speaks by saying, But as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of God", and in Ps. 72:18-19: "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things, and blessed be his glorious name for ever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory". In Habakkuk 2:14, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea". Days go by and the people of this world do not realise that the coming of Jesus Christ is very near. There are so many signs taking place: the return of the Jews to their land (Israel). 2 Peter 2:1-3 says, "There shall be false prophets and false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you". So we should prepare to live in the new Kingdom, by our daily reading and through baptism – if this hasn't yet been done.

*Bro. Solomon Abukira*

### **KANDVYI**

We received the booklets and *Gospel News* with great joy. I did not believe my eyes for a while, for it was the first time I have received a booklet from a brother abroad and more surprising on a free basis. We are reading the booklets in turn and so far we have learnt much from them; they have directed us to search the Scriptures with a ready mind, preparing ourselves for the Lord's day.

*Bro. Eric Wamalwa*

### **KENDU BAY**

I am alone here; it would be good for some brothers to come and visit me, for we can then share the word of God together. Although alone, I won't step back; I still have my faith. There are some here who would like to join us.

*Sis. Macrine Obuya*

### **KIBERA**

There is a saying that goes, "Like father, like son". The truth about the word of God was given to the children of Israel; later it came to us Gentiles. Now we know the truth why do we again walk like the Israelites who were full of hypocrisy? (Matt. 23:25-28). Because of their wicked behaviour God punished the Israelites in many ways (e.g. taken captives). If we do not walk in the truth, then we will miss the Kingdom. Let us prepare ourselves now. *Bro Samuel Manita*

### **KITALE**

I am happy to write to you, and thank you for the gospel literature received; it is most encouraging and educative. I have made up my mind to follow only the knowledge and true way to which you are now leading me, so please send me all the material required for the revelation of all the truth and at the same time connect me to brethren elsewhere.

*Sis. Lydia Fuchaka*

### **MAFISINI**

Mafisini ecclesia is situated South-West from Mombasa-Lunga Lunga Road, some 30km. We started as a group in 2002 and in April, 2003, we received, through Bible classes, two Brothers and a Sister (sons and a daughter of God), who are growing well in faith while three friends are busy learning to be baptised. We thank Bro. Sommy Mutunga and Bro. Zakayo for much physical assistance, including daily Bible classes and visits. However, Mafisini is a very poor area as no food grows well due to sandy soil, so starvation seems almost a normal life. There are many churches around us here at Mafisini; we are at the centre, the distance from every church being about 100m. I almost feel we are like Jerusalem, being the centre of all nations! When I arrived in Mafisini town where all these churches are situated, every church preached something different. But when I and the coastal groups arrived and started preaching about the Kingdom of God, all these churches joined together to fight me for they believe the Kingdom of God is in heaven. They started preaching that a certain church had come to the town with devil faith – that no one will go to heaven, and calling me anything they liked. But that did not stop me preaching the truth. They did not stop there, they jointly went to the Area Chief and told him about my gospel. One Sunday during our normal service I was forced to go into his office to explain what I meant by the Kingdom and many other things, e.g. Satan. I was happy, and prayed God to show me everything I needed. After two hours indoors with the Chief, he finally agreed with me and my sincere Bible knowledge and promised me that our services would run smoothly. They are now my friends. This is how Mafisini ecclesia started.

*Bro. Benedict Masai*



Photo: Mafisini Ecclesia

### **MAKHONGE**

We are happy to learn that God's word has reached many people in different corners of the world, and that the number of brothers and sisters is growing wonderfully and also their faith. We plead with you to continue supplying us with Gospel News. We also request other magazines. We received them for some years, but they have now stopped coming; perhaps this

has been brought about by the change of address of the ecclesia.

*Bro. Patrick Sawa*



Photo: Makhonge youth choir singing at the Youth Camp held at Nalando ecclesia last year (Ps. 144:9-1).

### **MOMBASA**

I have got a job, working from 6am to 6pm. I apologise for not writing before. I received the books which you sent to me last year. Also, in April last year we had the great joy of three Sisters' baptisms in Mombasa ecclesia and I enclose a photograph which was taken outside the school where we meet. We wish our Sisters a good walk to the Kingdom while waiting for our Lord Jesus. I want to thank those who took time to translate *Bible Basics* into Swahili and you for printing it. Really, Bro. Marcus, it is so much more understandable if one reads in the language they understand well. You and your army who help teach and supply the word of God encourages many to continue in the faith. We read in Psalm 68:11, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it". I pray that God our Father will continue to bless the publishing work which serves many who are thirsting for this true faith and concerning the Kingdom of God. If you still have the Swahili *Bible Basics* in stock I would like to receive a number of them which will help me and those who do not understand English well. I am arranging with a Brother to translate one lesson and send it to you to print. Thank you once more for your co-operation and again excuse my delay in replying to you

*Bro. Edward Kunikina*

### **NAIROBI**

Preaching is the great commission we are commanded to undertake as servants of our Lord until he returns. The Bible says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *Therefore go* and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you, and surely I am with you always, to the end of the ages" (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15). Don't lose hope, for there is no option in the great commission; it's a command (Col. 1:25). I am a brother in Christ, aged 22. I've learnt much in my own Bible study and I still need encouragement and spiritual support. I would also like to encourage my dear fellow-labourers to: stand firm and hold on to the teachings of our Lord. Rejoice in suffering for Christ's sake. Don't be surprised at what is happening; be clear-minded, self-controlled and alert so that you can pray, for the devil is always waiting to devour (2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 1 Peter 5:9; 1 Peter 4:12-16; 1 Peter 4:7;? 5:8). Please pray for me so that I may continue fighting a good fight of faith until the end of ages. Send me some of your books that will help me grow spiritually and morally and also an English pocket Bible, if possible.

*Bro. Jared Manera Kidiga*

Below: From left to right. Bro. Edward Kunikina; the 3 baptized Sisters, Sis. Hellen Akelo, Lydia Radido (daughter of Bro. Thomas Radido), Carolyne Okulu and Bro. David Aphaxard.



### **NAKURU**

Thanks a lot for keeping *Gospel News* going. Enclosed is a photo of my wife, Sis. Rose and myself in our Nakuru home. Everybody is well at the Nakuru Town ecclesia. I am heading a team of five students in Kenya, busy translating past *Glad Tidings* magazines into five different languages namely 1) Luo 2) Kisii 3) Kikuyu 4) Kiswahili and 5) Luhya.

*Bro. Samuel Wanga*



### **NALONDO**

Further to Paul's words to Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12-16), our youth today must show forth a greater maturity than any other generation, for they are called upon to pass through the gravest crisis in the history of the world, and they must meet their destiny with faith, assurance and reality. It is that kind of faith, hope and promise that makes for the fulfilment of their destiny on earth. Learn to live according to spiritual discipline and achieve a new balance in life, a balance that is conducive to heroic deeds and a state of complete devotion, and strive for true spiritual excellence. They must analyse themselves, their potential and the world, with a logic different from the reasoning they have inherited from materialistic societies. They must see through the eyes of faith, and systematically plan and achieve what is seemingly impossible by those untouched by the fire of their zeal. The challenge is to live a spiritual life that is whole, pure and purposeful. They must respond to all requirements of being a Christadelphian youth in this moment of history. Nalondo youth are to us a reflection of Christadelphian faith in Kenya. They have been meeting regularly – at least twice a week – to discuss the Bible. May God, who created them, strengthen them and open their minds for more knowledge of His will, as they learn by heart the message of Paul to Timothy. May the grace of God be with all readers, while still in the house until morning. Amen.

*Bro. Nimrod W. Masula*

### **NANGO**

Many thanks for your efforts and those of your fellow-brothers in the task of producing *Gospel News* which has been giving us spiritual nourishment for so many years. In April this year we were very happy to meet with fellow brothers and sisters from UK in Nairobi for the Bible Conference and AGM. We were very happy as members of the one family of Christ. We shared many things: ideas from the Scriptures, taking part in the Memorial service and singing new hymns from the Christadelphian hymn book. This was a true reflection of our meeting together in the Kingdom of Christ when it is established; we believe it will be soon and we see the day approaching. There is much evidence from the Scriptures and we are looking out day by day as we do not know the day nor the hour. Bro. Allan Sutton, who is Kenya Link man, informed us that *\*Gospel News* magazine will cease and instead another magazine, called the *Bible Missionary*, will take its place. We are still making preaching efforts in this area of ours and I would like you

to send me at least six more English *Bible Basics*, if you can, to help other friends to learn more about the word of God.

*Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo*

\*This information is incorrect. Material for publication in Gospel News is welcome and should be sent to us as usual. MH



Photo: Some of Nalondo youth outside the hall where they worship. Sis. Christine, Brothers John, Nimrod, Mark, Augustine, Laban, Simon, Joshua, Sisters Lilian, Cellan, Lucy, Chanet, Miriam, Millicent and Bro. Martin.

### **SINDO**

We welcomed visiting Brother and Sister Lawrence and Kate from the UK and three from our local ecclesias; I was the host Brother. We had interviews and witnessed the baptism of three Brothers at Sindo beach. Before baptism we visited them and gave them encouragement to continue in the truth. We thank the Lord for providing the gospel message. This was the first time we received UK Brothers at Sindo. I have enrolled four contacts for Bible correspondence for the year 2004 and pray for the Lord's blessing. We are to sow the seed and the Lord will give the increase. I am a strong witness for Christ Jesus and have devoted myself to serving the God of Israel. Hezekiah, king of Judah, served the God of his fathers and was a strong witness for the truth despite the disasters he met. We must learn from the practical examples in the Scriptures so that we will be in God's coming Kingdom on earth.

*Bro. John Owalo Onani*

### **TONGAREN**

I am delighted to announce that Tongaren ecclesia has been running at Maina Primary School. Our room was locked, so we migrated to Tongaren D.E.B. school; this is for an unknown period. We thank God for this blessing. We pray that He will continue to work for us so that we get a permanent place for worship. I am grateful that the project for printing *Bible Basics* in Bukusu is coming to an end. The book is fully typed on the computer disc and we are now doing the corrections on Study 9. We are not numbering the pages until the corrections are done. I praise the Lord that the book is now finished and will send a copy to you after completing corrections. Many of the members of Tongaren ecclesia came to the truth as follows: seven through Bible Correspondence Course, three through us distributing the Bukusu leaflets you have been sending to me and others came through public preaching. So more leaflets are wanted. I am sure if Bukusu people continue receiving leaflets, booklets and Bible Basics truths in the Bukusu language they will gain more knowledge of the truth of the Bible. I have set all our plans before God that Tongaren may become the centre of Bukusu Scripture distribution. I have also translated the pocket book, *The Commandments of Christ*. This is suitable for distributing to all ecclesias situated in Bukusu land.

*Bro. Isaac Kapa*

### **JALI**

I am a Christadelphian in Malawi, and have a question about Revelation 13:1-18. I have tried my best to understand this, but get so confused, so I am asking for assistance.

Bro. Robert Mapsera

*Comment:* I guess many feel the same as our Brother. We have sent Bro. Robert some literature on the matter.

### **KASUNGU**

I wrote for the *Bible Companion* and *Bible Basics* and have now received them and my wife also received the book, 'Why Are We Here?' We both have appreciated these books. My wife has completed all the lessons in *Introducing Bible Basics* and will send them soon when I find the money for stamps and envelope. I am also happy to have received letters from a Sister and Brothers which have encouraged me spiritually. Thanks for your card, Paula, very beautiful indeed with touching words quoted from Psalms and Numbers 6:24-26. Thanks also to you, Bro. Anthony Oosthuizen for your advice. Thanks also to Bro. Elijah Rabaji for your encouraging letter telling me that you are in a wheelchair because of an accident you had in 1989. We should still put our trust in prayer. To Bro. Rex Sanders my thanks; your words awoke so much in me. I do not have a Hymn Book; I would be pleased if someone could assist so that my wife Flora and I can sing ourselves. Should anyone have spare tapes of other songs we should be glad to receive them through Bro. Marcus.

Bro. Alexander Banda

### **LILONGWE**

We are fine, though I suffer a lot from heart problems and leg pains. If (1) Ibufen and (2) Indocid is available, please send to me. I am isolated, so please send me names and addresses of brethren and sisters in Malawi so that I can keep in touch with them for my spiritual strength (to be exhorted). I am always happy to receive *Gospel News*, which exhorts me as I am isolated – 'Am just like a lost sheep whose shepherd is not showing attention on the lost one.'

Bro. Henry M. Banda

### **MZUZU**

I have received a parcel of books from America and so appreciate it. I wrote to the Sister once and she responded. My two older boys finished school a year ago and are yet unemployed, since neither of them has done any particular course for careers.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo

My thanks to you and Bro. Gondwe who approached me with the spiritual spear which entered into me (Heb. 4:12). For this, please assist me with a Bible which will help me to have more knowledge of God. I am a prisoner as I write this letter to you; I have nothing apart from the word of God. Like king David after his sin, I am crying that all the bad things I have done have been forgiven me.

Bro. Wellington Mkwala

### **RUMPHI**

I was glad to receive the book you sent and *Gospel News*, together with the 2004 calendar. I pray to the Almighty that the truth and knowledge we now have from His word will stay with us until the return of our Lord Jesus. I am again sending you some names of friends who are eager to learn about the truth and the coming of our Lord Jesus, which can be any time now.

Bro. Brain Gondwe

### **TENGANI**

I have received with joy the book, 'Why Are We Here?' I read it regularly as it gives excellent insights into Bible teachings and preaching the word of God. When we talk about *Gospel News*, this is important because the truth is spreading so quickly throughout many countries and it is good to see the support which we see from Brethren and Sisters world wide. I am requesting you humbly to send me more copies of *Bible Basics* because here in Nsanje district I am the only brother in Christ. Fellow Brethren and Sisters need to have their own copies. I have been a Sunday School teacher in our ecclesia for three years. Our aim is to encourage young brethren and sisters to grow spiritually. Unfortunately, I have no Sunday School materials, like Key Cards, time charts and lessons. If available, please send me these materials so that my lessons can be better understood. The Bible says, "When Jesus saw this, he became angry and said, Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these little children belong to the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). We pray day and night for the work you are doing. I thank you on behalf of Zambezi ecclesia. We do appreciate the efforts of promoting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Venancioh Malata Phiri*



Photo: Sunday School children at Tengani

### **ZOMBA**

It is almost a year without visiting some areas because of some problems, so now some members of Mamgombo ecclesia and I are arranging to have a big gathering at Mamgambo church. I am therefore requesting you to send me some 10 or 15 *Bible Basics* and some literature for distribution. I have also compiled some Chichewa lectures, such as, 'Why Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree when there were a number of trees? (Luke 19:1-4). Thank you for the *Bible Basics*; I have sent them to Mzimba where I have a number of friends and another five to Chitipa with Bro. Kaonga. My wife and I and the children are all very well, with God's blessing.

*Bro. F.G. Nkomelah*



Photo: Right Bro Nkomelah and left his cousin Bro Malimero

We must all fill our lamps with oil and keep our garments clean. Thank you very much for the spiritual material you send regularly. I have retired from work but bad health follows me and I take many pills to survive. The CAT is the source of seeds in every part of the world, especially in the Moslem countries, a job which is very difficult. Another fellowship has opened a little ecclesia here; one of our members has joined them. I pray that God will be with you. Jesus Christ knows our hearts and minds; he is behind our doors. Thank you once more for the help given to the flock.

*Bro. Lilkan Ancharar*

#### **news from mozambique**

We had a tremendous Bible campaign in June at Milanje town where people around the town had a chance of knowing about the Bible truth concerning the Kingdom of God, the devil, Trinity and the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. We also had a Bible School at Chithambo ecclesia for three days where the words of truth and love were taught. There has also been a Bible School at Chibuwa ecclesia..

#### **news from namibia**

I received the response to my letter and found our picture in *Gospel News*; this really shows us how much you all care for us I also received greetings from Brothers and Sisters in New Zealand.

*Bro Kitego Oredi*

#### **news from nigeria**

##### **AMAPUIFE**

We delight in the baptism of Dandy Sunday. He was baptised by Bro. Gody Nurosu of Enugu ecclesia. We pray that he will continue steadfast in the truth.



Photo: Bro. Dandy Sunday

#### **news from sierra leone**

##### **WANJAMA (Kenema)**

Thank you for your letter. Never mind it being received late due to the problems within the postal service here in Kenema. However, they have now been solved; letters can now come without delay. I enclose a picture taken a time ago. Since I was entrusted by the Lord to be Recording Brother in Kenema ecclesia in 1999 we managed to push a preaching campaign in a village called Wanjama, just six miles from the Kenema ecclesia. We succeeded in baptising six

members – one Brother and five Sisters - and we established a new ecclesia at Wanjama as a branch of Kenema. Last year we baptised another six souls. We pray that our Lord will strengthen our work that our labour will not be in vain.

*Bro. Komba Fanday*



### news from south africa

#### **IDUTYWA**

We are grateful to announce that the Brothers and Sisters of Candu ecclesia are progressing in the preaching of the truth by means of lessons. Over the last two years we have got up to 2000 Bible students taking the course. This was made possible by Bro. Norman Durk; by using a four-by-four Bakkie van we were able to get to many places. So far we have 13 students who have finished the course. It is not an easy job to look for people in the town street, but we are happy to spread Bible knowledge to our brothers and sisters in the flesh. A Sunday School has started with 12 scholars.

#### **LESOTHO**

I have received your letters, booklets and pamphlets and greatly thank you, as I am going to read and increase my knowledge of the word of God. The apostle Paul told the Christians at Corinth that their bodies were the temple of God. (1 Cor. Ch. 3). I did not know that our bodies are the temple of God. I have changed my old style of life which did not please God or His only begotten Son, Jesus, who died for my sins. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new". So many people still refuse to listen when I tell them that they should take Jesus as their Saviour, who died for their sins.

*Bro. Bernard Lintsa*



Photo: Bro. Lintsa

### news from tanzania

#### **BARIADA**

I have begun preaching the word of God in Bariadi and since I began some 62 people have listened and I need literature for them. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the

gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16). Bro. Joseph Isamba



Photo: The Ecclesia at Idutywa

### **HAI-MOSHI**

Thanks for your letter. I receive *Gospel News* for which I say thank you so much, as it keeps me awake as to how the truth is progressing around the world, including my born place at Roo Masama Hai, as reported in GN Jan/Feb, 2004 issue. I give my thanks to all who put their efforts into making this possible. My wife, Sis. Flora, children and I would be pleased to meet, welcome and talk to any who, being a Brother or Sister from any corner of the world, could visit and stay with us, for talks on “the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:6). Christadelphian Truth of the Bible is not yet known around Tanzania. People seem satisfied with what is taught by their clergymen and therefore ‘Truth’ teaching to them is just another Messianic teaching. So let Brethren and Sisters come for the preaching of Truth around my born place, Roo Masama Hai and elsewhere around Tanzania. Preaching the truth should be organised by means of a ‘task force’ who could come and stay with local brethren and sisters. There are a lot of reasons that make brethren and sisters (including myself) unable to preach the truth effectively, so more sharing of efforts is needed for preaching around Tanzania.

*Bro. Abia Zmakere*

### **IPINDA**

Brothers and Sisters, wherever you are, may God bless you because of your prayers. I thank God for giving us the knowledge of the gospel. The picture I am enclosing shows that the name ‘God’ is the greatest of all. Two of those in the picture are awaiting baptism next year; one of them is selling parafin after Sunday School. Bicycle is our transport here.

*Bro. Samson E. Mwangonda*



Photo: Bro. Samson with friends who hope to be baptised

### **KASULA**

I was pleased to receive *Bible Basics* in French, *Glad Tidings*, the bookmark from New Zealand and some exhortation papers – thanks for all. In waiting for the return of our Lord to the earth to establish the Kingdom, I pray that all brethren and sisters in the world will share in that Kingdom.

*Bro. Habonimana Isaac*

### **KIGOMA**

We started a Sunday School group and now have 25 children. We need some materials and the

process to follow. How can we conduct the services as done by Christadelphian ecclesias? I also plan to teach the children English as a way to bring more of them to Jesus. I need your prayers so that, if God wills, my plan may be accomplished. May the Lord bless you all.

*Bro. Obedi J. Kibasomba*

### **LUGUFU**

We thank God that 12 of our refugee members and their families have had their resettlement requests granted and are now in the USA and we commend them to the brethren there. We again say, Goodbye, and God bless you all

*Bro. Imani Shabani*

### **TENENDE**

I am the secretary of Tenende ecclesia and would wish copies of *Gospel News* to be sent to me.

*Bro. Gabriel Mwakasapi*

### **URAMBO**

Excuse my late answer. I think you may know that I don't know English. I have to find a person to read your letter and write one to you for me. My request is that I need to learn English, but the problem is fees. If there is any one who can help me to learn English I will thank them a lot.

*Bro. Mathias Nyelele*



Photo: Bro. Nyelele

### **UVINZA**

It is true that each of our letters may be the last, because the return of the Lord Jesus is near (1 Peter 4:7). I read in newspapers and see from television the state of the world, and yet I see only part of the picture because I know that the world is entering its last days before the return of Jesus (Matt. 24:26-42). Meanwhile I am enjoying *Elpis Israel*.

*Bro. Shadrack Ngambi*



Photo : some of our Uvinza members receiving food at the food distribution centre

I am living in the Lugufu Refugee Camp from Congo – I am Congolese. I was baptised in August 2003. I belong to the Lugufu ecclesia. I am pleased to read *Gospel News*, which you send to Bro. Imani Shabani. It increases my faith when I read the news from the brethren and sisters world wide. I learnt the 40-lesson Bible Course under the tutorship of Bro. Mike Harris of UK, whose extended and continued help in my search for the truth I greatly appreciate. I also thank Sis. Jo

Cottrell of UK who sends me the French lessons for my children. May God bless all in their work.  
*Bro. Amnobe lyungu*



Photo: Bro. Amnobe with his children: Mmunga, Fidele and Asukulu

## news from uganda

### **BUGIRI**

Bro. Stephen Waako has sent us some more pictures from his ecclesia. (1) The baptism of Sis. Samantha Mugasi of Mbarara during the 2004 Bible School. Left Bro. Stephen and right Bro. Edrine from Jinga. Through belief and baptism one can gain salvation (Mark 16:16). Sis. Samantha needs a lot of encouragement as she stands firm to face the challenges in her new life. (2) Having supper at the Bible School, from left: Bre. Edrine (Jinga), Bro. Fredrick (from Busia), Bro. Swalik (from Kampala) and Bro. Denis (from Mbarara).



Photo: Sis Samantha's Baptism



Photo: Supper at the Bible School, from left: Bro. Edrine (Jinga), Bro. Fredrick (from Busia), Bro. Swalik (from Kampala) and Bro. Denis (from Mbarara)

### **BUSIA**

Busia ecclesia is doing well while waiting for Jesus' return to establish the Kingdom on this earth. I read Gospel News and find it very interesting because we are very far from each other and this is how we can meet.

*Bro. Peter Wabwire*

### **IGANGA**

Since I joined Central fellowship I am moving well and am becoming strong in the faith. So far God has blessed me in my preaching as one of my students was baptised during the visit of Bro. John Mathias. I still have some students and two of them are almost ready for baptism, God willing. My ecclesia is still very young, with only two Brothers and one Sister, so we ask for your prayers that we may grow. I am married with five children, four girls and one boy and I stay in

Iganga town.

*Bro. Anthony Stephens Kisige*

I am very pleased because I receive Gospel News regularly and it has enabled me to know more about the world. I hope you are OK and busy preaching God's word. But we are very sad because our Sister Zesca Abbo, the wife of Bro. Anthony, died recently. May God give us all peace as we wait for Jesus to come back. Although this caused sorrow, I am very pleased to say that at Kigandalo ecclesia we are together in work, love and many other activities. God gave His only begotten Son, who poured out his life for our sins. Let brethren and sisters all over the world love one another, as God has loved us (John 13:34), as we work together and wait for Jesus to come back.

*Bro. Godfrey Kidamba*

### **KABERAMAIDO**

Many thanks to you for your words of encouragement and your prayers for us in our difficulties, also your donations of Sunday School parcels and other adult lessons sent to us. May God bless you for these wonderful gifts. As a result of our combined prayers to God He has made 13,000 rebels go back home. We are hoping to return to our village by the end of this year 2004, God willing. Keep on praying for us. The following are the words of the apostle Paul, who laid down his life for Christ: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8). Also read 1 Peter 1:3-9 to strengthen your faith. So there is no rest for us as Christians who are living in this sinful world. We need to fight for our faith every day of our lives in whatever problems or temptations we meet. For us to fight the good fight to the end, let us follow the example of Paul and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Opio Bosco*

### **KASESE**

Our world today is facing a lot of problems such as famine, wars, diseases. As Christadelphians, we should strive for a world free from all these evils. We should by all means put our trust in the Lord, who gives us life-sustaining spiritual food. Happy refreshment will be enjoyed by all who lovingly put their lives at the disposal of their Creator – "They will hunger no more, nor thirst anymore...because Jesus will be in the midst of the throne, will shepherd them, and will guide them to fountains of waters of life" (Rev. 7:16,17; Isa. 25:6-9). Time is running very fast for this world. Let us strive for survival in this present world and then live on an earth that will be made a paradise.

*Bro. Baluko Nicodemus*

### **KIGANDALO**

I am 32 years old and married with four sons and we live in a remote area. This year we had a long drought and all the crops dried up. By this time we have famine and I thank Bro. John Mathias for the CBM's assistance in Uganda helping Brothers and Sisters.

*Bro. Colin Bwire*

### **MBARARA**

Thank you for the copies of *Bible Basics*. Many people are yearning for the truth in this part of the country. It would be a blessing to us if you could arrange for at least 16 more copies to be

sent to us, especially for Kasese contacts. May God allow this.

*Bro. Godwin Mugasi*



Photo: The Sunday School children with Bro. Zaccaeus and Sis. Eunice Muntete at the home of Bro. Joshua Mushili

### news from zambia

#### **KASAMA**

Here in Kasama we have 68 full-time students, four of whom are ready to be baptised into Jesus' name.

*Bro. Joshua Mushili*

As you know, it is not easy to fit a rusted piece of spare part to machinery; even so it is difficult for mankind to understand God's word at once, it needs serious preaching to drive the rust out of man's heart. I was like a piece of rusted iron. However, when I came into contact with the Christadelphians the rust melted and I felt clean. Zambia, as you know, is a peaceful Christian country, without war threats; the only war being fought now is against poverty, like any other African nation, and this does not worry us much.

We feel God's presence whenever we are breaking bread. People from all walks of life gather around us to hear our exhortations and sometimes they join us for Bible studies and exclaim that our understanding of the Bible is excellent and different from other religious groups. A lot of people have heard about the Christadelphians and their faith and belief. They demand that the scriptures be printed in their native tongues so that they fully understand the Bible studies, and many more scripts for the benefit of mankind the world over. We pass our heartfelt greetings to you all and are also pleased to always put you in our prayers as we walk along the narrow path to the Kingdom of our Lord, even Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Willies Simbowe*



Photo: Bro. Nelson Bwalya baptizing Bro. Willies Simbowe

#### **KITWE**

*Gospel News* is very helpful to me. I will not be coming to England, America, India etc., but by *Gospel News* I will reach these places! My mind reaches heavenly things through thinking deeply on God's word. You know, sometimes I fear writing mistakes, because I'm not well educated. In Zambia we have a saying, 'A child is an axe, it chops you (cuts you), then you hang it

on your shoulder, but you should not throw it away'. Yes, I make mistakes, but keep sending me *Gospel News*.

*Bro. Costa Mwape*

### **LUNDAZI**

I am happy to say that in these last days more and more people in Zambia are seeking to learn the truth and several baptisms have resulted. "Let there be light, and there was light". Light speaks of the glory, majesty and power of God; without God, without light, no life. On to Exodus and the burning bush and other manifestations of light. We think of Moses in the mount; the mount of transfiguration; Paul on the way to Damascus. When Israel were to be redeemed from the darkness of Egypt, what happened? God spoke with Moses at the burning bush, from the light, the Shekinah glory, which shone in that bush, and Moses received the commission that he was to lead His people Israel. We are brought to a knowledge of the truth by the light of the gospel, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). Jesus was the true Light that came into the world and we take his message throughout the world today.

*Bro. John Chulu*

### **MUZOKA**

I count my efforts with my pupils as a blessing, and it's my privilege to thank God for all my many blessings. I have sent five pupils for Grade 1 this year and the number has increased to 46 due to efforts made to integrate Sunday School lessons in the syllabus. These children surely do not just need physical strengthening, but also spiritual awakening as they interact in their education. I can assure you that now both children and their parents understand the reason for Sunday School despite different church backgrounds. The children now know some 'memory verses' from the Bible, which is wonderful (Prov. 22:6). I would like to thank you for your letters, also the booklet about the Holy Spirit debate which was very educative and helpful. It is just sad to learn of our beloved Bro. Faris of Kandahar, Afghanistan, being murdered.

*Bro. Wilfred Chibomba*

### **NDOLA**

I thank our heavenly Father for the support you give me in sending me books for spiritual food. Despite not having a job the Lord always helps me, and I pray that one day He will help me to find work, as nothing is too hard for Him. I always thank my God as I remember you all in my prayers, because I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all brothers and sisters around the world and I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brothers, have refreshed the hearts of the brothers and sisters through your work. I am a regular reader of *Gospel News* and encourage you never to grow tired with the great job you are doing. Yours is indeed, the Lord's work, and no one will reward you but God Himself, as the Bible says, "Do not be weary in doing good; the Lord is not slack concerning His promise; He will not forget your work and love" (Heb. 6:10), so please keep it up.

*Bro. Harris N. Mulonsesha*



Photo: Brothers. Harris, James Mwanza, Michael Chileshe and John Palmer

## news from zimbabwe

### **BANKET**

Compassion was an outstanding feature of Christ's unique personality. It was a sign of his greatness and not an indication of weakness, for it was at the centre of his life and teaching. The scripture tells us that "the common people heard him gladly" and they travelled great distances to hear him. The brief record that we have of what he said reveals the depth of his wisdom and the uniqueness of his revelation of God, yet the spirit in which these words were spoken touched not only the people's minds, but also won their hearts. They felt his love for them and they responded by offering their love to him. Because the eternal Christ is alive today, his compassion for men and women is as real today as it was when he walked in Galilee. As we read the gospel story and delight in the truth revealed, our hearts are warmed by the reality of his love for us. If we feel that life has failed us, or that we have failed and we are filled with despair and do not know where to turn for fresh inspiration and power, remember the compassion of Jesus. He is with us in our misery and encourages us, in the power of his love, to rise up and start afresh to rebuild our lives.

*Bro. David Yelulani*



Photo: Bro. David Yelulani with his Sunday School pupils

### **BORROWDALE**

Jesus learned obedience from the school of suffering (Heb. 5:8). The greatest mystery of all is the mystery of suffering. In every age men have sought an answer, or a satisfactory explanation, for it. Some have attempted to deny the existence of suffering, but it has continued to be the experience of men and women. The fact that the Son of God knew the agony of mental and spiritual suffering in the Garden and upon the cross clearly shows that suffering is not a figment of the imagination, but an experience that must be faced with fortitude. The living Christ accepted his suffering; he did not avoid it. No one would be so foolish as to suggest that his suffering was caused by wrong and negative thinking. Suffering was a part of the society in which he lived, and because he was identified with humanity he suffered. No one willingly suffers nor can it be the will of God that anyone should suffer, but suffering is an integral part of the common life of mankind and it is when the Christian disciple becomes identified with the world in which he lives that he shares, to a lesser degree, the pain that Jesus experienced; it is a redemptive experience, for he sees the world as God sees it and yet experiences it as a man.

*Bro. Dan Mponde*

### **BULAWAYO**

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). He also added these important words, "Except ye be converted and become as

little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3). This was to fulfil God’s universal call to sinners in Acts. 17:30. Jesus had said he had come to call sinners to repentance, but not the ‘righteous’ ones. He did not persuade them, but he taught them the truth with examples (parables) and signs (miracles) so that they could believe him. After convincing them about the truth in regard to God’s coming kingdom, many realised that their former beliefs were wrong; their conversion was really true, as some even died for his sake. But some still did not believe. So conversion is not just to attend so-called ‘church’ revivals held in halls or stadiums, or simply to study and answer a few selected questions, that is to say a simple change of opinion. Our religious conversion should manifest itself in a redirection of the will and the forming of a new pattern of behaviour in our every day lives. Repentance is not a fast move or action, but the angle through which we are turning and the direction in which we are left facing after total surrender from the things of this present wicked world (Matt. 3:8). If we all follow this move, we will not have the saying in our ecclesias, “They come and they go” (Joel 2:12-13).

*Bro. Ambrose Tanyepana*



Photo: Bro. Tanyepana

## **CHEGUTU**

### **Religion and Life**

Religion is not just a going to church  
And praying a prayer in a pew.  
Religion is living with Christ our Guide  
In all that we think and do.

It’s taking our prayers to the business world,  
To the kitchen sink or the school.  
It’s living just knowing that God abides  
In lives that allow Him to rule.

Oh, let our lives be lived in prayer,  
In knowing God’s presence always.  
That church may become a haven where we  
Can refuel for the week-long days.

That in church we may feel the vibrant peace  
That praying together brings.  
That we may use in our workday lives  
Thoughts heard on celestial wings.

*Bro. Innocent Bandare*

We are pleased that in Chegutu ecclesia all our hearts are filled with love. As a whole, we come to realise that the greatest damage caused by sin is broken fellowship with the Lord. Instead of sin we long to embrace righteousness because we know that the one who is privileged to dwell in the Lord's presence is the one whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous (Ps. 15:1-2).

*Bro. Tofara Gibson*

### **CHINHOI**

I am dwelling in a remote area of Zumba in Kenzamba where clinics and transport are a problem. The place (Zumba) is 75km away from the town of Chinhoi. Zumba consists of three brethren and two sisters, namely, Bro. Obert Wiki and his wife, Bro. Moses Wiweka, Sis. Egness Banda and myself. We try to meet twice a month for the breaking of bread at Bro. Wiki's homestead, but most of the time we have a poor attendance caused by the long distance between one another. I would like to thank all brothers and sisters world wide who are contributing to *Gospel News*, because it keeps us close to each other spiritually. I am enclosing a picture that is a bit old, but I thought you could publish it.

*Bro. Emmanuel Akwaa Kondowe*



Photo: (Standing Left to Right) Bro. Kennedy, Sis. Florence, Brothers Kondowe, John Willowise and Moses Wiweka. (Kneeling from right) Bro. Julius Pondo and a student.

Thank you so much for sending me *Gospel News* and the letter of encouragement. Here we meet on Sundays to break bread with Bro. Moses Ajiweka, Sis. Yelulani and my wife, Sis. Joyce Wiki. We are looking forward to Bro. David Yelulani from Banket so that we can institute an ecclesia. There are many contacts here who are willing to learn the truth. We would be very happy to see our photo in *Gospel News*, which was taken just after breaking of bread at Zumba village where we hope to establish our ecclesia.

*Bro. Obert Wiki*



Photo: Back row: Brothers David Yelulani, Obert Wiki and Mr. Daimon (a student). Second row from back, from left: Mrs Daimon (a student), Sis. Yelulani, Sis. Joyce Wiki and Mrs. Manyanja (a student) and in front Cain Yelulani.

### **CHIPATA**

Greetings in our Master's name for whom we are all patiently waiting to bring peace to this violent and evil world. A few months back I received a message from my family that my sister's child had died and that my mother was very sick, so I rushed to them. By now mother is much

improved. Thank you very much for your encouragement. May our Almighty God bless you and be with you always. By His grace may we be together in the coming Kingdom which we are waiting for.

*Bro. Alfred Bwalya*

### **GWERU**

A really big 'Thank you' for sending some *Bible Basics*, which help me when I am preaching. I am in isolation. If you can find an old or used KJV Bible, please help me with it; this will help me during debates with others who are interested in the Bible. My fellow Brothers, let us remember Jesus' words and go into the world and preach, and those who believe baptise. Jesus did not tell us to preach money to the people, but the word.

*Bro. Dzingai Sumburera*

### **HARARE**

Dear Sir, Well, I am a new reader who has been receiving messages from all round the world through *Gospel News*, which you send to my brother, Everisto. In the past I had no intention of reading the Magazine, but now I believe they have awakened me. I am learning a lot and feel sure I will proceed and be baptised. I am 24 years old and single. I am glad that I have got to know God through my own reading. I really want to thank God, for He appears to come to my rescue every minute of my life. I have just found myself brought out of difficulties without even kneeling down for a prayer, without even a loud cry. I have never dropped tears for Him to help me. I came out of serious accidents without even saying 'Thank you' to Him. I believe it is high time I take a look at how my sins can be washed away, repent and get baptised. Your reader  
*Obvious Dandara*

The truth has shown us the way to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. I used to run away when my brother said to me, 'Jimmy, are you coming to church with me?' He kept on telling me how God could help me. Now in our family we are four members of the ecclesia and others are doing the 40-lesson course.

*Bro. James Zvitete*

### **KADOMA**

I feel guilty because we are still sinning and we are in the last days before entering the Promised land. The worst temptation is money; the money we get as workers is just for buying food, nothing else. Those who do not believe in God are complaining every day. Jesus said we must not worry. Psalm 121:2 says, "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth". Jesus said he is the way; if we know the way we are not lost. We must shine from inside as well as outside. Thank you very much for *Gospel News*. 'God, please let me continually grow closer to You in worship. You are holy and everlasting. May your Name be glorified by my life. Please help me to worship in spirit and in truth.'

*Sis. Alice Mlambo*

### **MAGUNJE**

I am very pleased to receive *Gospel News* where I meet brothers and sisters giving their views on how they run their ecclesias etc. so I learn much from GN. I was baptised in 2000 after doing the Course and everything changed my life. We should pray for the Truth to spread. My wife gave birth to two children – twins- they are now one year old. Please pray for them to grow up in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.

*Bro. T. Mate*

## **ZHARARE**

We are now very busy ploughing, sowing and weeding grass in the fields. This year my crops are good, especially maize, our staple food; I hope to harvest five or six tonnes. I am preparing for the children to get back to school where they need school fees, so I am hoping to sell crops before they return. Zimbabwe is not in the Commonwealth, so we are living in very bad conditions, especially we small-scale farmers. Sometimes we are not able to buy soap or paraffin, so we use grass for light which is a risk to our property. In bathing we use only water for some weeks. When we sell our crops the situation will be better. Prices are still high, and we don't know the future. Longing for the coming of our Master to the vineyard.

*Bro. Stanford Kuuzha*



Photo: Sunday School children during the visit of Bro. Swain's company. Sis. Eddie is holding my last daughter, Maacah. The children acted Rahab and the spies and the fall of Jericho.

## **SAKUBUA**

In reading Titus ch. 2, I was thrilled to read the topic used by the apostle Paul when instructing Titus about teaching various groups: The older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled and sound in faith, in love and endurance. The older women to be reverent in the way they live, not slanderers, but to teach what is good, then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind and subject to their husbands, so that no one will criticise God's word. Regarding young men, give them examples by doing what is good. In your teaching show seriousness, integrity and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say. Workers should be subject to their heads, should be trustworthy and honest to show that God our Saviour is excellent. Masters should also respect their workers.

*Bro. Gilbert Tevere*

## **News from Europe / Eurasia**

### **news from azerbaijan**

I get a good feeling from the fact that you my brothers believe in me. We are still waiting for the exit clearance to escape to Canada. I realize that we all have to carry on, just as we all have to suffer in this life. God speaks to me by you and by all situations I find myself in. Thank you!

*Bro. N.*

I am trying to improve my English so I can translate more while we are waiting here to get our clearance. We very much love you all. It meant very much that Sisters Cindy and Liz came to see

us.

*Sis. E.*

### news from belarus

#### **TERESHKI**

We here are continuing in the truth, although we are surrounded by Catholics and Orthodox. I find people here think that the word 'Christadelphian' sounds like a cult imported from the West, *I think* 'Brothers in Christ', 'Bratya vo Hriste?', sounds more local and more like we are true local brothers and sisters.

**Sis. Anna**

### news from bosnia

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of RENATO; may the Lord keep him in the way to His Kingdom.*

#### **SARAJEVO**

I am sorry that I didn't write before, as soon as I got back to Sarajevo [from the Bible School], I got a call from my family; my mother is very sick and she was on the bed for last three days, she has epilepsy - and it has been the worst ever. So as soon I arrived in Sarajevo I went to her. We came back from the Bible School as it was planned; the guy came around 2 am and we left Croatia and arrived in Sarajevo safely. I don't feel very well because of my mom, I spent two nights by her bed so I am tired. She is going to stay in the hospital for two days and I'll be with her. Please pray for my mom, she is a wonderful woman and mother and I don't want anything to happen to her. I feel bad because I was having a good time while she was sick; in all that panic nobody could call me because I wasn't available. I feel so bad about it. But you know what Brother, I trust God and I believe that He knows what is good for me. I may feel bad about it but I truly trust Him. I felt so good and proud when I baptised my friend; God wanted me there, I know that for sure. Our God is a good God. Thank you one more time for everything that you have done for me and my friends.

*Bro. J*

### news from bulgaria

#### **SOFIA**

You will need moral and spiritual support in the work in Afghanistan. Let God and the Lord Jesus keep you safe. I hope the mission is worth the risks. I send my love in the Lord to any Brothers and Sisters there.

*Bro. Lyuben*

Note: Our Brother has written several interesting articles about Bible codes. You can view them at

<http://www.carelinks.net/booksandarticles.html>.

#### news from croatia

##### **ZAGREB**

Long time since we had any writing contact, but we are connected in Jesus and we always will be. I'm very good, actually great! All medicine which the doctor gave me I have thrown away, because I had epileptic fits because of them. Now I'm more than six weeks without any medicine apart from Jesus, and have never felt better. I had very serious problem with my mum, so she spent three weeks in hospital. All my free time I spent with her, even though I had to be at work. She's much better now and back home. Please pray for her. In Croatia nowadays American churches are very popular (mostly Pentecostal, Church of Christ, Mormons...) and they find many followers. The Bible's God is too simple for them it seems, but I have found some people willing to read *Bible Basics* and I need more copies... I've made some T-shirt recently with Bible verses on. I feel so great wearing them, and many people ask what that and this mean, so it could be a good way to talk to them about Jesus. I'll print links you gave me and will try to translate as soon as I can.

*Sis. Anita*

#### news from ireland

June and I are migrating to Australia under the 'Aged Parents Scheme' after 15 years in isolation in Ireland. 'Our three' have no intention of returning to live and work in the UK or Ireland. Mark and Rosalind are settled in NSW and Wanda is in Singapore. Hence our decision to migrate! Your recent editorial (March/April) was most apt and much appreciated. April 1 was the final class for us in Cork, 13 friends were present - 19 folks in all, with Derek and Cis Palmer (Tenby), John and Christine Dunning (Mountain Ash) and ourselves. The hotel room was packed. Derek presided, John spoke on 'The Parable of the Sheep and Goats' and I rounded off the evening - and our association with the group - by using the theme, 'The Bible, the Lord Jesus and Us'. It was somewhat emotional for us; we've known one friend for over 14 years and most of them for about five years. It is a very interesting group, including mainly Catholic's a few Protestants and a Baha'I couple. Derek has now taken over as co-ordinator, with John in reserve, and will hold classes once a month in association with the brethren who man the Dublin flat. We hope that our friends will be prepared for the coming of the Lord, for which we pray.

*Bro. Ken and Sis. June Camplin*

#### news from israel

##### **PETAH TIKWA**

We very much miss the visits of Brother Duncan and Sister Cindy. I am going soon to Ukraine

and will do all I can to spread the gospel there in the Russian language.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### news from italy

I am still awaiting the result of my appeal to the UNHCR. Here it is very hot and life is so hard for me. I am praying and hope for positive results.

*Bro. Naizghi*

Bro Chris Tarry has visited our brother and in spite of the appalling conditions under which he has to exist, he is strong in faith and very courageous for the Lord and has already made four converts



Photo: Bro. Naizghi

### news from kazakhstan

#### **ALMATY**

Thanks to using the *Bible Companion* I have now read the Bible through five times... We are trying to distribute leaflets to support the work wherever we can.

*Sis. Lena*

#### **ASTANA**

I am so sorry for my long silence, which has been totally my fault. My mother's flat caught fire and was totally destroyed, it was a miracle that we are alive. I have been busy replacing all furniture and rebuilding the inside. I received no help from the brothers at this time so I have been lonely throughout it. Now the worst is behind me. I love you and pray for you.

*Bro. Anatoly*

#### **KOKSHETAU**

I was interested to read about the Bible School, I was very excited about it and I am with you all. I always remember with much warmth the lectures at Bible School which I heard.

*Sis. Tanya*

We are preparing to attend the next Bible School in Moscow. We love you all and welcome you to visit us.

*Sis. Svetlana*

We are very sorry whenever we hear of divisions, here we do not uphold such things, our love and desire is for the truth to spread.

*Sis. Irena*

## news from latvia

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of ROMAN; may the Lord keep him in the way to His Kingdom.*

### **JEKABPILS**

We are waiting the arrival of more leaflets, as we have already distributed most of those we have. We pray for you.

*Bro. Sasha*

### **JELGAVA**

I realize we are the choices that we have made. So for me, I have chosen to do the will of God, and to ask for His will to be done in my life. This then is the choice I have made, and it will define who I am.

*Bro. Janis*

### **VILANI**

I am wishing that people would realize that the help and love they show for others cannot be measured in the value of money or things, for me what is important is the love that I have been shown by my brothers. I will hold the faith to the end of my days which may not be far away. Till then I am reading every day with the *Companion* and also a few pages from *Beyond Bible Basics*.

*Bro. Fyodyor*

## news from lithuania

### **VILNIUS**

I am working building at the moment. I am thinking of trying to enter university. My thoughts are always with our dear brothers down there in Bosnia and Serbia after I visited them.

*Bro. Valdas*

## news from macedonia

I had some problems with my computer which delayed the translation work a bit but now I am working on it again.

*Bro. D.*



Photo: Aija, Nadia, Vaira and Juris fellowshiping together at the Riga Bible School



Photo: Young people doing the readings together at the Winter Bible School

#### news from moldova

##### **CHISINAU**

We send you our warm greetings! We had a new baby daughter in our family, Anastasia, and she has some problems so we are praying to the Lord for help.

*Sisters Roza and Stella*

#### news from morocco

We are now out of our country. We have no mobile. Please pray for us. We have many problems and need your help in prayers.

*Brothers S & H*

#### news from pakistan

*Sis. Safina reports the baptisms of another three illiterate women in Sahiwal; may the Lord go with them in their walk to His Kingdom*

I am in touch with the Brothers from Afghanistan. If we can get money to them then I think they can make a journey to Kandahar to find out the fate of the family of our late Brother Faris and the other Brothers there. We will pray more and I will communicate with you what news I receive from there.

*Bro. K.*

##### **NAWABSHAH**

We are remembering with joy the Bible School in Multan and we still think on the lessons taught by Brothers Steve and Duncan. We are sorry to have been out of contact. We love you and miss you.

*Bro. I*

##### **KARACHI**

I am praying for the will of God to be done and for the establishment of His Kingdom in Pakistan and in the whole world.

*Bro. F*

##### **SAHIWAL**

I want to inform you that I am arranging a Kids' Seminar in Sahiwal. I will invite all our Christadelphian Sunday Schools to participate in the Seminar. We will make a programme with Bible songs, colouring and running competitions, Bible quiz and a lunch. Please pray that this will happen!

*Sis. S*

##### **TOBA TEK SINGH**

Last evening I was in FSD to see some Brothers and Sisters. It was nice meeting with them. Because of the traffic problems I went late so I could meet one or two and came back earlier

because I have to leave for Islamabad.

*Bro A*

Requests for literature from Pakistan are dealt with by our Pakistani Brethren and Sisters. Here is a letter which they use in replying to contacts. It shows their great love and care for the individual. We encourage Brothers and Sisters in all countries not to rely upon the Western Brothers for preaching but to take as much responsibility as they can for preaching themselves; the Pakistani Christadelphians are a great pattern to us all in this.

Dear friend

Greetings and love from the Christ-adelphian Pakistan Team.

I am here to tell you that there is a team who love you and praying for you and all others that are studying the WORD of GOD and seeking for the TRUE message of Christ. We are very happy to learn that you have read the *Bible Basics* manual in English and you motivated your friends and relatives to study it and now you need it in URDU. GREAT!

Can you please send us your postal address that we can post you *Bible Basics* in Urdu. Would you like to meet any of our members in your area (openly or in privacy)? It depends on you. Also let us know about your interests, hobbies and age and briefly write some thing about your family background and religious activities/involvement. There are many young, talented and devoted men and women in Christadelphian Team in Pakistan. I hope you will enjoy our fellowship and will learn more about the WORD of God. We love you and pray for you.

### news from poland

I never expected that working at school would be so time-taking, and I am not talking here about teaching, but about all the paper work. At present I give 37 lessons a week. Fortunately, I have graduated from Academy of Physical Education and this year I have been a double student! As to vets, one lives next door to me, and I am happy that he doesn't treat people! In our lives we fulfil many different social roles, but some people forget to be a human first before being a doctor, manager or president.

*Bro Thomas Makaruk*

### news from russia

*We are delighted to announce the baptisms of ROMAN, ILDAR and OKSANA (Kazan), SERGEJ & NADIA (Abinsk) and ALEKSEY, NINA, KRISTINA, ALLA, NIKITA, VLADIMIR & SVETLANA (Irbit); may the Lord keep them in the way to His Kingdom.*

### **ABINSK**

We much enjoyed the visit of Brothers Peter and Duncan, and we hope that they had good impressions of us here.

*Bro. Sasha*

**EFREMOV**

I am now retired but I still have to work in a factory to try to get enough to eat and live on. I cannot afford to attend the CBM Bible School in Moscow. I am planning to move far away to Chelyabinsk to be with my son. I look back over eight years in the brotherhood and I am very happy. I continue to break bread and to read with the *Companion* largely on my own, although sometimes I have fellowship with Sis. Kretova. The British visitors mainly go to Yelets and so I don't get to see them here.

*Sis Valya*

**MARIJ-EL**

I am happy to say that my tribunal was OK and they gave me alternative service. I want to say thank you to Sis Ludmila who helped me, for all of you who prayed for me, and for Bro Duncan's efforts for me at the last minute and writing to the authorities, and thanks to God for helping me.

*Bro. L.*

**OKTYABRSKIJ**

I have delayed writing because my mother is so sick. We have nobody here interested at the moment, even Sis. Larisa's relative has decided not to be baptized, so we sisters here are studying together. We are praying for you all.

*Sis. Natasha*

**RZHEV**

I would appreciate more leaflets to distribute here. I was in Moscow some time ago for the meeting of the brothers. I am earnestly trying to spread the truth to more people but would love very much to be visited by anyone travelling on the Riga-Moscow train as my town is right on the railway line.

*Bro. Sasha*

**SHAKHTY**

I have heard that another trip is being made to Afghanistan to preach, and I want to tell you that I am very much with you in my prayers for this. Tanya and I have a great sadness at this time because of the loss of our child. In all, is the will of God.

*Bro. Andrej*

**SKOPINSK**

I have distributed all the leaflets given to me when you came to baptize me. I am so eager to do more for the truth and to develop an ecclesia here, but I have so little time, I have to work very long hours, and people here are very preoccupied with their problems of life.

*Bro Sasha*

**UST KATAV**

We here are all very disappointed by recent problems that have arisen, but when we received *Morning Star* magazine, this gave us faith and understanding again. We are with you all.

*Sis. Nina and Sis. Snezhana*



Photo: Russian Sisters greeting a Brother recently baptised in the Urals

#### news from spain

We are awaiting the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to establish God's everlasting Kingdom here on earth. I am very thankful for the books you sent to me, which arrived in good order. It is with great pleasure that I thank you very much for putting me in touch with Brothers in Christ here in Spain. Please can you help me with a Hymn book.

*Bro. Jude Osozetin*

#### news from turkey

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of SANAZ. Our new sister is from Iran and needs our prayers as she starts a difficult walk to God's Kingdom.*

We are well and have solved our residence permission until March 2005 but we have to make a daily signature in the Police station. We went to Ankara for the second time and asked UNHCR our process and they told us they couldn't do anything for us at the moment, as we came to Turkey from Iran via Iraq. We are now waiting, however, waiting is so hard for us at times, with our problems of basically surviving. We are spreading the word further in Ankara, Van and Konya.

*Bro. H.*

My children have been reading *Bible Basics* and are wishing to be baptized. Our situation here is now desperate. We have been here a very long time since leaving Iran, and we are only hoping that a Christadelphian ecclesia in a Western country can adopt us.

*Bro.F.*

#### news from turkmenistan

Thank you for all your support. We have had many orders for our slippers, camels etc. from Brothers and Sisters around the world and we hope that they like them. We are doing what we can to survive and also to tell the message to others here.

*Sis. G.*

*Comment: If you would like to be an agent to sell the work produced by our Sisters, please contact [info@carelinks.net](mailto:info@carelinks.net)*

Trinidad Problem and Need for Prayers

We regularly receive encouraging letters from Brother George Constantine, who a few years ago was sentenced to death by hanging in Trinidad and learnt the Truth in prison through *Bible Basics*. The situation has been complicated and many different appeals have been made, each giving hope to the condemned that they would not be hanged. Last year the Judicial Committee met and the decision made that those on death row would be re-sentenced as a matter of judicial discretion. This has been contested by the Trinidad and Tobago State Government. Trinidad is still a member of the Commonwealth and has appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London which is the final appeal court of Trinidad and Tobago. On 7<sup>th</sup> July the previous decision was overturned by a meeting of eight Law Lords. This means that the death sentence is still legally enforceable in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Privy Council comes under the Leader of the House of Lords, the Rt Hon The Baroness Amos. The Christadelphian Advancement Trust wrote to her concerning our Brother's position, and whilst she cannot as a minister of the Crown comment or advise on individual cases, she constructively replied to us on 28<sup>th</sup> July, giving some interesting facts and the account of the hearing. She rightly said, "as will be apparent, the matter is not entirely straightforward" The Judicial Committee upheld the right of the Trinidad Constitution to exact the death penalty, so what is to be the position of those who were informed last year that "their mandatory death sentences would be quashed and that they would be re-sentenced as a matter of judicial discretion" The Law Lords decision overrules that made last year, so legally Trinidad have the right of execution. However, the Law Lords were concerned at "the agony of mind of a man facing execution" and felt that those to whom last year's judgment had been made could have the sentence of death set aside and instead impose a sentence of life imprisonment.

From this it would seem George has been spared execution, but we feel that life imprisonment is not really what we want. One legal person we discussed the case with was under the impression that the verdict could be changed to man-slaughter and that would give the possibility of George's immediate release. Whilst this is an optimistic hope we are seeking legal advice as to how to further proceed with the matter.

Prison life is depressing and hard and the Prison Staff in Trinidad are taking industrial action to improve their own conditions which appear to be nigh on intolerable. This has alas had an adverse effect upon the prisoners, but not on those at the negotiating table! We should remember our Brother George in our prayers. Several do write to him but owing to his circumstances it is not possible for him to write to everyone. In particular Sister Helen Pyper in New Zealand writes to him regularly, every two weeks and has more or less 'adopted' him as a member of the family, an example that we find so humbling, especially as they have been doing that consistently for some years.

In the Caribbean Press the Privy Council's ruling has received a mixed reception, for and against. Simeon McIntosh, a Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of the West Indies, has written an extensive article on "Privy Councils decision flawed". So things are not as cut and dried as one would have hoped.

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of VALYA. May the Lord bless and guide her life to the end.*

#### **BILA TSERKVA**

I recently had such problem as my grandmother fell over and did serious damage to herself, she is like a mother to me. Thanks to her I learnt English and was able to find the advert in the newspaper for *Bible Basics* which led to my precious new life in Christ. I had to buy so many medicines for her and even sold my telephone and anything else I could to buy them. I am so concerned for her and life has become very hard for me. Please pray for her as she is the dearest to me and I had been teaching her of the truth.

*Bro. Alex*

#### **KHARKOV**

Bro. Vasiliy baptized his relative Valentina, and since then, she has had an amazing improvement in her health. Praise God!

*Sis. Ludmila*

#### **POLTAVA**

I am getting supportive letters from our Russian speaking Brothers and Sisters from all over, even from Israel. I am very excited about this and it gives me strength to go on.

*Sis. Ludmila*

I am preaching to two of my neighbours and need copies of *Bible Basics* to give to them. I am writing more articles and helping to run the meetings here. We wish God's blessings on you all.

*Bro. Genna*

### **News from the Americas**

#### **news from canada**

*Two of our Iranian refugee brethren recently arrived safely in Canada, thanks to your prayers and much effort on the ground. Here is the first email we received from one of them:*

I am in Canada in Brother Michael and Sister Ruth's home, they are very kind and good to me. Brother Ken and two other brothers with Michael came to airport and every thing is ok.

I asked for my social security number from the immigration office they said it takes just one day and I will go for it tomorrow and I can work very soon. I hope the Brothers and Sisters help me to find a job soon, God willing. God bless you.

Love, kisses and big hug

*Mahmoud*

#### **news from trinidad**

## **PORT OF SPAIN**

Thank you for *Gospel News*. I enjoy reading the articles written by my Brethren from countries so far away from the Caribbean. What really unites us is the one common faith and belief that we share and hold on to. I shall appreciate it if you can send two copies of *Bible Basics* and also verse-by-verse *Book of Revelation*.

Sis. Esther Daniel-Liverpool

## **News from Asia**

### **news from afghanistan**

Contact efforts are still being made with regard to our martyred Brother Faris, his wife, and the other two brethren stranded in Kandahar. A visit is planned, God willing. Here is a tribute from Bro John Kasanda (Kasembe, Zambia):

I wish to offer tribute to our brave Brother Faris of Kandahar, Afghanistan. His brutal death is a shock to us. Dear Brothers and Sisters who remain, when we open our Bibles and read Acts 6:8-15 we read how the Jews argued with Stephen the man of God, but they could not stand up against his wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. They got him executed on false charges of blasphemy. Yet in the end he still prayed for his spirit to be in Jesus' hands. Brother Faris has left a remarkable spiritual lesson to each Christadelphian. We too must never stop speaking the Gospel until our death. We hope to meet in the Kingdom to come.

Further, Sis. Julie Trotman (Southampton, UK) was moved to compose the following in tribute to Bro Faris:

#### **THERE'S A DARK SIDE OF THE MOON**

With the dark time drawing near  
And with friends who couldn't see,  
Loving Jesus didn't think of himself but of you and me.  
He was trembling and afraid  
For the ransom must be paid  
For the children that he loved to be freed.

So he knelt there on the ground  
And his anguish could be seen,  
With temptation hitting harder than ever it had been.  
Then the God who answers prayer  
Proved to Jesus He was there,  
As an angel gave him strength to proceed.

What he gave him in his mind  
Was a vision he could see  
In the glory of the Angel: "Yes! Soon that will be me!"  
From the moment that he came

Jesus rose up through the pain,  
Being strengthened to endure cruelty.

Keep a vision in your mind  
When the path you've taken home  
Is a dark one and you know you must take it on your own.  
Keep a vision through the storm  
Of a fireside bright and warm.  
Keep your head down in the wind, when it blows.

Though the storm clouds hide the sun  
And the rain beats in your face  
Surely Jesus is beside you with guidance and with grace.  
So remember this is true:  
"I will always be with you"  
'Cos he's been there, and he **will** get you through.

There's a dark side of the moon  
And a light side in the sun,  
And the light side is the time when God's Kingdom has begun.  
There's a good time coming soon  
When the bad times will have gone  
And the glory of the Lord will have come.

#### **news from malaysia**

Thanks for your letter and I must apologise that it has taken me time to reply. I have trouble with my knees and always have the chest pains, day and night. Some Brothers came for the breaking of bread. At times it takes place once a month due to distance.

*Bro. Joe Theseira*

#### **news from nepal**

I am so thankful for *Gospel News*, it is a great source of encouragement to us all; I find so much comfort in reading it. There are a few English speaking Brethren and Sisters here; we have seven members in our meeting; there are also friends and visitors. We all share the same faith as the rest of the Brethren and Sisters around the world, so it is good to hear what is happening, so continue sending GN. It is also really good to see the truth flourishing.

*Bro. Satya Deep*

#### **news from philippines**

**MINDANAO**

More than 100 Brethren and Sisters from the three ecclesias in Mindanao attended the Bible Truth Camp week in Kilikili ecclesial hall in April. Bro. Francisco Espastero and Bro. Alex Junio were the speakers during the study which was focused on the letter of the apostle Paul to Titus. The Camp was also highlighted by the baptism of six new Sisters.

*Bro Efren Facum*



Above: The Sisters who were baptised at the Camp: (from left:) Sisters Lotchie Naelgas, Cristine Cantarora, Jeralyn Fajardo, Rowena Arellano, Julie Arellano and Mary Ann Soriano.

Below: A group of those attending the Camp.



My name is Joan Mendoza Alburo and I am 20 years old. I am deaf and my parents are deaf. I have two sisters and three brothers. I am a true Christian. Please supply *Bible Basics*.

*Joan Alburo*

Here in the Philippines in the last two years much seed has been sown during the visits of the Australian Brethren and Sisters - too many to mention - but special thanks to Bre. Jonathan Galbraith and David Dangerfield for their continued help in preaching the truth. Recently a new ecclesia has sprung up in San Mateo, Isabela (through the continued help of Bro. Jonathan Galbraith) where a certain man and his family have now become Christadelphians and a certain Luis Bartolome who is an ex-JW student, but is now a Brother. Summer is good for wider opportunity to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, so I'm hoping you will please send me 20 English *Bible Basics* and 10 in Tagalog and some pamphlets. I hope you will be able to grant this because it is urgent to preach the truth and defend the truth against mainstream religions and conventional Christianity as the papal and protestant 'Christians'. So I'm hoping you will help me preach the truth by means of this literature for distribution and also for the needs and spiritual welfare of the Brothers and Sisters in Christ and for the interested friends who are preparing for baptism. I hope that God's work may be done through us. If you are able, can I request the book by Bro. J.V. Collyer, *ISRAEL: Land and People of Destiny*, which is of interest to me. May your work and support to those in other countries continue by means of literature distribution and through *Gospel News* magazine. So, my fellow-workers in the Lord, as we share the promises God gave to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, let us remember they are to us as well. Our work will be tried on that day, may He say, "Good work done, my faithful servant, enter into my Kingdom, for it is my Father's pleasure to give it".

*Bro. Ryan L. Datuin*



Photo: Sister Joan at School

### **SAN PABLO**

I am sorry for not writing earlier. I am stricken by severe rheumatism in both knees; I have had it now for more than seven years. The left knee was somewhat improved due to weekly massage with herbal oils by an old lady in her 80s. She lives in a far-flung village; if she were nearer and could be here daily I'm sure both my knees would be cured. In spite of this my faith in God is growing. Please continue sending *Gospel News*; some of them I pass on to my friends and neighbours.

*Bro. Danilo Sy*

### **Nepal - The Paul Lidyard Trust**

Brother Paul was a missionary to Nepal during the 1990s and had a great love for the brethren and sisters in Kathmandu. He fell asleep in Christ, sure of the hope of resurrection, in 1999. He belonged to the Cardiff (Museum Place) ecclesia.

During the time after his death his family desired to build an ecclesial home in Kathmandu which would serve many purposes: to provide a meeting place for fellowship; to provide shelter for needy brethren and sisters and a flat for any visiting Nepal to stay.

By the kindness and love of many in the UK this task was achieved and the house is now open and full of the Truth. Any who visit Nepal are welcome to stay in the house and should make contact with Bro. Satyadeep Katiwada - <satyadeepk@hotmail.com> or myself <frypeter@hotmail.com>

The ecclesial home has become a reality for many reasons: the love for our Brother Paul; the determination of his family to make it happen and the love and commitment of many throughout the UK who contributed to the building of the home.

In viewing the building being constructed there were memories of the book of Ezra. There, too, the question was asked, "What are the names of the men that make this building?" (ch. 5:4) and the answer was clear, they are "servants of the God of heaven and earth" (v. 11). So the building prospered, for the eye of the Lord God was upon it (v. 5).

The house became a reality because many gave freely to the work – even those who were not of a Christian persuasion, a modern-day Cyrus. All who worked on it were "strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon (us)".

We are also exhorted by the example of Ezra. He prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, to *do* it and to *teach* it. This is why the house was built – that the word of God might be heard in the Kathmandu valley and that the people of Nepal might give praise to the God of heaven.



Photo: The 'ecclesial home' in Nepal

*Bro. Peter Fry (UK)*

### **Caribbean Youth Camp**

Our Camp was held in Trinidad last year, it is held every three years. I met everyone at a mall and from there we went to the camp site and had our evening session. On Sunday we had the Memorial service and light activities during the day. The following day we went to the beach and when we returned we had our concert when each country performed something. The Guyanese did a skit and a group song, for which we all dressed in African wear (I am enclosing two photographs). We travelled to Tobago on the Tuesday and about 27 Guyanese stayed in Tobago until the Saturday, which was the day our beloved Bro. Richard Small from Guayana married Sis. Nicole of Tobago; they now both reside in Tobago.



Photos: Top, The Guyanese singing on stage at the Youth Camp in Trinidad Below: at Maracus Bay in Tobago.

*Sis Elizabeth Europe (Arcadia, Demerara)*

### **Do to others as you would want them to do to you**

How would you feel if a vendor kept serving other people, but was not the least bothered about you? How would you feel if you were made to wait near the shop until others had been served? – and only because you did not seem as wealthy as them. Anyone would feel offended; perhaps

not an elder so much as a girl of 17 or 18 who feels it very painful when ignored by others because she is not as wealthy, smart etc.

Yes, I witnessed a situation such as this in a bakery: two boys at the shop, one serving only those who bought in large quantities and the other not concerned about a girl's requirement, as he heard her asking for just one item. People were coming and going, but the girl – still waiting. I noticed that she was grieved because of being ignored; she couldn't help dropping silent tears. I felt so sorry for her. Indeed, that was the moment I understood how much more respect and concern those receive in a society if they are wealthy or bold or intelligent, but these things, of themselves, are of no value. Proverbs 11:4 says, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death". The poor girl had to wait until others had been served. I couldn't imagine how much agony she felt in her heart.

That situation made me think of measuring people by their standards. I thought, if I'm friendly with those only who have good looks/ money etc. I can't be a part in Christ's body. By doing so I not only hurt other people's feelings, but I myself will be considered unworthy to enter the promised land. Remember always, that how we treat others, the same way we will be treated: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15); "For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Let us imagine what would happen if Jesus, who is perfect in every way, says to us at the Judgment, 'All those who are pure and blameless, come with me to the paradise of my father'. Well, I think that will be the time for us to weep like the girl who was ignored at the bakery, if we don't try to follow Christ now. The girl was ignored because she wasn't wealthy according to worldly standards, whereas we will be ignored if we aren't wealthy according to godly standards.

*Sis Bernadin B. (Mandya, India)*

### **Not Heaven-Going But We Will Settle On Earth**

The Bible teaching concerning who has gone where at death is very clear in the minds of brethren and sisters world-wide. The Bible states "No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man which is in heaven" (John 3:13). And right now, Jesus Christ is the one who has ascended to heaven after he had by himself purged our sins, and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).

So the idea of some people that people are going to heaven, or are already there, is wrong because the dead are asleep waiting resurrection when Jesus comes back as promised in Acts 1:11; Acts 3:19-21 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15, 17. And Paul also wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:50 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. So those who are dead and others who are still alive are all waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus himself was preparing to leave, he prayed as recorded in John 17 v 6 "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me, out of the world; thine they were and thou gavest them me and they have kept thy word" And, Jesus adds in verses 14 "I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Jesus means that those disciples and others who have received the word of his Father are baptized into his death. I mean to say that those who have been planted together in the likeness of his death

(they and us who have been buried with him by baptism into death) shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. The old man of the flesh is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed and that henceforth we should not serve sin. Not that we are going to heaven. And remember that in verse 15, Jesus was requesting his Father not to take them out of the world, but that they should be kept from evil. But he was not only making his request for those disciples but even for us; see also John 17:20.

The Acts of the Apostles states that David is not ascended into heaven (Acts 2:29,34). Even faithful Abraham did not go to heaven (Hebrews 11:13, 39, 40), nor did Moses whom God buried in the land of Moab (Deut. 34:5-6).

Jesus answered one of his disciples by saying that if a man loves him, he will keep his words, the Father will love him too, and he and his Father will *come* unto him and make their abode with him (John 14:23). He did not promise them heaven-going. So let us prepare to live and settle on earth.

*Alex Aboyo (Muhoroni, Kenya)*

## **Drunkenness**

“Drunkenness, the root of poverty and suffering plus”. “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging - and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). We come across these words often as we do our daily readings but some of us fail to take notice of what they mean in our lives. It has come to light that even brethren and sisters can at times take excessive alcohol, forgetting what the Bible says. We have examples of Noah (Genesis 9:20-21) and Lot (Genesis 19:32-35).

Alcohol deadens self-criticism and lessens self-control; it makes fools of even clever people and undermines real happiness in family lives.

Drunkenness has caused:

- a) Poverty to many. “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man, and he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich” (Proverbs 21:17)
- b) Apostasy. “But they also erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way (that is, true Christian behaviour); the priest and prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, and they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgement” (Isaiah 28:7).
- c) “Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart” (Hosea 4:11).
- d) Violence, Proverbs 4:17.
- e) Sorrow and strife. Proverbs 23:29-30.

Drivers are causing many road accidents world-wide, because of the effect of alcohol on the brain. Its main effect is to slow down the activities of the nervous system. It depresses the higher centres of the brain, making people do everything less carefully, eg: reckless driving, laughing more, walking less steadily, careless at work. The result is a total disturbance of the

human control system, even if taken in 'small' quantities; as some say, 'One for the road and one for the memory' (but that makes two pints of beer!).

Other things caused by strong drink, are such as broken marriages and senseless crime. Drunkenness is not a good habit for those who know the Truth. Why not read these verses as lessons to us all: Romans 13:13-14; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-7. The Bible warns that such people will not enter into the promised Kingdom to come.

*Bro. Ambrose Tanyebana (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)*

## **An Introduction to God's Heavenly Law (Part 2)**

### **Introduction:**

Whenever parties wish to contractually formulate an agreement, it is important to establish the intent of the parties and secondary issues such as a relevant choice of law clause involving litigation, arbitration and the venue (seat).

### **Intent of parties:**

Should we consider the covenant between God and us, the intent is surely that God wishes to give us the gift of eternal life, and our desire should be to obtain this gift by believing in God and in His Son.

When Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions in John 3, this theme relating to contractual intentions was declared as follows: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."* (vs16-17)

Having established the intention of the parties, it is interesting to note that our fleshly nature threatens the existence of the contract. In other words, our inability to do God's will causes a breach of contract: *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."* (Romans 8:7)

### **Settling a dispute:**

It is therefore clear that despite our intention to enter into a covenant relationship with God, a breach will certainly follow. What we now need to consider is our choice of law to remedy such a breach, i.e. whether we agree to use litigation (legal action) or arbitration (mediation or intercession).

Certainly none of us will opt to choose litigation, for the law offers us nothing but the curse of death. In other words, should we decide to take the matter to a judge, the result of the case will find us guilty and a death sentence will be issued.

However, should we ask that our case be handled by an arbitrator *who was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15), then we are assured that the breach will be reconciled and the contract will remain until the promise is delivered (1 John 2:25).

A comparison between different choices of law clauses reveals the following:

<b>Litigation:</b>	<b>Arbitration:</b>
<p><i>“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”</i> (Galatians 3:10-11)</p>	<p><i>“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”</i> (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)</p>

To qualify for arbitration, we have to have a personal relationship with the arbitrator, as 2 Corinthians 5:17 reveals: *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*.

What this verse suggests, to my mind, is that there are huge benefits if we elect the Lord Jesus Christ as our arbitrator. To assist us in making the right choice, the Lord Jesus said the following: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”* (John 5:24)

#### **Choice of law: Venue or seat**

It is clear that every disciple of Christ will have to face the arbitrator at His return: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

However, in 1 Thessalonians 4 those who have elected Christ as their arbitrator are given the following words of comfort (verse 18), and in verses 16 to 17: *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

The ‘dead in Christ’ and those who are alive and remain (which we also assume are in Christ) will therefore be taken in the clouds to face their arbitrator. In other words, it seems that we are not given the specific address of the venue for those involved in the first resurrection.

Can it then be assumed that our seat of judgment prior to the 1000 years is different to the seat of judgment after the 1000 years, i.e. when the books are opened and the dead and those alive are judged according to their works while the King sits on the great white throne (Revelation 20:11-12)?

These are certainly interesting questions which may or may not have clear-cut answers. The important point, though, is for us to be thankful that arbitration is better than litigation, and to voice our thanks as God gave His only begotten Son, as an arbitrator – so that the elect may not perish.

#### **Conclusion:**

By choosing arbitration as a method to settle possible spiritual disputes, does it mean we are not judged at all? I don't think so, as we are clearly told that while the covenant/contract is in force, we need to judge ourselves to establish whether we are in breach or not (1 Corinthians 11:31-32).

By judging ourselves we allow our arbitrator to apply arbitration when He returns to establish the Kingdom of God. No wonder we are told that "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*" (Romans 8:1)

Like the nation of Israel, we too are a covenanted people. But unlike the Jews of the Old Testament, we are spiritual Jews of the New Testament, and we have all chosen to change our choice of law clause from litigation to arbitration. It is a contractual amendment possible only by the blood of Christ, and we praise God for this new regime which declares that "*....Jesus (is) the mediator of the new covenant*" (Hebrews 12:24)

As we look to the heavens for our arbitrator to return we do so "*...through the Spirit, wait(ing) for the hope of righteousness by faith*". (Galatians 5:5)

*(To be continued).*

*Bro Ronnie van Rooyen.(South Africa)*

### **Standards of Sexual Morality**

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). *God calls Christians to purity.*

Believers, first and foremost, must be morally and sexually pure (Titus 2:6).

This verse suggests that true believers of God must refrain from all acts and thoughts that incite desire not in accordance with one's virginity or one's marriage vows.

It stresses restraint and avoidance of all sexual actions and excitements that would defile, debase or cheapen one's purity before God. It includes controlling one's body "in sanctification and honour" (1 Thessalonians 4:4), and not "lust" (4:5). The instruction of Scripture is for both those who are single and those who are married.

*Sexual intimacy is reserved for the marriage relationship and is approved and blessed by God only in that state. Through marriage, the husband and wife will become one flesh according to God's will. The physical and emotional pleasures resulting from a faithful marriage relationship are ordered by God and held in honour by Him (Heb 13:4).*

*Bro. Erick Kiproto Mutai (Kericho, Kenya)*

### **Relevant Prayer**

Personal prayer is the very lifebreath of our spiritual life, and it is the true indicator of our spiritual condition before God. We should realize what an honour it is that God created this concept of prayer for us, that we actually can come and talk to the Almighty God.

Jesus inspires us that if two of us agree on earth about anything, it will be done for us in Heaven. This doesn't mean of course that we don't need to pray at home, but we should make the effort to meet in order to pray together. James 5:16 says that the prayer of one righteous man achieves very much. If a whole church prays to God for the same thing, think how much power there will be in those collective prayers! Prayer is important because it teaches us how much we are to depend upon God, and when we pray together, it should teach us that lesson as a group,

Only those who have been truly born again can pray with power, because God hears the requests of His children above all else. In Acts 9:11 we are told that Saul of Tarsus would be found praying. Prayer is the characteristic of the true children of God. The early church was characterized by following the apostles' example of prayer; this was just as important as following in their pattern of doctrine (Acts 2:42). The command to pray as the apostles prayed is therefore as important as the command to break bread as they broke bread. The early church had prayer meetings, for example for the deliverance of Peter (Acts 12:5), and we also find them praying together as a group in Acts 1:14. This was how important prayer was to them, and they must be our example. When Paul and Barnabus were moved by the Holy Spirit to go on the first missionary journey, there was a meeting to pray over them (Acts 13:3). We should pray for the Brothers who are out travelling in preaching. We must be like our early Brothers in prayer. Let us not have the spirit of Laodicea, but let us pray for our Brothers!

*Bro. Gennady (Poltava, Ukraine)*

### **In the Millennium**

Due to their continual sins, Israel have never really been the head of the nations; the prophecy awaits fulfilment, both literally and spiritually, in the millennium. Deuteronomy 28:30 warns, "you shall build an house, and you shall not dwell therein; you shall plant a vineyard, and shall not gather the grapes thereof". This is picked up in Isa. 65:20-22, "They shall build houses and inhabit them...they shall not (any longer) plant and another eat". This permits us to look at the curses for disobedience and imagine their opposites being realised in the millennium: "They shall plant vineyards, and dress them, but shall neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worm shall eat them". Deut. 28:39 will certainly be reversed in the millennium, each man will sit under his own vine and fig tree. As Noah made wine after the flood (a type of the millennium), so will the abuse of wine be proof enough that there will be a possibility of misusing alcohol in the millennium age by the mortals. Our role as teachers may include educating the mortals in its use. It will be our thrilling joy to explain to ready minds the wonder of the cross and our Lord's perfect life.

Faith is of utmost importance to God. What we can see with our eyes is not faith. The mortal population will be able to see Jesus, but God will not want them to 'believe' in him just as some provider of food, having the popularity of any other successful leader. He will require them to have faith in the spiritual aspect of Christ, centred around his work on the cross.

Revelation 20:13 describes the second judgement (of the mortal population) at the end of the millennium, and it will be judgement according to their works. In many ways, faith will then have been turned to sight. Works are a proof that a man really does have the faith which he professes, as James highlights. (In passing, note that Rev. 20:13 speaks of the sea giving up the dead which were in it. Presumably some people will drown during the millennium. The shock of death, the trauma of tragedy, will still be experienced in the millennium). Even in this life, there is nothing more gratifying and soul-warming than to see one's own convert grow in the truth after baptism, developing a real love for the word and knowledge of God. We each will experience this on a far more glorious scale in the millennium.

*Bro. Ramazan Ozaydin (Turkey)*

### **Stand Firm and Do Not Fall Away**

In most cases when things are tough or when some get lost, they do not want to blame themselves. They try by all means to blame either someone or something. They want to leave themselves clean and blameless. I think it is very good for everyone to look first to themselves, comparing their living, their daily deeds etc with those of the Bible.

Let us have a look at when the first sin was committed. Adam was given the commandment. Eve was created and was under the authority of Adam, but it was Eve who was deceived and Adam failed to use his authority (Genesis 3:2-6; 1 Timothy 2:13, 14). God did not spare either of them. Both were found guilty. Neither of them was innocent because of being deceived by the other.

So when one falls, he/she should not blame others for his/her fall. We will stand for ourselves. So we should stand firm, not shaken by anything internal or external. In most cases, both strong and weak in faith blame each other. This happens when the weak fall away; those who are said to be strong, blame others of having weak faith and unstable belief. But the Bible says we must help the weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Be careful that your strength does not become a stumbling block to the weak (1 Corinthians 8:9). It is said, "Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgement on disputable matters" (Romans 14:1).

So we should examine ourselves in whatever we do. This will help us not to fall away or to cause others to fall away. At Memorial services we quote 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. But if we read further, verses 27-29, we are told that we are guilty of sinning against our Lord if we do it in an unworthy manner. Verses 28 and 29 says a man should examine himself, but verse 29 says that anyone who does not recognise the body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgement on himself.

So, whatever we do, let us do it to please our Lord Jesus Christ, not to please man (2 Timothy 2:3-7). Our commanding officer is Christ Jesus.

*Bro. Benny Shava (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Truth in Congo**

It is since 1998 that Christadelphian ecclesias have seen the light of day here at Goma and in all the Province of North-Kivu. We thank the Almighty for the fact that He is spreading His word in our Province. We already have two more ecclesias, in addition to Goma, namely Burora and Masisi-Central.



Photo: Members of the Burora ecclesia at Masisi: Bro. Luke Bahunga and his wife, Bro. Kikomo Kihemu and Bro. Samuel Mutoo



Photo: Brothers of Burora ecclesia: Kikomo Kihemo, Lukoo Buhati, Samuel Mutoo, Simwerai Hangi, Luka Bahunga

At Burora, about 100km from Goma, we have four Brothers and several students who are hoping to be baptised in the course of the coming year. The Brothers at this ecclesia have other interested friends.

The ecclesia at Masisi-Central, about 60km from Goma, is already rich in having two baptised Brothers and several students. Taking into account the efforts that are being made there, it hopes to grow during the course of this year.

With God's help the gospel will be preached throughout the Province, which has been held back by the insecurity caused by the war, which has lasted several years.

*Bro Amisi Masimango (Goma, Congo)*

### **The Absent Lecturer**

A lecturer from a University College tells his students, "Class, I am going down the hall for a few minutes. I don't expect to be away long. I am sure there won't be any troubles. I trust you will be working on your assignments whilst I am gone".

Fifteen minutes pass, then 20, then 50. Suddenly, the lecturer returns. John has just thrown an eraser at Carol who is doing her philosophy studies. Steve is exchanging blows with Peter.

The students carrying out the lecturer's instruction are delighted when the lecturer steps in, but several wished for his continued absence. Brethren and sisters, we are waiting for the return of Christ; the Scriptures promise it and warn us about it. It is good news or bad, depending on who heeds it. Who knows the day or the year? Matthew 24:36 answers this question: "No one knows

about that day or hour, not even the angels, nor the Son of Man, but only the Father". So let us all be ready, for at any moment the Master can return.

*Bro. Emmanuel Kagogodza (Concession, Zimbabwe)*

### **An Invitation to a Feast**

Jesus had arranged a feast. Listen to Luke 14:16-19. Jesus said, There was once a man who was giving a great feast to which he invited many people (16). When it was time for the feast, he sent his servant to tell his guests, 'Come, everything is ready' (17). But they all began, one after the other, to make excuses, the first one told the servant, 'I have bought a field and must go and look at it. Please accept my apologies' (18). Another one said, 'I have bought five pairs of oxen and I am on my way to try them out. Please accept my apologies' (19). Still another said 'I have just got married, so I can't come' So, brethren and sisters, does God accept these excuses? If we are in that frame of mind, we must repent, because God loves us. The Lord is calling us.

Look again at Luke 14:23-24: "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my feast". So let us pray to have a place in the Kingdom of God.

*Bro. Fibion Ngozi (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Devil Not a Real Being**

People don't know what a devil is. They describe a human being as a devil. As we go further into Jesus' teaching, he said a word in the mind is a devil. Look at Luke 4:2, where it says that for forty days, Jesus was tempted of the devil. He ate nothing during those days and at the end of them he was hungry. Verse 3: "Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, turn these stones to become bread". There was no one there. He was alone. Only the thoughts in his mind were working, as happens to us today. We can think of wealth, but we don't find it. That is the devil. Don't allow those thoughts into our minds. Some thoughts can defile a man, but they can be banished. Look at Luke 4:4, Jesus had other thoughts at the same moment: "It is written, man does not live by bread alone".

*Bro. Fibion Ngozi (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **Testimony - From Darkness to Light**

I really thank Sis. Elizabeth Carr who has been my tutor all along. She taught me all the 40 lessons nicely I became baptised on 11th August 2002. Elizabeth has made me know the truth; I was in darkness but now I am in light. I also thank Bro. L Murphy and his wife for the weekly Christadelphian Isolation League exhortations. They really help me in my daily life. For the Bible

says, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matt 7:7).

I urge my brethren and sisters to continue seeking the Kingdom of God and it will be given to them. May the Almighty Lord continue blessing Elizabeth Carr and the family. Praise God that my Mum is now responding to the treatment. She has a problem with her eyes. I really love you all.



Photo: Bro. Kennedy Moonde

*Bro. Kennedy Moonde (Mazaboka, Zambia)*

### **Moses and Deuteronomy**

A new generation of Israelites that didn't witness God's miraculous delivery of their fathers from the hand of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, were born during the wilderness wanderings. Their God gave them laws that, if they obeyed would make them His peculiar people. This new generation had to be reminded of these laws which were righteous. Moses had to rehearse them to these young people. God presented to them blessings if they obeyed and kept the commandments and curses if they didn't. How sad and downcast Moses was that he wouldn't be able to enter this land of Canaan. His repeated mentioning of the incident in Deut. chapters 1:37, 3:23-27, and 4:21-22 confirms this.

Moses toil, anguish and efforts to lead this stiff-necked people to the promised land had not materialised. This people that he had cared for caused him to forget to follow the instructions of the Lord concerning speaking to the rock to produce water. What a pity! His plea to God to let him enter the land was refused. Why? 'To whom much is given, much is required' The people were looking up to him to guide them in their walk with God. He was their leader.

A big lesson for us! Ecclesial leaders, and in fact everybody else, must be careful how they conduct their lives. All should be geared toward giving glory to God's name. Hear the apostle Paul himself in 1 Corinthians 9:25-27. I have heard scornful comments from people in this form: 'See he who calls himself a christian! We are the light of the world and we must show this by living exemplary lives so that God's Name will be glorified always. What a pity it would be if we preach and convert others and they inherit the Kingdom but we ourselves are thrust out. Let the case of Moses teach us a lesson.

*Bro Elijah Okorie (Togo)*

## **From Port Antonio.**

I have been a member of the Christadelphians for 39 years. My husband and I were alone for six years. Then in year seven, Bro. Allan Eyre decided to put on an exhibition on Israel. The exhibition was on for one week. The Bible study during that time got everyone hoping that this was what we were waiting for. So everyone got down to Bible study and instruction. Six months later, eleven people were baptized. Then after a while, more were added; we got to forty five members.

Sad to say, most of the forty five have fallen asleep, only four sisters are left, one 95 years, one 82 years, one cripple 65 and of course I am 71. By the grace of God we are still holding on. We are visited once per month and when- ever visiting brethren come, they visit us here. As we can see, the time around us is very fearful, men's hearts failing them for fear of the things that are coming. We have all types of disorder, war killing is the order of the day in our little country, and there are only a few looking for the return of our Lord and Saviour, the Son of God.

What can I say more? It would take many books to hold the things that happen around us. But as Jesus says, when we see these things happening, we must lift up our heads, for our redemption draws near. Our Lord will soon return to claim his own. What a day that will be says Joel. So let us give thanks to God for all His love toward us. Let us pray, watch and wait for that great and notable day, day of all days.



Photo: Part of the Antonio Meeting in Year gone by.

*Sis M James (Jamaica)*

## **Save Your Life or Lose It? (Matt 16:24-25)**

Jesus calls all people to follow him. He came to the earth to be the Saviour of all who would believe on him. As he taught here on the earth, he told his disciples he was going to suffer and die. As he taught about his coming suffering and death, he told his disciples they too would need to suffer because of their belief in him. He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt 16:24). This means that if we are planning to follow him to the kingdom, we must disown ourselves and give up everything to follow him. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 5:24,25 that those who belong to Jesus have nailed their evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. Paul warns in Ephesians 4:17 that we should not continue to live like the heathen.

As Christians, this is a voluntary giving up of our own wants and desires. We will submit to his will for our lives. We must be willing to forsake everything we have, to follow him. As we live in our communities as Christians, our neighbours may make fun of us because our lives are different from theirs. We are different, and our holy lives may condemn them. There are many ways that people can mistreat us because we are Christians; we must return good for evil and not resist them.

Jesus said in his sermon on the mount that we are not to fight back but must be willing to suffer for Jesus' sake (Matthew 5:43-45). Not all Christians are persecuted, but as we live, we must be willing to take what comes, if we are mistreated because we are Christians. The apostle Paul tells us to offer our bodies to God as living sacrifices because of what He has done for us (Romans 12:1) We may not be called to suffer as Christians but we must be willing to suffer if the call comes.

But this offering of our bodies as sacrifices is not only bodily suffering but a giving of our lives to God as well. We show God that we are avoiding sin and using our bodies in His service. How do we each give our body as a living sacrifice? We do this by allowing Jesus to rule our lives (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a living sacrifice, each body must *not* be used for sinning but must be set apart for God, and put to right and holy uses.

In Luke 9:23, Jesus says we must deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, or all the time, and follow him. We can do this only by wanting to please Jesus and to be more and more like him.

*Bro. Thomas Radido (Mombasa, Kenya)*

### **Signs of the Times. THE FEAR FACTOR IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

*A great fear has overtaken the world since September 11, 2001. It is a fear of something which hardly any of us will experience, yet it has pervaded and changed the world in which we live.*

It is the fear of terrorism, something that might happen but actually won't happen to 99.9999% of people. Jesus said, "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after (expecting NKJ) those things which are coming on the earth" Luke 21:25-26. Here he was not talking about war - he had referred to that separately (Matthew records "wars and rumours (reporting) of wars Matt.24:6).

Jesus did not say,"Men's hearts failing them for the sight of crowds of slain." People would be irrationally terrified for expectation of what they thought was coming, or what might come. More people drown than are killed by terrorists. Thousands of planes take off and land safely every day yet every second one has an armed guard on it. You are more likely to be run over on the road, yet insurance for events is prohibitably expensive for an unjustifiable fear of terrorists.

Fear has gripped the world. The millions who flee poverty or oppression and cross borders or sail in boats generate fears by flooding into other countries. Political leaders foolishly lead their countries into dangerous overseas adventures, upset global markets and oil supplies and generate fear in their populations.

Nobody knows where the truth lies anymore. Governments lie and mislead their people. Sophisticated deceit and corruption is everywhere. Trust is gone. Fear and uncertainty rule, resignation and hopelessness prevail.

The ordinary Moslem people have been left behind in our modern world. Their system has failed them and they are angry. They are poor, deprived under autocratic rulers, the women suppressed. The oil wealth benefits a very few. They are lashing out. Their world is in turmoil. Africa is a mess. South America is in chronic bankruptcy. Nobody knows what to do with the

Middle East. Jesus said, “[There shall be] upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21: 24). Here is another part of Jesus’ prophecy which is applicable to today - perplexity, uncertainty.

*But the Christian believer has no need to fear.* The worse it gets the closer we are to Christ’s return. “Then shall they see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” bringing with him justice, righteousness and order. He will subdue all evil, and establish peace, true worship of God and joy throughout the world. Faith in and love of Jesus is the answer to fear. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

Be faithful. Be reassured. “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” Luke 12:32. G.S.B. JUNE 04

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### **Good Speech: One of Life's Important Lessons**

Among the many important life lessons that I have learned from my mother, the one I have benefited from most since my conversion to Christadelphianism is, “If you don’t have anything good to say, then don’t say anything at all.” It is from this advice that I now realise the true wisdom of this statement, “Let he who truly believes in Jesus Christ and the Last Day, say something good or be silent.”

Speech is the main method of communication among human beings. It is how we convey our desires and emotions. Our speech reflects our ‘true’ personalities because the tongue is the vessel from which the contents of the heart pour forth.

If a person’s heart is good and pure, good will be reflected in their speech. But if a person’s heart is corrupted and evil, this too will be reflected in their speech. Good speech is among the signs of true faith and it will be a source of success.

Many believers do not enter into conversations or discussions intending to commit major sins, yet every so often even lawful speech leads to undesirable results. This is a common pitfall for many believers, especially those who indulge in idle and unnecessary talk. God has not left us unarmed in this battle. For our benefit, He has enclosed the tongue in its own small prison between our teeth and lips. Human nature demands that we feel the need to make these speeches, but before we open the prison doors and uncage the beast, we should remember that silence is often a virtue and the rewards for silence can be great, as a saying goes, “Whoever guards what is between his jaws will be guaranteed paradise by God.”

It is most unfortunate that indecent speech, backbiting and slander have become common place among Christians today, by both men and women.

The main consequence of vain and indecent speech is that it puts one under the threat of God’s punishment. Among the other consequences is that it corrupts and hardens the heart. God has

given us the ability to perform both good and indecent speech. And it must be remembered that speech is a blessing from God. We must show gratitude by using it for teaching, preaching, spreading peace, reading the Bible, enjoining good, forbidding evil, sincerely advising our brothers and sisters in faith and for all the other things that bring us closer to God.

The best lesson if we are in doubt, is that we should remain silent.

*Bro. Wilo Wise (Mazowe, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Real Value of the Gospel**

The Gospel or 'glad tidings' was first regarded as the *most valuable news*. But the current generation, known as the dot com, has many preachers drawn from different backgrounds, whose doctrines are totally different even though they all claim that they are Bible-based. One may wonder why we have so many churches and sects, yet the Holy Bible is just One, and the commandments are still ten, just as the Lord gave them to Moses (Exodus 20:1-20).

The Almighty God is a loving Father. Since the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden, God still loves the human race, so He sought a way of reconciliation with mankind. Therefore, He decided to send His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). God the Father, the Creator of the universe and controller of all that happens on earth, is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. His holy book says so, therefore if we want to have a share in His kingdom which is about to be established on earth, we should worship Him in truth and spirit and live according to His will.

Some theological scholars argue about whether God answers prayers or not. My answer to them is that God answers prayers, no matter how long it takes. An atheist once claimed that God does not answer all prayers, just a few. There is a case of a certain young Christian who was leading a righteous life, then God blessed him with a lot of wealth. Eventually he forgot his Creator, not bearing in mind that all his belongings came from God whom he had neglected. The Gospel gives us hope beyond the grave. It ultimately transforms us to be immortal beings, so that we can share in the kingdom of God which Jesus is about to establish here on earth. The Bible states clearly that the earth is the dwelling place for man: in contrast, sin leads to death for ever.

*Bro. Samuel Watako (Nakuru, Kenya)*

### **Who Is There Like You, O God**

God is more than able to manage my life (Ephesians 3:20). God knows the secrets of my heart, my weaknesses, my strengths and therefore He will instruct me in the way I should go. He will teach me, counsel me and watch over me (Psalms 32:8).

God knows where I have been and where I have come from. Who else can tell me what to do, except Him alone (Psalms 139).

I know what God has said to me. Since I have heard, I have believed and so I speak (2 Corinthians 4:13).

The way man looks at me may not be the way God looks at me (Isaiah 43:4).

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me (Psalms 119:133).

Choose companions with care. You may become what they are. What you laugh at reveals your character.



Photo: Bro Herbert and Sister Lune Tigerapasi

*Bro Herbert & Sis Lune Tigerapasi (Lusaka, Zambia)*

### **"He Feedeth Among the Lilies"**

The book 'Song of Songs' is without doubt the most intimate and beautiful of the romances of Scripture. It portrays the majesty of the groom and the exquisite beauty and grace of the bride. The sentiments of the song of the king are a canopy over every memorial service, for they represent the sacrifice that leads to true and eternal unity. Set in two divisions (the first six songs have particular reference to the Jewish bride, the final six to the Gentile bride), the sweetness of harmony is so obvious in the groom, and is being developed in the bride.

In an age and society in which courtship and marriage are held to be somewhat archaic and the joyful anticipation of full unity in wedlock, suffers because of the lax attitude to the divine ordinance, it is important to highlight the sanctity of the marriage covenant to those contemplating this important step. It displays in a personal way, the spirit of the heavenly bridegroom and the charm and elegance of his lovely companion. Those entering the commitment of marriage should do so mindful that they are displaying the divine parable of the truth in action. They stand as tokens of the greater union between Christ and his faithful bride. Therefore there will be nothing to disturb the spiritual principles thereby illustrated.

### **The Source of True Fellowship**

An endearing expression concerning the bridegroom, emphasizing this principle, is found in the Song of Solomon 2:16; 4:5, that "he feedeth among the lilies". This speaks of the delightful fellowship found within the community of faith upon the basis of the spirit's food. The Lord declared that His constant desire was to do his Father's will; that his nourishment was of things high and holy: "I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send me" (John 17:8). In the spirit of Jeremiah, he could affirm "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O Yahweh, God of Hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16). Not for him were the casual expressions so

common today: the double-minded attitude displayed, or carelessness towards spiritual growth sometimes manifested, even within the Brotherhood. His was a mature understanding, a loving regard for things spiritual, a constant concern for the wife of his youth (Malachi 2:14), the maiden secured through the obedient sacrificial work of his first advent.

“Feeding among the lilies” has reference to the place of nourishment. It is found within the environment of spiritual dispensation; where the faithful word of the fathers is lovingly and longingly sought; where faithful brethren and sisters gather as the bride of Christ. It speaks of fellowship with the saints, for “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst” (Matthew 18:20). Those who seek to be embraced by the marriage covenant of Christ will “not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhort one another: and so much more as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). This is the garden of lilies. It is where the Lord, in spirit, delights to be. He abides and refreshes himself among the faithful, for they also seek his presence.

The word must be respected, opened, and lovingly studied within the arrangements of the ecclesia if it is to truly represent the place of lilies. When gathered together in deep and thoughtful reflection of things spiritual, a beautiful perfume graces the spiritual ‘valley’. It is a delight to spend time therein, and to enjoy the lovely aroma of spiritual joy. Here the spirit of Christ is found: for he was “the word made flesh”, and his daily delight was to be with those who manifested the same spirit (John 15:15). Let each ecclesia be a place of true beauty and comfort; where the fragrance of the lilies is found; where each member is prepared to add to the environment by their own commitment in upholding the truth in apostolic doctrine and practice by the personal study of the word. That is where the Lord “feedeth”. By his spirit he will be “in the midst” of such gatherings.

### **The Presence of Thorns**

But not all gatherings of Christ’s household find themselves in such a happy condition. Sometimes “thorns” might be present, as is indicated by “As the lily among thorns” (Song of Solomon 2:2). The ecclesia then finds itself surrounded by the thorns and thistles of fleshly dominance, and of self-aggrandisement, and those who manifest such characteristics are described by Paul as “that which beareth thorns and briar (which are to be rejected and nigh unto cursing); whose end is to be burned” (Hebrews 6:8). These spring forth without cultivation and, like human nature, must be kept under, otherwise the ecclesia becomes unsuitable for growth.

When thorn-like brethren introduce wrong teachings, foolish actions, or cause disturbance to a meeting, which things “ought not to be”, there remains little fragrance of the lilies. Instead of the pleasure of the word properly presented, a contentious spirit manifests the crude, disharmonising attitude of Judas, who having little love for the Master, was offended at the pouring of expensive perfume on the Lord by Mary, which odour filled the house (John 12:3). Judas hypocritically complained that such perfume should have been sold for the raising of funds, but his suggestion was rejected, “Let her alone; against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always” (vs. 7:8). True fellowship delights in expressions of love and sacrifice for the Lord and those in him; his word represents the beauty and power of our lilies: the valley of lilies is his precinct.

Let the garden of lilies be proficient and productive (Hosea 14:5), representing the strength and glory of the ecclesia. It will be so if each member recognises the responsibility to maintain a

vital interest in, and a commitment to, the building up of the household of faith. Then the spirit of Christ is refreshed as he “feedeth among the lilies”. And shortly, in the day of assize, he will acknowledge those who have strengthened the valley of lilies, and the sweet perfume of the spirit-word.

“Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily, I say unto you, that he shall gird himself and make them to sit down to meat and will come forth and serve them” (Luke 12:37).

*Bro. Patrick Wafula (KamuKuywa, Kenya)*

### **Are We So Much Better?**

I always say to myself that God’s ways are not our ways. God has arranged everything before time; for example, Joseph saving the Israelites during the drought period, and Moses saving them in the time of trouble. Even though Moses and Aaron wanted to save them, the children of Israel were very ungrateful (Exodus 5:20-23).

To us, Egypt stands for a life of sin, the Red Sea for baptism, and the wilderness for the life of testing we live now. The promised land stands for the coming kingdom. The people of Israel were to worship their God outside of Egypt (out of sin) and similarly we cannot follow Christ if we are still living a life of sin. For the people of Israel, most events were trials of their faith. Taking the example of Moses who led them, his preparation for the gigantic task had been ordained of God. It had taken eighty long years, firstly as a prince of Egypt for forty years being trained in all the arts of leadership by the world’s top nation. Then another forty years as a shepherd in the wilderness learning the skills of living in an inhospitable land and of caring for a flock.

To me, this is an extraordinary contrast. The man who emerged from this schooling was the man whom God had specially prepared to lead Israel out of bondage and then to teach them what it meant to be a holy nation. Moses needed to be a man of skill, of great faith and of unusual humility. And most of these things were not Moses’ choice but God’s arrangements: similar to our situation where we do not need to choose, but we must comply with God’s requirements.

As for the people, whilst their response to the emergency of the Passover and the Exodus was a faith born of desperation, their human weaknesses soon came to the fore amid the difficulties of the wilderness of Sinai. Their faith in Moses as the divinely chosen leader wavered with the occasion, their faith in God was very weak or, indeed, completely lacking at times, in spite of the evidence of His presence in the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.

Israel, called to be a holy people, did not allow the divine influence to transform them into a devoted nation. While individual characters responded, the nation did not. They soon forgot the misery of their slavery and even longed to return to Egypt. Miracle after miracle failed to convince them that God was with them in a very practical way - water for their thirst, grazing for their flocks, manna for their nourishment, clothes that did not wear out, shoes that lasted a lifetime and many other benefits were all taken for granted without thankfulness. How easy it was to do this! How typically human they were! Are we so much better?

*Bro. Moses Dhlakama (Rimbi, Zimbabwe)*

## Pictures from Zambia



Bro. Costa in his rice field



Bro. Costa Mwape in his sugar cane



Above: Brothers. Wigan Sikalumbi, Costa Mwape, Laston Nkweto, (student Ackson Nkweto) and John Mumbi. In the front Brothers. Reuben Njamba and Frank Mumba.

Below: Brothers. Stan Chumya, Mwangase, Baldwin Lukaba, Charles Daka, Reuben Njamba, Costa Mwape; in the background Bro. Pinot.



## Waiting For The Lord

"Wait upon me, says the Lord" (Zephaniah 3:8).

The Almighty God, who created the earth and all therein, still asks us to wait for Him in this lifetime while marching Zionwards. We need not forget that God created us with a purpose and in order to meet that target, we need to walk with Him so that we are not ashamed in the end.

But how? Firstly, take the example of a tourist visiting a wild animal park without precautions or a tour guide. There is a high risk of him being eaten. Secondly, an athlete has to stay in his lane until he reaches the finishing line, or he will be disqualified for failing to adhere to the rules.

Spiritually, there are guidelines set by God which we must keep, to avoid shame for both ourselves and for God. We therefore need to have hope, courage, patience and strength as the following Bible quotations show: That a man **hope** and quietly wait (Lamentations 3:26); Wait

for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take **courage** (Psalms 27:14); David **patiently** waited for the Lord (Psalms 40:1); Because of his **strength** will I wait upon thee (Psalms 59:9).

Perhaps we have stumbled by listening to our friends in the same way that Job was tempted by his three friends. Pray that God will equip us with the four named virtues, but fear Him, fear Him only! However, in spite of repeatedly falling and rising again, there awaits a reward. In the end, those who diligently wait for Him shall possess the land: be exalted in possessing the land while the wicked are destroyed: shall not be overcome and weary: shall walk and not faint. But remember that even Christ's disciples were told to wait for the Comforter (Acts 1:4). David also waited all day long to be led to the truth (Psalms 25:5). We should also wait to see the end of God's salvation.

*Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti (Ahero, Kenya)*

### **Our Remembrance**

Do we remember what the Lord has done for us? At the time of the Exodus, people were saved by God through the hand of Moses. Because sin, many God gave His Son as the lamb of sacrifice. Jesus Christ is our redeemer, and he who repents and believes in him will have eternal life (John 3:16). As Christians, how many times do we remember our God? Do we remember where we came from? When are we to remember our Lord? Is it only in times of trouble, or when we are given something of great value unexpectedly?

We must *always* remember the Lord wherever we are and whatever we are doing. We must also remember that for us to live, it is by the Lord's grace, His love and power. Without Him, we cannot live, but in him we have hope of eternal life (John 3:36). God remembered His people and his promises are for ever (Psalms 111:5), but as at the time of Moses, they turned against Him and rejected His commands.

Brothers and Sisters, here is something great to remember: the death of Jesus our Redeemer. As we are sinners, let us think deeply when remembering his death during the breaking of bread and taking the wine. Why, then, may we find it difficult to remind ourselves when we have been given the power to remember (John 14:26)? What we need is to be remembered by God but do we remember on our part how many requests we have made of Him, or how long ago?

Some people only remember God in times of trouble, hunger or crisis, but as for us, we should remember the Lord always, and thank Him for everything. As Christians, we should remember each other, and not forget the poor, the orphans and widows.

Lastly, when you are blessed, do not forget to thank the Lord, for the remembrance of Him does not end but passes from generation to generation (Exodus 3:15).

*Bro. Joseph Zishechi (Mhangura, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Apostles were Persecuted (Acts 5:17-32, 39)**

I am thinking about, and referring to, our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted today around the world, especially in Iran/Pakistan. The apostles were persecuted in their time. In whom did they put their faith? Today, in whom do we put our faith and trust? Do we put our faith and trust in the Lord God of heaven and earth as the apostles did? Are we like Stephen who trusted in the Lord God? Today we must be like Stephen.

Let us turn to our Bibles and read Acts 7:51-56, 59, 60; 8:1-4 and 9:1-6. I know you know the story of Saul (Paul) and what he did to the apostles. Saul obtained letters of authority from the Romans to persecute the men and women of Damascus. On his way, the Lord Jesus stopped him from persecuting his followers, sons and daughters of the Lord God. Could he not do the same and prevent the police around the world, and especially in Iran/Pakistan from obtaining letters from their authorities to persecute his followers today? Is anything too hard for the Lord? Look at Job 10:3, 8-13. God conceals His reasons when He wishes, but Job was vindicated in the end. Let the same happen to us, and particularly the brethren and sisters in Iran/Pakistan.

We know the story of king David and his trust in God as in Psalm 27. He also said, "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God'. "My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your unfailing love" (Psalm 31:14-16). Also, "How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues...In my alarm I said 'I am cut off from your sight!' Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help" (verses 19, 20, 22).

"May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you" (Psalm 20:1) and see also verses 2, 4-6. May the name of the God of Jacob protect us wherever we are, especially our brothers and sisters who are on the run.

May the Lord God send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion. May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our Lord God. I know that the Lord saves His anointed, He answers him from His holy heaven with the saving power of His right hand.

Brothers and sisters, remember Paul and Barnabas when they went "strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). We must apply these words of Paul and Barnabas to our day and strengthen today's disciples.

Let us recall what happened to Peter when he was in prison. The church prayed earnestly for him, Acts 12:5. In verse 7 it says, "Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said and the chains fell off Peter's wrists." If the Lord through his angel did this to Peter, could He not do the same thing for our brothers and sisters? I am appealing to all brothers and sisters: Let us pray to the Lord God through our Lord Jesus as the church prayed for Peter. The Lord God answered them, and He will answer us also.

Romans 8:35 says, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall trouble, or hardship, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" 2 Timothy 2:3 says, "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus." Also Matthew 24:2-14, especially verses 9

and 13, “You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death and you will be hated by all nations because of me...“But he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Let us trust in the Lord as David said in Psalms 146:3-7; 31:24. Brothers and Sisters, be strong and take heart all you who hope in the Lord. Nothing will stop us if we put our faith and trust in the Lord. David said in Psalm 48:14, “For this God is our God for ever and ever. He will be our guide even to the end.” Also Psalm 49:5, 6 “Why should I fear when evil days come, when wicked deceivers surround me? Those who trust in their wealth and boast of their riches” will not see the kingdom of God. Jeremiah said, “Ah, sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you...great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men. You reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve. You performed miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, both in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror” (Jeremiah 32:17, 19-21). God could do the same to our Brothers and Sisters being persecuted and I am appealing to them: Do not lose hope. In everything you are facing, keep up your courage, for I have faith in God that it will happen to us just as He helped Brothers and Sisters long, long years ago. It is the same Lord, the Lord of yesterday, today and for ever. Amen.

*Bro. Harris Ndonga Mulongesha (Ndola, Zambia)*

### **Personal Testimony**

We are four sisters in the flesh aged between 14 and 21 but only 3 of us are baptized and are spiritual sisters along with our parents in Christ’s family. We lead a quite normal and simple life, experiencing a let down atmosphere as we are surrounded by people who go to different churches. Our father was baptized in 1994 whereas Mum and we three girls were baptized in 2002 and 2001 respectively.

Since the time we came to know the truth we are facing lots of trials and temptations, in one way or another. We, being youngsters, felt that these trials and temptations are more in our way than the other youngsters whom we have seen in the truth. As we mentioned above, we survive amongst the people who go to different churches. In their sight, we’ve done a great abomination by denying their doctrines and following the actual truth. They look at us quite strangely and gossip behind us. Above all, they are waiting to see our downfall in this world.

Obviously, like all other victims, the question of, “Why does God allow sufferings?” lingered in our minds. By God’s grace, an answer flashed in our minds and influenced us to give thanks to HIM for the sufferings we had, and have, in our lives. The answer is, Christ our Lord and Saviour, though being a perfect Son to his Father, had to learn obedience through suffering (Hebrew 5:8), How much more then should we be expecting the trials and tribulations in our way to the kingdom, as they add a dynamic quality to our lives. We also know from the Scriptures that Christ saw not just the cross before him, but saw the glory he would have with his Father after enduring the cross (Hebrews 12:2). It’s the same with us who want to follow him firmly until the race is finished. We have to see the glory of the kingdom through the sufferings.

Also, it's not too long for our Lord to return to this earth. He may come tomorrow or even now. God our Father, who is merciful and compassionate wants us as youngsters especially to remember Him, our Creator, and to be prepared at any time to see His Son coming in glory. Wherefore He is making our troubles a door of hope (Hosea 2:14,15). As we face trials and tribulations, we have to remember that God speaks to us not just in times of prosperity but also in times of our distress. Just as drought drives the roots of a tree deeper to find water, so sufferings can drive us beyond the superficial acceptance of truth to dependence on GOD for hope and life.

So, there are glad tidings for all our young friends, brethren and sisters who feel just like us on the way to the glorious kingdom: welcome sufferings gladly and take them positively. Never give up the hope that "he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

*Sis. Diana Bersheba (Mandya Ecclesia, Karnataka, India)*

### **What the Amazing God Can Do**

God honours those who honour Him. I am a man 63 years old now and walking in the light of God. I am here to testify the goodness of the Lord in the area of provision. I have seen the provision of God in my life. I am married to my one and only wife by the name of Sis. Lune. We have had lovely children; right now I am not in employment, but the God that I serve has been so gracious to me. He has always provided for my daily needs.

God gives people opportunities to live on this earth for a reason. The primary aim of God when He created man was that man should worship Him at all times, but that has proved to be a hard task for man. No wonder we find that man wants to run away from the will of God, just like Jonah who was sent to Nineveh. Instead, Jonah chose to go to Tarshish but because of God's love and the purpose that He had for Jonah (in spite of the fish swallowing him up), He commanded that the fish vomit him up since God had not finished with him (Jonah 1:3-16; 2:9).

I am hereby encouraging those brethren who are serving God, yet have times when they feel it is not worth trying to obey the Lord, I say, keep on obeying the Lord and one day He who is the rewarder of everything that you do, will grant all your heart's desires, particularly the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hold on to Christ and continue waiting upon the Lord for He never fails. 1 Corinthians 15:58 reminds every believer to have full confidence to serve the Lord, knowing that the reward that awaits us is far greater than man can give.

*Bro. Herbert Tigerapasi (Lusaka, Zambia)*

### **Luke's Message to the Friends of God**

A careful study of Luke's gospel finds the beloved physician writing to, "most excellent Theophilus", to further his study in the word of God. Theophilus means 'friend of God'; how fitting in God's great wisdom that this record is left for the help of all those struggling through obedience, to be known as 'friends of God'.

Luke's instruction begins with the birth of John the Baptist and concludes with the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ to his disciples after his resurrection. He then picks up this thread in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, detailing the disciples' ministry after Jesus' ascension. Why did he write all this to Theophilus? "It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been taught the gospel" (Luke 1:3, 4).

Theophilus was being taught the gospel – the good news of the kingdom of God – learning of the wondrous hope contained in the word of God which lies in store for all who seek after it. From the beginning of the fall in Eden, through the promises extended to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to the birth, ministry and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, the thread of Truth is exposed to those whom the Spirit calls to obedience. Those not called, who read the word, may be moved by the inspiring examples of faith and courage, but without a sure foundation of belief in the Lord Jesus which leads to baptism into him there can be no lasting spiritual benefit.

In the last chapter of Luke, the Lord Jesus instructed the disciples to return to Jerusalem and there await the gift of the Holy Spirit which would come upon them – a measure of God's power to be given that they might increase in understanding and to spread forth the Gospel, armed with the power to do miracles of healing in his name.

However, the last question to him as he prepared to ascend unto his Father, displayed a great lack of perception in what lay ahead of them, and why they needed to grow in understanding as they asked: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:16).

Their understanding would be enriched by the power of the Spirit at Pentecost, teaching them of all they would be called upon to suffer in the spreading of his word, not only to Israel but to all the world as ambassadors for Christ. They longed, as we do today, for the kingdom of God to be established. However, over 1900 years have elapsed from that time, and they continue to wait in the grave!

Paul encouraged his brethren, those friends of God in Thessalonica who waited in the same trust, as he wrote: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

To be a friend of God is to be a child of light – not walking in darkness or fellowshiping the ways of darkness or error, but through constant study and prayer, learning how best to walk in obedience before Him. Paul left specific instructions how this could be achieved: "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all the appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:15-22).

We have been instructed to walk after Christ's example during our time of probation as we wait (as did the apostles) for his return. In these latter days we have been privileged to see unfolding many signs spoken of in the scriptures which must be in place before his return – yet we still wait. We are told his return will come as a thief in the night and we must be prepared, for no man knows the hour.

If we knew a thief was coming to break into our home at midnight, how vigilant we would be. There would be no time to relax or sleep, we would be on full alert to have everything in place, so as not to be surprised. How important likewise to be spiritually ready for Jesus' return, arming ourselves through scriptural study and prayer as well as examining ourselves critically, knowing the often wayward direction of our natural inclinations if left unchecked.

Peter's words as he waited in hope, inspire all those longing to be known as friends of God, when he said: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

However, he goes on to warn of that day coming as a "thief in the night" when the old systems of this world will be destroyed and replaced with a righteous government of justice .

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (vs. 13,14).

*Bro. Francis Odiko (Subri, Ghana)*

#### **Report on Visit to Southern Africa October 2003-April 2004**

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the CBM UK with the airfare, CBMSA for the internal back up, printing, postage, phone calls, encouragement, etc, and East London Ecclesia for very regular visits to the Candu Ecclesia and printing assistance, and to Candu Ecclesia for enthusiastic preaching resulting in an initial coverage of the Transkei centres and 2200 students enlisted on the correspondence course. This burden now rests on the Transkei Brethren and Sisters and Bro Templeton in particular.

During the six months in Southern Africa I have travelled more than 21,000 km, given more than 36 talks and seminars, plus unnumbered discussions. I have done 5 interviews, 3 of which resulted in baptism (Marydale 2 and Bredasdorp 1), made more than 100 contacts, and Brethren and Sisters have been visited. Two ecclesial outings have been arranged: Mufuleni ecclesia to Hermanus in support of a seminar organised by Bro. Simpohwe, and 16 Transkei Brethren and Sisters and friends to East London for the Breaking of Bread.

We have tried to follow up contacts from Coligny and Swartruggens to Badplaas and Piet Retief, and from Witbank to Gansbaai.

We have now completed the initial campaigns in the Transkei towns with the exception of Bizana, Mt. Fletcher, Cala, and Lady Frere. We have still to do the peripheral towns - Kokstad, Elliot, Aliwal North etc. also the Ciskei, Cape Midlands and cities- Cape Town, East London. Port Elizabeth is running regular seminars for Xhosa friends (Bro. Zwelake).

The proposed meeting room at Candu is being held up for the lack of a signature from the chief in Willowvale. We have already received a donation from an ecclesia in England towards the Hall. The Hall will act as a focal point for our Transkei work as well as providing space for the new Sunday School (15 children) and as a venue for seminars. Bible Fingerposts are being translated into Xhosa, and hopefully also the CBM leaflets on many topics.

## **General Observations**

1. Previously we had asked contacts if we could visit them with almost nil response. Uninvited visits have been successful on every occasion so far. South Africans are very hospitable!
2. Many contacts have moved so we must act very quickly before they vanish.
3. There would appear to be many with problems: unemployment, injury, divorce etc. which will require more assistance from us than we usually give. It's rough out there in the real world!
4. Afrikaners had become confused after losing political, church and education leadership. There are signs that they are slowly coming to terms with the situation and are more willing to listen.
5. We, therefore, need to be more joyful, positive and encouraging in our approach and focus on how people can be helped to deal with life now without changing the overall message.
6. The demands for our support will increase in moral issues, spiritual application and in some cases financial assistance
7. It is not unlikely that we could end up with ones and twos in many of the towns and dorps in South Africa.
8. I believe we should abandon the use of the word "isolation" (giving a feeling of being cut off) and substitute "pioneers" - the first of a new ecclesia! This approach is producing some results in Grahamstown and Mosselbaai.
9. We now have 3 Brethren in prisons and about 50 students in more than one dozen prisons. From Keetmanshoop to Umtata! Malmesbury has 19 registered students being handled by Bro. Stuart Strachan with fortnightly classes and Breaking of Bread. The number of prison contacts could increase.
10. There is also a growing number of coloured contacts, with a different culture and perceptions, which will need a change in approach without compromising the Gospel.
11. Correspondence Courses are still a good source of contacts despite increasing costs of postage, stationary etc. placing extra burdens on CBM finances.
12. In the Transkei some students are 35km from a post office. Post offices have small supplies of stamps, stationary and pens are almost unobtainable, no mail deliveries, no electricity- no electric light, no Bibles, poor education and a high percentage of mail lost, late, or stolen. It's a wonder, then, that over 100 out of the 2200 students have already replied!
13. There is a whole range of new challenges: circumcision, funerals, tribal customs, a society with little money, an increasing divergence between rural and urban populations, as well as language differences.
14. As we have lost many Christadelphians with their children to emigration, we need to address the problems arising. Perhaps we should change our target population from upper middle class to the economically captive. Another effect will be a greater demand on finance from fewer brothers and sisters.

## **New Ideas**

1. Bookstalls on the pavement – works well in Kempton Park, and is about to start in Mufuleni, Touwsrivier, Trankei and Maseru. It also saves on postage and stationary!
2. Take a photo when visiting a contact, and then post them a copy with a chatty letter. It can make friends more easily.
3. Inviting a few of our more promising students to a special series of seminars where, in addition to first principles, we talk to them about being unpaid representatives.

## **Conclusion**

To stop or to slow down sowing the word is to ask for problems later, as well as being described by Jesus as a lazy servant (parable - the one talent man). Rather go for it and ask for God's help.

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## **What is Your Reaction in Time of Trouble?**

Many of us always praise God so loudly and joyously when all is well, but what happens when trials come our way. Do we still praise our Maker or do we pretend He never existed? The Lord has said in the book of Psalms (50:15): “Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me”.

It isn't anywhere! You could be a Christian or non-Christian, but life does not promise to be smooth all the time. There are bound to be difficult times, but how we face our problems shows how good Christians we are. Psalm 54:7 says: “For he hath delivered me out of all my trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon my enemies”.

We could lose a job, we could be bereaved, we could be extremely hard up, we could even be abandoned by brethren, sisters, friends and family, but we have to remember that the Creator knows and understands why things happen to us in that way. Again, the book of Psalms says (86:7): “In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me”.

In times like these we must never give up, but keep thanking God for our life. If there are instances that beat our imagination, we must talk to Him, ask Him questions, tell Him everything. After all He is a FATHER who loves His children more than we can know; He knows all our problems, see Psalm 91:15; “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him and honour him”.

If times are hard and almost unbearable, remember that tough times never last for ever. Also remember that it is when things are almost out of control that the love of God is at its best, yet it remains hidden to us because our hearts are troubled. So always we must have faith in the Lord: “The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead” (Proverbs 11:8).

What am I driving at? The question here is that we should not have let problems or difficulties affect us. If faced with trying moments, don't let us tell God how big your problems are, but know how great our God is to solve our big problems.

Keep trusting and praising God in good times and in bad times for there is power in praise and worship to the Lord: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6)’ The book of Nahum (1:7) says: “The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble and He knoweth them that trust in Him”.

If there are no problems in our lives we can hardly appreciate the goodness of God. It is when we have been through problems and have been saved that we appreciate our salvation.

I thank God for the mountains, I thank God for the valleys, I thank God for the storms He has brought me through. If I had never had a problem, I wouldn’t know my God could bring me through. I wouldn’t have learnt to trust in Jesus; I wouldn’t have learnt to trust in God; I wouldn’t have learnt to depend upon His word.

Encountering problems is something that comes in life, it is inevitable. Don’t let us be perturbed if things seem harsh and look as though the world is tumbling upon our head. Even our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, was tempted, having fasted for forty days and forty nights. He did not give up but trusted in his FATHER who strengthened him. So in all situations we must give thanks and don’t let our problems divert us, but let us remain steadfast in the Lord; He makes all things beautiful in His time. “O Lord, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble” (Isaiah 33:2).



Photos from Namibia: Top, Left to right: Brothers. Godson Mulisho, Kashindi Ndubula, Sis.Machozi Cecilia and her two daughters, Jean Claude, Mapendo, Dunia M. Pascal and Kitego Shungaza

Below, Bro. Godson Mulisho with the Osire Sunday School children



*Bro. Joseph Oppong (Shama Junction, Ghana)*