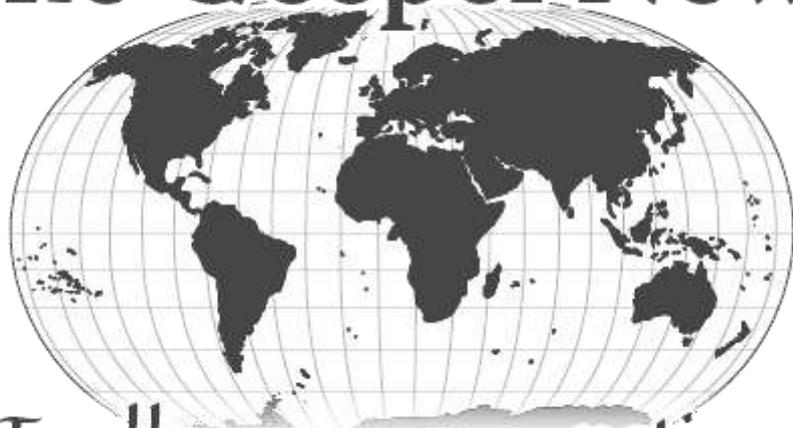


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



## "By your words"

I write this time about something I cannot but flinch at addressing. Something in which I cannot but feel more deeply than usual my own sense of serious inadequacy. It is the matter of the tongue, of our words, of what we say and how we say them and what we don't say. It may be that we all have a similar feeling of awkwardness about this matter, knowing our failings. But this doesn't help me feel any better at all about this matter. The fact is, by our words we will be condemned and by our use of words we will be counted as righteous. The importance of our words cannot be overstressed. Judah were condemned "because their tongue and their words are against the Lord" (Is. 3:8). All their idolatry, perversion etc. was summarized in their words. Again and again Isaiah and the prophets say that the reason for Israel's condemnation was their words, even those they said under their breath - "your tongue hath muttered perverseness" (Is. 59:3). "Their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue" (Hos. 7:16). "The inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. Therefore also will I make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins" (Mic. 6:12,13). Truly "death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof" (Prov. 18:21).

The Hebrew word usually translated "tongue" is also put by metonymy for the person - because a man's words reflect who he really and essentially is. And this means we shouldn't justify our bad speaking by feeling that underneath, we aren't *really* like that. We can't shout and scream hard words at our partner or children or brethren and think that really, underneath we love them. Let's not think that the way words come out is something involuntary. Job and his friends (Job 4:2) all justified their inappropriate words by reasoning that a man just couldn't but speak out what he felt given the situation. But they all learnt in the end how far better it would have been not to have spoken as they did. They laid their hands upon their mouths. Words *can* be controlled. We *are* responsible for them, because a man's words are counted as who he is:

"Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a *babbler* [same word translated 'tongue'] is no better" (Ecc. 10:11).

"Let not an evil *speaker* [s.w. tongue] be established" (Ps. 140:11).

"Ye are taken up in the lips of *talkers* [s.w. tongues]" (Ez. 36:3).

## Our Words Are Our Judgment

It is a common theme that the wicked snare themselves, falling into their own pit, rather than God specifically snaring them (e.g. Ps. 7:15; 9:15; 57:6; Prov. 26:27; 28:10; Ecc. 10:8). From their own mouth and words men will be judged (Mt. 12:37; Lk. 19:22 cp. 2 Sam. 1:16; 1 Kings 20:40). It could even be that the Lord cites the condemnatory words of the rejected uttered during their lifetimes and leaves these as their condemnation. Woe, therefore, to he or she who has said unrepentantly that they don't want to be in the Kingdom if brother x or sister y are going to be there. "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life, but he that openeth wide his lips [in this life] shall have destruction" at judgment day (Prov. 13:3). The link between the final verdict and the words we use today is that clear. When the Jews spoke out the judgment they thought should come on those who killed the Master's Son, the Lord cited their words back to them as descriptive of their own forthcoming condemnation (Mt. 21:41,43). This is just as David was invited to speak words of judgment on a sinner, and was told: "*thou* art the man" (2 Sam. 12:7).

Whatever we have spoken in darkness will be revealed for all to hear and know (Lk. 12:2,3) - our words will, as it were, be cited back to us before others in that day. The Lord says this in the context of warning us not to have the leaven of hypocrisy in the matter of our words - there's no point in saying one thing to one person and something different to someone else, because our words will be gone through at the judgment and will be open for everyone to hear. We should live, He implies, as if we are now before the judgment, speaking things we wouldn't be ashamed for anyone to hear. Note in passing how he says that hypocrisy in our words is like leaven that corrupts and spreads within an individual and a community. Once somebody starts being hypocritical with their words, someone else does. And we've all seen plenty of this, in office departments, classrooms, men working together, women running childcare groups together, in families...and even in ecclesias. Someone has to break the cycle of saying one thing to one, and something different to someone else.

The idea of dishonest words being like yeast, a source of corruption (Lk. 12:1-3), takes us to Mt. 12:32-37: "Whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him...Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh... every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified [then], and by thy words thou shalt be condemned". The fruit of the tree equals the words as in Prov. 12:14; 13:2; a corrupt man will speak corrupt words, and these will be the basis of his condemnation. By contrast "the fruit of *our* lips" should be praise (Heb. 13:15). "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29) refers to the Lord's words - the corrupt fruit is corrupt words. But the idea is that we bear the fruit *now* - our words *now* are our fruit. The Lord puts it all another way in Lk. 6:44 when He says that men don't "gather" good fruit from a corrupt tree. The language of gathering is very much that of judgment to come; and yet the fruit is produced and gathered now, in the words / fruit that comes out of our mouth. This is why right now we can judge a false teacher by his corrupt words [this is one of the contexts of the Lord's words about corrupt trees and fruit- we see the fruit *now*]. The corrupt man *will* speak villainy (Is. 32:6). But corrupt words don't just mean expletives - the false teacher would be too smart to use them, he comes in sheep's clothing.

Lk. 6:41-44 gives us an example of "corrupt" words, words which create a corrupting spiritual influence in a man or in a community. One may say to his brother that he must cast out the splinter from his eye, although he has a plank in his own. And the Lord goes on to say that a good tree doesn't bring forth corrupt fruit. The corrupt fruit, as in the above passages, means 'corrupt words'. And in Lk. 6:45 the Lord concludes by saying that "for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh". The corrupt fruit are the corrupt words of Lk. 6:42.- saying, 'My brother, I'm very sorry, but I just have to correct you, you are so obviously wrong and stupid to walk round with a splinter in your eye, I can correct your spiritual vision, because I see perfectly. At the moment your spiritual perception ['eye'] is just hopeless. Your understanding of this passage and that verse are totally wrong, your standards of dress and behaviour are an affront to our holy God. Without me, and listening to what I tell you, you'll never stumble your way to the Kingdom'. The Lord understood 'the eye' as one's spiritual vision (Mt. 6:22,23). These kinds of words, in essence, are the real leaven; they corrupt / pull apart, over time, communities as well as individual faith. These criticisms work away within a brother or sister, deaffirming them as believers, deaffirming them for who they are, raising doubt and not hope, humiliating them that they haven't made the Christadelphian grade until they are corrupted.

We have a specific example of a man being punished in judgment for his words, and it may well be the basis for the Lord's teaching here: "When the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it" (Is. 10:11,12), and there follows a long quotation of his words. These words were the 'fruit of his heart' - out of the abundance of his heart his mouth had spoken. And these words were almost cited back to him at the time of his condemnation. We know, however, that it is quite possible for human actions and words to *not* reflect the heart. Consider how Sennacherib invaded Judah but in his heart "he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so" (Is. 10:7). This is why the Lord clearly condemns the thought as being as bad as the action, even if the action isn't actually committed. Ps. 55:21 laments how words can not reflect the true state of a man's heart: "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords".

So why, then, is there so much emphasis on spoken words as the basis for judgment to come? Surely it is that, although thoughts will also be judged I for one flinch at this; because when I have to own up to having said inappropriate words, my flesh wants me to think that in my heart I didn't mean them. And yet, ruthlessly, I must press the point: bad words reflect a bad heart. We can't justify them. We must repent of them and by the influence of knowing God, through and in His Son and His word, we must change the state of mind that leads to them. And we should be, on one hand, simply *worried*: that bad words came out of a bad heart. And a good man cannot bring forth such corrupt fruit. There is, with some especially the problem of temper, saying things in hot blood well beyond what they really mean. But, here again, the words of hot blood do reflect something of the real man or woman. The tongue is a fire that can lead to condemnation, whatever and however we justify its words as a relatively harmless outcome of our personality type. This may be true, but the words that result aren't harmless.

Speaking of the sudden destruction of the wicked at the future judgment, David reflected: "So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves" (Ps. 64:8). Unsound speech will be condemned, or perhaps (will) lead to our condemnation (Tit. 2:8). The implication seems to be that our words will be quoted back to us during the judgment process. Brother, sister, think about this. It doesn't need me to tell you what words we should or shouldn't be saying. This thought alone will elicit from us acute self-awareness and self-knowledge in this matter, if we meditate upon it - that our words will be cited to us at judgment day. By our words we really will be justified or condemned. The false prophets were judged according to their words: "Every man's word shall be his burden" at the day of Babylonian judgment (Jer. 23:36); Gal. 6:5 alludes similarly, at the judgment, every man shall bear his own burden - i.e., that of his own words. We truly 'make the answer now'. The Saviour came more to save than condemn (Jn. 12:47); it is men who condemn themselves as being unworthy of eternal life. It is *their* words, not His, which will be the basis of their rejection. We must so speak as those who will be judged, knowing that he who showed no mercy in his words will receive none (James 2:12,13); our words of mercy or condemnation - and perhaps *the way we say them*, will be the basis upon which we will be accepted or rejected. "A fool's mouth is [will be] his destruction, and his mouth calleth for strokes [i.e. condemnation at the judgment, Lk. 12:47,48]" (Prov. 18:6). By our words we may be *shouting out for condemnation*. "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride [with which he will be beaten at the day of judgment]; but the lips of the wise shall preserve them" from such a fate (Prov. 14:3). Our words are as fire, and are to be connected with the fire of condemnation (James 3:5,6), which they will have already kindled (Lk. 12:49). Likewise wrongly gained wealth is the fire that will burn those who have it at the last day (James 5:3). James is picking up a figure

from Is. 33:11, again concerning the final judgment: "Your [own] breath [i.e. words], as fire, shall devour you". Their breath, their words, were as fire which would in the end be the basis of their condemnation. Nadab and Abihu kindled strange fire, and it was with that fire that God burnt them up, in symbol of His destruction of all the wicked at judgment day (Lev. 10:2).

Quite simply, by our words today we are deciding our eternal future. The rejected will have cried out for their own condemnation through their words. Consider:

<p><b>We can bite and devour one another in gossip and slander (Gal. 5:15).</b></p>	<p><b>as the Jews did in their day of condemnation in the Babylonian invasion (Jer. 19:9); and as the rejected may literally do in the future, according to this type.</b></p>
<p><b>The Jews gnashed their teeth against Stephen (Acts 7:54)</b></p>	<p><b>as they will at the judgment (Mt. 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51)</b></p>

We have dwelt on the negatives - the need to avoid bad speech. But we must match this with a speech salted with salt, a figure for the peace that there should be between us (Mark 9:49,50). As salt was added to the sacrifices to make them burn acceptably, so good speech is vital for our final acceptance. And not only must we speak words of comfort, love and grace, but words of *power and meaning*. The Lord said that we will give account for every idle / useless word we speak (Mt. 12:36,37). The same word is used in Mt. 20:6 about the idle, unworking labourers doing nothing. The Lord may be warning that if our lives are just empty words, we must give account for these words. We can so easily be as the son who says he will go work in the vineyard but doesn't go (Mt. 21:30). For we live in a world of words that lack power, bereft of meaning. Promises mean nothing, there is no substance and underpinning to words. Yet we are to speak "as the oracles of God", reflecting the Father's speech in our own.

### **The Tongue And Grace**

We must realize that it is perfectly possible to have an appearance of spirituality and yet make no real effort to control our words: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26). Peter likewise teaches the possibility of controlling the tongue: "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (1 Pet. 3:10). And yet straight away we run into a seeming contradiction with James 3:7-10: "Every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh".

James himself appeals in his letter for us to bridle the tongue. But here he seems to say that the tongue is uncontrollable, and "we" - he includes himself - use it to both bless God and curse men. And he goes on to say that this shouldn't be so, because a good tree brings forth good fruit, i.e. words. Inappropriate words from our mouths indicate that there is something fundamentally wrong with our spirituality. How can we reconcile this? I suggest that James,

despite being a leading brother, is showing a chink in his own armour, and thereby empowering his message all the more. He is saying that he himself has to admit that "we", do sometimes say inappropriate things. The tongue can be bridled, it can be as Peter puts it 'refrained'. But in practice no man seems able to totally tame it. And this is why James also says in this very context that we shouldn't be eager to be teachers, because it is almost inevitable that we will use words wrongly and thereby offend our brother, with all the Biblical implications this carries: "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man" (3:2). James, a teacher in the ecclesia, a Master in Israel, says that "we", himself included, at times offend others because "the tongue can no man tame". And yet it *can* be bridled, refrained, tamed, just as a horse can be tamed by use of a bridle. Surely what James is saying is this: 'This matter of the tongue worries me no end. I know I, and all of us, could tame our tongues. It's vital we do. But inappropriate words do still come out of me, and you. And it worries me, because a good tree doesn't bear such bad fruit. It seems no man among us can tame his tongue as he ought. Oh wretched men that we are. Me especially, because I'm your teacher, James the brother of Jesus Himself. Yes, let us strive the more earnestly in this matter. But who in the end shall deliver us from this bondage of corruption, this seeming inability to live and speak and do and be as we should? I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord and His saving grace'. Amen.

*Duncan Heaster*

## **News from Africa**

### **news from benin**

Thanks for "*Where there is no Doctor*", it is definitely going to be of immense help to me and those around me. Ours is a small Ecclesia of 10 Brothers and Sisters, many of whom were relocated from Aba Ecclesia in search of survival some years ago. We are doing what we can to keep the Ecclesia going. With the help of our Almighty Father we are also reaching out to the world in darkness through our bi-weekly public preaching. As an Ecclesia we are happy and at peace doing our duty whilst awaiting the glorious advent of our Master. Meanwhile we are with the assistance of Bro Dafydd Jenkins, struggling to register our Ecclesia with the Authorities. Bro Paul Kalu

### **news from cameroon**

#### **BAMENDA**

What a wonderful hope to share in Christ! Thank you so very much for sending two copies of "*Where there is no Doctor*". These books are a great gift. There are villages here where a nurse has never been, let alone the services of a health team due to lack of roads. The system here is too corrupt. Illiteracy is another reason for the abject poverty. It is a wonderful idea to help the people with the daily readings in any way they can. You can see that the Bible language is above the level of many here. Like the wise Mordecai wrote to queen Esther in Esther 4:14. and who

knows whether you have not come to Africa (through GN) in such a time as this. Thanks once again for your effort in God's Vineyard. We are doing planting now but the rains that seemed to have come early this year have for the past two weeks stopped. The sun is too hot but the plants are still very green. Most roads are still passable and the dust hasn't reach the dry season level.

### **MENCHUM**

The gods of the nations. All Christians should know that these are very dangerous 'god' to serve and in which to hope and trust. As David, the man of God, put it, "The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not. They have eyes, but they see not. They have ears, but they hear not, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Like them are those who make them. Yea, every one who trusts in them" (Ps. 135:15-18). Paul, in his journey to Ephesus, met with these dangerous men who were makers of idols. Listen to what one named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, said to his workmen: "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable company of people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may count for nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship" (Acts 19:24-27). This is a picture for us who believe in the name of Jesus. Here we have seen the maker of these idols crying because he saw, not only the disregard of their hand-made idols, but the complete fall of their temple whom Asia and the world worshipped.

Let us now see the word of Christ to his disciples in Matt 6:33, "But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well". All the apostles died leaving nothing behind them except the gospel of the Kingdom of God, because they knew it was the only word which could give life and hope to people who believe in God. They believed, like Abraham, that their 'riches' would only be given to them when Christ returned to set up God's Kingdom here on earth. Paul's letter to Timothy is a warning against this idol, "For the love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs" (1 Tim. 6:10). Money is the real idol and 'god' of our present world. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us all, in the household of faith, flee from this perishing 'god'.

*Bro. Kpah Chrisanthus Achuo*



Photo: Bro. Kpah Achuo

### **MUYUKA**

I am a regular reader of Gospel News. I am now in Muyuka, having been transferred from Douala.. This is a new ecclesia and we need much literature; please send us any books that you know will help us in defending our faith.

*Bro. Tanyinjia Atabong Martin*

## **TOMBEL**

Happy to inform you I payed a visit in Tombel where my grandmother lives. I got in touch with some people who I told about our doctrine. After a long conversation some accepted the truth and three are doing the 40 lesson course.

*Bro. Brain Ebong*

## **news from kenya**

### **AHERO**

Bro. Lawrence was asking if the terrible events of South-East Asia were punishment from God. He reminds me of the Pharisees and Christ's healing a blind man – they asked, Is the man's blindness due to his sin or the sin of his parents? But the event was fulfilment of prophecy. So the event of the under-sea quake was fulfilment too of Jesus' prophecy of the last days and still many more disasters are expected until there is a cry for Someone above to help. And that is when God's Kingdom will take over. Man is not convinced yet. Jesus in Matthew 24 reminded us that these things will happen prior to his coming, others more sinister are expected to make man surrender.

The good news about his message is that he tells his followers to earnestly pray to keep out fear. So my prayer is with brethren most victimised. God is there and is in full control – He is not a sleeping God. Let us be fearless for His Son promised reward to everyone who endures to the end. He is coming and coming soon. Those who are in Africa may feel the horrible catastrophe is far away and there is nothing to worry about, but the waves, like the hearts of men, are so cruel and may bring with it other disasters.

Good health is a hard term to define, but the health of a group of people is usually measured by how many of them survive childhood and how long they live. By these measures only few countries in the world have a healthy population. In the other countries where two thirds of the earth's people live the picture is quite different. In India only one of the three people born today can expect to live to the age of fifty. And in many African and Asian countries those boys and girls who survive the many childhood diseases still face a grim life without enough of the right kind of food. Only a great deal, of work. money and time will bring good health to all the world's people. In the meantime scientists are looking again at the idea of defeating diseases.

*Bro. Nelson Anyals.*

### **BUNGOMA**

I'm seeking your advice on registration of our group and some connection to any of the brothers and sisters abroad who can help us to facilitate our work as servants of the Lord. Thanks in advance.

*Bro. Eric Wamalwa Situma*

Comment: The Christadelphians are, I understand, already registered in Kenya, and you need to contact the representative for your area to make certain you are covered. MH

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and first and foremost I would like to thank you for the letter you sent to me, which actually encouraged me. Besides this, I also appreciate the Bible Reader's Calendar 2005 which has become so helpful to me in Bible understanding. The Gospel News, being a source of inspiration, uplifts my spirits, hence giving a sense of togetherness with brethren in the world as a whole. Secondly I am very grateful for the answer

you gave on the topic entitled 'The 25th December' as a reference to Jeremiah 52:31. We rely on agriculture, particularly farming, as our only source of income, but due to lack of technical know-how this has resulted in poor production farming. Together with this letter find a photograph of brethren trying to practise farming on a small scale basis. From left is Bro. Wycliffe Wekesa Wasike, followed by Godfrey K. Wakesa, Bro. Emmanuel K. Wanjala, Ferdnant W. Wasike and lastly Bro. George Maina Wabwile. The next photograph from left is the friend Robert Barasa Mateni, Sister Metrina Maina, my wife, and me Bro. George Maina Wabwile. We are harvesting some groundnuts in the Suralome Shomba in December. We wish to request that God willing, brethren, you assist us with a copy of *"How to grow a balanced diet"*.  
Bro. George Maina Wabwile



Photos: Harvesting groundnuts

Thanks a lot for your letter. It has greatly opened my mind in that I have learned much about terrible world-wide situations, which are growing much worse with time, despite the fact that political and social efforts are being made to rectify the problems. The Bible has the only truth about life. I have already started to practice what I have learnt from *"How to grow a balanced diet"*, together with my friends. Incorporating ideas of how to grow a balanced diet in the *Gospel News* will add value to it because it will attract more readers who can eventually become believers of the true gospel. Here in Kenya we are experiencing many cases of men raping small under age children and political upheavals. Let us boldly fight the good fight of faith as we draw closer to the Lord  
*Bro. Eric Wamalwa.*

### **CHWELE**

I was shocked to hear about the wonderful information you offered to us that we normally grow just one type of crop. It is as if you have visited the western part of Kenya. I therefore plead with you in the name of our Lord to send us those two books *"Where there is no doctor"* and *"How to grow a balanced diet"*. Currently people in Kenya are starving because they grow seed in poor yields because certified seed of corn is very expensive, plus fertilizers. The Government promised to have good price but we can see the prices of farm inputs shooting. The Government have raised their salaries and allowances, leaving the common man to suffer. Recently the British Ambassador, Edward Clay, pointed what was happening within the NARC Government, that corruption was at its peak. Thank you very much for the wonderful letter you sent to me. What a wonderful picture it gives. I wish also to thank you for the booklet *"What is the Bible?"* and *The Bible Reader's Calendar 2005*. I am very encouraged when I read this material and mostly during our Bible discussion in our ecclesia.  
*Bro. David Wanjala*

## **GISAMBAI**

Warmest greetings of love and peace in Jesus Christ. I am very pleased to read *Gospel News*. It has taught me several things concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus, who is to come and reign over the world with his saints. We see them in Psalm 37:29, "The righteous will possess the land and shall live there for ever." In Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." For we see that God has appointed a place for the Jews and the time has already arrived. The Jews were driven out of their country and they are now going back to the land which God promised their forefathers. In Jeremiah 46:27-28. we Have some very important verses and a wonderful message for those brethren and sisters reading the Bible daily. "Fear not Jacob my servant, nor be dismayed, for lo, I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land of their captivity, Jacob shall return and have quiet and ease, and none shall make him afraid. Fear not, O Jacob my servant, says the Lord, for I am with you. I will make a full end of all nations to which I have driven you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will chasten in just measure, and will by no means leave you unpunished." This is a very wonderful sign which shows that Jesus is coming soon to this earth. Lasly if possible I would like a King James Bible.

*Bro. Solomon Igabukira*

The unfolding events in the world prove that Christ Jesus, our everlasting King is coming soon. Luke 17:26-30 says, "As it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so it will be in the day when the Son is revealed." There is tension all over the world, i.e. in the African continent countries are ravaged with war, in the Middle East Israel pose a very great threat from the terrorist. Matthew 24:6-7 says "You will hear of wars and rumours of wars but see to it that you are not alarmed: such things must happen but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom." Israel, the chosen people of God will always prevail. Jeremiah 1:19 says, "They shall fight against Israel but they shall not prevail against Israel." The prediction of Christ's return is imminent. Brothers and sisters, watch out for the hour is near. We are in a race, 1 Corinthians 9:24 says, "Do you know that in a race all the runners compete but only one receives the prize? so run that you may obtain it." We should focus our attention towards getting the prize of eternal life when Jesus comes to reign on earth. Habbakuk 2:14 says, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Love, the greatest commandment, will automatically qualify us to be in the Kingdom when Jesus Christ comes to reign, as it is written in the book of Isaiah, "He shall judge between the nations and shall decide for many people and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. What a wonderful peaceful Kingdom, Jerusalem, the holy city, will no longer be threatened by terrorist attacks. Thanks for the Bible reading calendar for 2005. Please would you send me "Wrested Scriptures" and updates about the Middle East conflict and any relevant literature. May God, the Almighty, shower you with abundant blessings and let's hope we will meet in the Kingdom which will be established on earth, an everlasting Kingdom, Daniel 2:44.

*Bro. Joseph Luseno*



Photo: Bro Joseph Luseno

### **ISHIARA**

Life has remained tough as we struggle to survive. If you can remember I mentioned to you in my last note how I had a big school fees balance – I managed to pay some of the money but still I had to cross the year with a balance. This has made some of my relatives and friends around ask me to arrange for a fund raising to enable me to pay the school fees. I found no alternative but to agree with them and they have arranged to come and make that function at my home, although I know some of them will come for their political gains. I have decided to write to you about the matter in advance. Maybe you can comment or advise me before the fund raising day arrives.

*Bro. David Aphaxard*

### **KAMUKUYWA**

I have a problem, my NIV Bible which I read was taken by my son and he lives away from home. So please if you have a copy, send me one. The grace of God be with us all, Amen.

*Bro. Patrick Wekese*

### **KANDIEGE**

The gospel is preached to save the world if they will believe in God and the person of Jesus Christ. "I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." The gospel *today* – "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). The gospel *in the future* – "To whom he was not spoken, they shall see; and they that have not heard shall understand" (Romans 15:21). Keep up the good work till the end.

*Bro. John Okello*



Photo: Bro. John Okello

### **KISUMU**

I felt very sad when I heard from Sister Julia's husband, that my sister, and more so, my tutor, has passed away. I am praying that Almighty God will guard me and give me strength so that I'll keep on as I was before – via my brother. My hope is to meet my tutor in the soon coming Kingdom.

*Bro. Richard Oduma*

God is still preparing His people for the new Kingdom where His Son Jesus Christ will be the King over all nations. The race towards God's Kingdom is not easy we need to pray, humble ourselves in order to overcome temptations – so that we may be called sons and daughters of God. This year may be the year of our Lord Jesus Christ and those found worthy shall enter in to God's new Kingdom – with Him. I do pray that I may not be found asleep on that very happy day (a glad day to see and to walk into).

*Bro. Erastus Ogembo*

### **KITALE**

The Christadelphians, as the name implies, the brethren of Christ (Heb. 2:11), are a body of

people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12), and by immersion into Christ (Gal.3:2) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and identification with his resurrection (Rom.6:5). They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the scripture of the Old and New Testaments are able to make one wise unto salvation (2 Tim.3:15-17). Believing in divine authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to eschew any interpretation thereof which fails to harmonise with all the testimonies of the Holy Scripture; and finding that the creeds of the various existing sects are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby. They believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to set up his throne and reign thereon, and they seek to share his knowledge with others. They offer their services in expounding the message of the Bible without cost of any kind.

*Sis. Lydia Neresa Fuchaka*



Photo: Sis Lydia Fuchaka, Vero, Elizar, Vicky and Ben

### ***KITISE***

I am too much surprised where I am going to build the church. Here people agreed with me to accompany me. They prepared to join my faith. But with all that burning I know God will find the way. We pray under the tree.

Bro. Daniel Maingi

### ***KOBUJOI***

Warmest greetings in the Hope we share. Many thanks for your two letters received two days back. The contents in the two packets were intact and safe. The book "*Where there is no doctor*" will prove quite helpful for me. I have been interested in knowing more about the *Christadelphian Save the Children Fund*. There are about five young people here at Kobujoi doing the Christadelphian Isolation League Sunday School lessons. Could it be possible for them to benefit from the CSTCF? God willing I will be writing to the fund administrators for more details. I noted their contact address.

I have read through the article in the Jan/Feb issue of *Gospel News*, '*How to Grow a Balanced Diet*'; personally I have had similar thoughts as yours. I am receiving a magazine from the Netherlands called 'LEISA', which stands for 'Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture' this magazine is free of charge for individuals and local organisations in the South only and will be of help in improving our agriculture and also our diet.

*Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir*

Comment: We regret that the book, 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet' is now out of print and will not be reprinted until 2007. In the meantime those in Africa could obtain the magazine mentioned above (which has many useful ideas) from: LEISA, PO Box 2067, 3800 CB Amersfoort, The Netherlands. E-mail: [ileia@ileia.nl](mailto:ileia@ileia.nl)

We have spent some time researching for alternative publications dealing with this important subject and trust we will be able to recommend some suitable material, especially taking into account the climate changes being experienced in Africa. MH

### **LOITOKTOK**

I just want to inform you that I received your letter and I am waiting for the parcel you sent me, I will use it for whoever is interested to know. I have changed my address from Nakuru to Loitoktok. I was in Nakuru recently for the memorial service and I had made a trip of around 500 km while there.

You people really think about us, especially we who are living in third world countries. This book, "*How to grow a balanced diet*", will be of greater importance to us than money, since it will educate people on the best method of farming and the right food to grow and in so doing eradicate poverty to a big extent. My advice is that I hope the first priority will go to those people that are living in rural areas. By proper use of this book it is my hope that it will eradicate poverty in a big margin and still also assist in bringing people to the word of God. I pray that I will get a copy. It is so sad to inform you that in most private hospitals in Kenya just seeing a doctor there is a certain fee charged and in most government hospitals pain killer drugs are the only ones available. In most remote areas, like Loitoktok, the area that I am living in isolation, many women have died while giving birth. The nearest clinic to me is around 50 kilometres away and the mode of transport to this clinic is by motorbike and a very high fee is charged. Those who cannot afford the motorbike use a handcart. I think this book "*Where there is no doctor*", although I have never seen it, will assist me so much in terms of an emergency case. This will be of use only if the Lord Jesus Christ continues being away and if he comes again we shall never again experience the pain of drought, disease and death.

*Bro. Peter Thuo Kariuki*

Comment. We are very conscious of the problems our Sisters face in childbirth and other women's matters in the rural areas without any qualified medical attention. We are working with a group of African rural areas to help run a pilot scheme for a residential course of a few days for Sisters on such matters. Arrangements have been made to employ a Senior Mid-wife to deal with maternity aspects. MH

### **MAKONGE**

We are profoundly grateful for your interesting letter. It is also pleasing to hear of *Bible Basics*, both in Kiswahili and English which we are anxiously looking forward to receiving. We found the leaflets and the cards quite interesting and helpful in our group discussions. We hope they will make us grow spiritually. The book, '*How To Grow A Balanced Diet*' is of vital importance and it is our hope that a copy will be sent to us. Bro. Manasseh Wamamili and I paid a visit to Mt. Elgon district, 300km away from our home. This is one of the districts in our Western Province where the truth hasn't yet reached. Very many contacts from Evangelical churches came to know and acknowledge the true light of the Bible and have expressed interest in joining our doctrines. We thank God for this wonderful time. We held meetings and Bible discussions together. We left the place, with these people craving for us to go back, but due to financial constraints we cannot cater for the expense.

Brethren and sisters here in Kenya would like to request you to pay them a visit so that we meet face to face. We could also discuss the possibility of a printer so that we could print *Gospel News* and other literature here, as we feel costs could be cheaper here than in England.

Here, it is winter time and people are busy working on their farms and nurturing their crops. We have now had rain and the crops have flourished . We hope the months of August and September will be harvesting time and that there will be plenty of grain in the stores. Actually, there is a time to plant and a time to harvest. What about true Christians? It is time for them to sow the word of God and they will harvest eternal life when Christ returns as King on earth.

*Brothers David Wanjala and Maanasseh Wamamili*

Comment. We have given some thought to printing *Gospel News* in Eastern Europe, which would be less expensive print wise but not save us on postage. I surmise printing in Kenya would have the same problem. We have looked at several options of printing *Gospel News* ourselves but overall have come to the conclusion we are better using a local printer for the time being. The print industry is rapidly changing and double sided Digital printing is taking over for small runs and I guess the time could well come when we could economically print small runs in several countries and also save on overseas postage which is often more than the printed item.

The concept of having a Christadelphian printing organization in Africa is interesting and would provide employment for Brethren and Sisters and much needed additional literature. I do not deny this additional literature is highly desirable, but would prove to be a substantial additional expense over what is provided at the moment. However, having said that, I am persuaded the Truth is rapidly expanding in Africa and because of the lower labour costs could well economically become a logical center for such a project in the future. They might even be able to print material for the UK at competitive rates. MH.

### **MARALAL**

We join together in the great hope of the soon coming of our Master, even Jesus Christ. I am fine with my wife Sister Judine and our four children. I'm lacking some school fees balance and also I am in isolation at Maralal with my wife and I have some three students but they need correspondence course papers.

*Bro. Joseph Nvani*

### **MATUU**

Thank you for sending another box of *Bible Basics* and a parcel of things. I shall also need some Kiswahili copies of *BB* and of other literature if possible. I enclose our last year's programme of *Bible Basics* studies for you. We were at Bro. David Aphaxard's home place after eight years when I last was there. We are now making several visits over there and he also visited us at Yatta and broke bread with us this month. We are trying to find out how we can help him and his wife visit the nearest ecclesia for Breaking of Bread, maybe once a month God willing. He seems to have settled at his place in Ishiara. Day to day events are the world clock to every brother and. We pray all these events will be a challenge to every one of us eager to meet our Master as he descends from His Father to gather his faithful labourers in his vineyard, then crown them with eternal life. May we all be, or try to be, faithful servants to our Master.

*Bro. Lazarus King'oo*

We become in Christ by baptism but there are some things which we should do to be in the Kingdom of God. These are like breaking of bread with other believers. Some brethren and sisters did not meet with others and they said they have the same faith. But James says in his letter "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" (James 2:14). We see from Luke 6:46 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say". So brothers and sisters we should do like the brothers and sisters in

the early Church. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship and to the breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42-43).

*Bro. John Kingoo*

### **MBITA**

It is now one full month since I heard that my Sister in Jesus, Sister Julia Mabay has fallen asleep, very painful to me, but God's programme is like that. Let all Christadelphians take their sorrows to God when they remember their Sister in the love of Jesus, plus Brother Mabay and his family.

*Bro. Jared Okeseh*

Here in Kenya there is hard politics because some are saying Kibaki is not good enough to be president. So Kenya has no peace until they have who they think is the right leader. But we, as Christians, believe that there will be no peace in the world until Christ comes back to rule the world, so we are praying God to send Christ soon to take power and dismiss the power of the world.

*Bro. Daniel Ogembo Olicch*

### **MSAMBWENI**

Peace is prevailing in Kenya with the exception of tribal clashes here and there but not forgetting that these are some of the early signs of the second coming of Christ. Brothers and sisters here in Kenya are fully prepared and keeping faithful in that they are waiting for Jesus to come to establish this everlasting Kingdom here on earth soon and save his people from this troublesome world. At the present time drought and famine are affecting many parts of Kenya and some brethren and sisters are also affected. Hunger is killing many especially in Northern Kenya and part of the coast. Ours is to pray and keep our hope in God because everything comes from Him. Ecclesias are growing very much and we hope more materials for teaching will reach us from you. Brother Cosmus has been conducting a serious study of the Bible with a group of eight members who are willing to receive and accept the truth. This group wants to change their lives and turn to Jesus and begin a new life as in 2 Corinthians 5:17 where it emphasises that when you are in Christ you become a new creature, the old is forgotten and everything becomes new. Therefore I request some more materials to support us in teaching and enlightening these people towards the truth. I nowadays help in conducting an ecclesia which is growing very fast at Mcome. Hopefully the work of spreading the gospel is going on very well and we are hoping that each and everyone will receive according to his/her works.

*Bro. Gideon Mukeku*

### **MUHORONI**

John the Baptist sent his disciples to Jesus to enquire if the Lord was the one to come or should they look for another. This is a question relevant and vital to Christadelphians today. As much as we are believers in the faith, we should not start to doubt if the Lord Jesus we are looking to is really the one, after a few trials and temptations in our lives. As Christadelphians we are blessed to have the Bible that has everything that we require for exhortation – 2 Tim.3:16-17. As brothers and sisters we should not waver, have doubts and stop the struggle to God's Kingdom. We see the prophecies being fulfilled, indicating that the Kingdom of God is at hand and therefore we should be found clothed with our Lord Jesus and not still asking if Jesus really is the one we believe in. With faith and prayer everything is possible with God through Jesus.

*Bro. Paul Ojwang*

## **NAIROBI**

Praise God! I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ who is truly soon coming - Rev.22:12,20. I thank God for his love upon my life. He has changed my life through His Son, Jesus Christ and now I am a new creature, Phil.3:7-10, seeking to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his suffering. I appreciate your efforts in making sure that the Word of God is being heard in all parts of the world and also in sharing the Word and testimonies of brothers and sisters all over the world through *Gospel News* magazine. I request you to help me know the Word of God and also give it out to the thirsty by sending some *Bible Basics*, *Bible Companions* and a pocket Bible containing Old and New Testaments (King James Version or NIV). I want to be a teacher of the Word of life to youths and teenagers. They need true doctrine, 2 Tim.4:2, 1 Tim.4:11-16. Otherwise keep up with the mighty work (great commission), keep on fighting the good fight of faith (2Tim.4:7-8), and be a workman approved by God, 2 Tim.2:15. For there is a crown of righteousness for you and also to all who persevere in the great commission.  
*Bro. Jared Kidiga*



Photo: Bro. Jared Kidiga

I am very grateful to the Almighty for the way He is using us as an instrument to make known the Truth worldwide. Both contacts and myself are enjoying the book. Thus our class was boosted and two others have joined. The contacts are sharing the copy of "*Principes Bibliques*" you provided, one of them is now attending the meetings. Briefly, I need God's providence to carry out this Herculean task of sharing the Truth with others.

*Bro. Innocent B. E'Engele*

## **NALONDO**

We should welcome a new member by composing a suitable letter of welcome which we can give or send to them. This is your own personal welcome to a new member; you as a recording or elder of the Ecclesia. Also see that you or someone well organized will be available to introduce him to other members of the Ecclesia and make them welcome in the Ecclesia. - To encourage them to feel at ease and at home with us, gain a favourable impression of the fellowship, and the brethren they will work with, quickly feel confident. Identify with the fellowship and develop pride in the fellowship, contribution to the members and their own contribution in the fellowship and members. Know exactly where you fit into fellowship's structure and why it's work is important. Having reminded him of the above objectives, tell him to have everything ready, by using the *Bible Companion* to help him in this. Then Christ will be impressed with his efficiency. He must establish a friendly relationship with other members and remember to adjust to a new environment as well as to learn how he can please God.

Tell him that early in his interview and instruction he was taught the basic principles of the Bible in which he discovered many new things and that your door will always be open for him whenever he has a problem, to give him the necessary training required to get better results and adhere to the sound doctrine which will bring to him and others the right benefits.

*Bro. Moses M. Wanami*



Photo: Bro. Moses Wanami preaching about the necessity of serving the Lord.

### **NANGO**

I am happy to write to you to say I have received your letters with happiness and the expositions, exhortations, kind of message you expressed were welcome and gave me much impetus. Thank you for giving deep thought on how you can help, as much as possible, your dear brothers and sisters from least developed countries of the world, of which Africa is one, to help them alleviate poverty. In Kenya we have many poor brothers and sisters and a few rich brothers and sisters as well, but the surprising thing is that the few rich brothers and sisters seldom consider the plight and concerns of the poor brethren much and this is a pity and a matter of great concern. The greatest reminder to us all is that we should all bear in mind

Paul's letter, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. I hope you will find time to go through it. We are approaching planting season here in Kenya and many brothers and sisters could not find seeds for planting for this season due to severe hunger which affected much of the country last year, 2004, and our only hope and prayer is "let your Kingdom come, your will be done as in heaven."

Your exposition on the signs of the times gave me a lot of inspiration and I would wish to urge you to keep on imparting such things to me whenever you find time. Thank you once again for your concern for me by keeping in constant touch in letter writing which is the best way of knowing each other's state of affairs. This makes me always to refer to Paul's letter, 1 Cor. 12:12-27, more particularly to v. 26 for comfort. In Kenya the drought has contaminated the water and as a result outbreaks of many diseases are in the offing, such as stomach aches, dysentery and other air borne diseases. The water level in Lake Victoria nearby has reduced very much due to drought and other factors which have surprised many. These and many other sad events just add up to the signs of the times around me here. The only animals which can survive these harsh conditions here are the goats for they can go very long without water and they can eat up refuse collected from market centres such as peeled banana leaves, cabbage leaves and maize leaves. You ask what a small goat kid can fetch here, the answer is it costs one thousand, five hundred Kenya shillings, that is equivalent to about twenty U.S\$20 or about £11 at the current exchange rate. For tying up purposes we don't use chains, instead we use sisal ropes which are made locally by those who are in the craft business. Let us encourage one another and all the more as we see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25). This is a verse to be considered all the time by brethren wherever they are. Your loving brother in the one hope of Israel we share and in the soon expectation of the Master's return.

*Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo*



Photo: Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo and his son Erick Odhiambo attending the donkey on their farm

### **NANYUKI**

Here in Nanyuki I'm quite okay in the Lord, enjoying the precious grace of God which has kept me in the faith. I have been helped seeing and reading about how many who are in the faith and are continuing. Also I have understood and been encouraged by the topics that are published. I am requesting *Bible Basics* in Kiswahili, because I have some friends who are studying with me and they cannot understand English. We are an isolated Ecclesia and are sometimes scattered because of job seeking for daily bread.

P.S. I can now inform you that I received the *Bible Basics* that I requested in Kiswahili. I am so glad to have it for it will help those who can't understand English. I have a group of 15 people and they are asking me whether the visitors who visited us the previous time, in 2001, can visit for exhortation.

*Bro. Francis Kinandu*

### **NANDI HILLS**

The photo below is of our contacts who are staying in Nandi Hills. There were more than those you can see in the photo. From left to right Bro. Peter White, U.K., Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir from Kobujoi Nandi Hills. The three standing are the contacts at Nandi Hills. Second row seated are myself, Bro. Alex Abuya, the three contacts and far right Sis. Pensillah of Sonshor East Ecclesia. The third row in the middle Bro. Robert Ryan UK, right Bro. Paul Ojoranos? of Sonshor Ecclesia and on the left side was one of the contacts. Nandi East to Sonshor East is about a 45 minute drive to each other.

*Bro. Alex Abuya*



### **NALONDO**

Loving greetings in the Lord's saving Name. Thanks for your letter which I received last month. Your letter has given me a lot of encouragement. Through *Gospel News* I have noted that God's Word is spreading very fast in many countries of this planet. Our Ecclesia at Nalondo has got more than 50 members who have put on Christ through baptism and as such if somebody can offer us the book entitled: "*How to grow a balanced diet*" will be very good for us. In our Ecclesia we very much fall into the category you mentioned: "Lack of proper medical attention and treatment, getting a balanced diet and some basic education." Most of us are small scale farmers with some plots of a quarter to 3 acres of land, but we lack the skills; so many of us do not produce enough to keep us through the year. The inputs, such as manure, are very expensive and our rains are seasonal. In my case I have a son who joined the university three years ago,

but, due to poverty, he is being unable to continue his fourth year (2005) I indeed need a lot of prayers. He is taking mathematics and computer science. So, brother Marcus, if the suggestions you expressed had been effected earlier, some of us would have adjusted ourselves accordingly. In fact the son I mention is also a brother in Christ and a member of Nalondo Ecclesia.

*Bro. John Munyata*

### **NANDI HILLS**

Much greetings from me. I am well through the name of the Lord. Thank you for sending to me *Bible Basics, A Study Manual*, I am very glad to receive it. For many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14).

I understand the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. Sickness destroys, it's the result of Adam's transgression. Christ came to save us, to heal us, to give us life, to make us whole, but never to destroy us. Jesus said "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

*Bro. Henry K. Mwei*



Photo: Bro. Henry Mwei

### **NAROMORU**

Thank you very much for sending me *Gospel News* which I enjoy reading together with a *Village Health Care Handbook for Africa*. Here in Naromoru there are now four interested in the truth Today I was reading Acts. ch. 8. In Isaiah 53:7-8, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter and like a lamb silent before its shearer so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken." We are reading in *Gospel News* that there are some Ecclesias within our area. We shall contact them and join them, especially in Nanyuki area which is the nearest place we have. Pass my greetings to the brothers and sisters.

*Bro. Angelo Chege*

### **NDALU**

Ndalu Ecclesia baptised three friends, Bro. John and Sisters Caolyne Wafula and Alice Nyongesa during the Bible School held at Kamukuywa Ecclesia. Please pray for us and for the growth of our new members in fellowship. We give our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Bre. Michael Green and David White for the work they did during the Bible School at Kamukuywa. May God bless them so that they arrange another Bible School like that one. Our Sister Agness Wasike was sick at the time of the Bible School and she died a month later, now awaiting the resurrection when the Lord Jesus returns. We thank those too who attended the burial service of our Sister. When some little or great disability is bravely borne, we say, 'It is my cross, and I must carry it'. This is not taking up the cross but bearing our sufferings. The reason for taking up one's cross was to be crucified. The authorities required of the condemned criminal that he should carry his cross to the gallows hill (as Jesus began to do, John 19:17) and if he was unable to carry it alone they might compel one of the bystanders to do it with him or for him (Mark 15:21). Here

Mark is possibly directing attention to a person well known to the early Christians, (Romans 16:13), in which case Simon himself may have been led to believe, and bear the cross spiritually as he had borne it physically. But Paul who gives the full expression to the doctrine of salvation here anticipated, "All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were buried with him through baptism into death. Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that we should no longer be in bondage to sin, for "he that hath died is justified from sin". We do scant justice to the teaching here set out when we speak only of the burial and omit the crucifixion. It is true that baptism denotes a burial, but it is the burial of a body already, in spirit, crucified with Christ, as the burial of his body followed his death. The two malefactors who were hanged side by side with the Lord justly suffer crucifixion, receiving the due reward of their deeds. Through Jesus we may escape the just penalty of our sins. Plead also with the Saviour to remember us when he comes into his Kingdom.

*Bro. Johnstone Kaliwanga*

### **NYANDENGA**

I, your brother in Jesus Christ in the love of God, the creature I have been struggling with, my last born boy is called Walter Duma Owuor. This, my boy has been in hospital for some months. He is young and I know that if God likes to give him life he can, but now he is at home. The only way of helping him is finding a way of paying the hospital bill. I know that God will work out the way to pay the bill.

*Bro. Jared Owuor Oketch*

### **SARE**

I must say that I have been really blessed with the messages from brethren that are being printed in the *Gospel News* "to all nations" booklet and I would encourage you to continue sending me the copies and some copies of the *Bible Basics* for I do have some students whom I am teaching the Truth. Please do note my change of address (If possible can you send me the addresses of some brethren living around where I've migrated to, so that we can fellowship together.

*Bro. Michael Ochieng*

### **SIAYA**

I do remember when a friend of mine borrowed the booklet you gave me on women in church. We were actually in a certain meeting for the youth when the guy found it so interesting that he was willing to have it for some time even though he was a staunch Catholic. This brought about a discussion when he said to me that we need to allow, young ladies, a chance to express whatever they have to say. I pray that the gospel will spread all over the world and for a dear one in Egypt and other Islamic states that are convicted of being anti-Islamic. It is my prayer that you will not be shaken by that and trust in the Lord because with God everything is possible and in the middle of darkness he shall guide you through your fight for survival.

*Bro. Kennedy Kirinya*

### **SINDO**

I have indeed appreciated all the things and the message of love sent to me. You have proved to me that you love me because you have sent me the things I require to encourage me to spread the gospel message and to be well equipped as a soldier of Christ. My message comes from the first book of the Bible. Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The Bible introduced our God as the Creator, the Maker, the Sustainer of life. All we have, all we see,

all the wonderful beauty reveals God's real manifestation of His mighty power. But those who think God is not there are foolish or ignorant about the spirit of God that gives us life. God is real, we can experience the invisible energy in action. For more scripture reference in the Bible about the Creator, take time to read your Bible daily, Isaiah 45:18, Isaiah 44:24, John 1:3, Heb.1:10, 11:3, Rom.1:20, Col.1:16, Job 38:4. Does God exist? The answer is, Yes, Read Acts 17:22-34. My conclusion: God exists. You can carry out a search by reading the Holy Bible, how the God of Israel, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, revealed His purpose and used men and women to do the Lord's service.

*Bro. John Owalo Onani*

### **SUNA MIGORI**

The book "*Where there is no doctor*" is so good and I am sure it is going to reduce our dependence on medical doctors, it is an asset to our well being and I am very grateful. May the good Lord be with you as you continue with his work until he comes. From the look of things, from the extract of the article, signs of the times, the events taking place now show that the coming of the Master must be very near – this is good news because he is coming to set all things right.

*Bro. Joseph Onyango*

Actually I have gone through the study manual and analysed the topics and answered all the questions. In fact it has improved my Bible knowledge (Word of God). I will send the answered questions soon. Since a serious accident I repented of my sins and prayed to God to open a way for me to join a theology college. Since I could not afford to pay the college fee, I remained persistent in prayer. In 2003 I met Moses Maleya who introduced me to you. I felt as if the correspondence course was made for me, I thanked God and prayed for the brothers in England for the good work they are doing.



Photo: Benjamin Mwatu

I wrote to you some time back seeking advice on the formation of an ecclesia. Thanks, you referred me to Kababu, but I'm sorry I've not got any help since it's situated some 50 km. from my village. I have very many enthusiastic friends who have been going through the reading materials you have been sending me. I feel there's a need to have an ecclesia in my village. I have a group of about 16 people and this will make a good start. The problem is that I have not been baptised, I don't even have a tutor. I lost my father last year, 20th June 2004. We are living in a country where there are a lot of financial and economy problems.

*Moses Maleya*

### **TONGAREN**

I am very glad to introduce myself to you as a brother. I am newly baptised. November 15th brothers from UK had a Bible School in Kamukuywa Ecclesia, Brothers Green, White and Roberts taught us the Word of God and it was a jovial and nice time. As from my introduction, I'm still new in the faith, my request now is to ask if you can send more books for me to know the

Word of God fully as I make my way towards His Kingdom.

*Bro. Daniel Simitu*

A suggestion for helping African ecclesias to become independent is to start low cost projects such as farming and livestock. Every ecclesia should have at least a piece of land for planting and at least one cow for milking. Every ecclesia should have a school or training institute to enable people to go for training. These are some ways of reducing poverty for the Christadelphian members. To make the ecclesia become more independent local ecclesias should write direct to UK ecclesias. Also every ecclesia should have its own bank account, its rules and its PO Box address. If something is needed, the local ecclesia elder should write direct to the UK. If ecclesias could have clinics with low cost payments, they could survive and become independent. About learning English through Biblical topics, it's good because many of us do not understand English well. This can make someone qualify to speak English fluently. I have received a 16 section course based on Mark's gospel, am I to return the answers for marking and should it be the full answers of the lesson or should we answer in part?

*Bro. Isaac Kapa*

I am a newly baptised sister and I need books to build up my faith. I would like my name to be attached to a *Gospel News* mailing list. Also I request the book *Bible Basics* either in Bukusu or Swahili language. I also am looking for a Bible to read for myself if you can assist me.

*Sis Guin Mandako*



Photo: Sis. Guin Mandako

In our tribe (and I expect also in some others) we have marriage problems. When a couple are living together as man and wife, but have not gone through the tribal marriage procedures, when the husband dies, the wife is not allowed to attend the funeral, is driven out from the family home, is destitute and sometimes an old widow needing support. This does not happen when the marriage has been arranged according to our tribal practice. The reason so many marriages are not properly arranged is because we cannot afford to do so. In order to enable our Sisters to avoid this horrible situation we need to make many 'marriages' official before the Brother dies. – Most live a hand-to-mouth existence and the cost of weddings is generally beyond us. Please is it possible for us to be helped in this matter?

*A Sister (Name withheld)*

*Comment. I am aware of this major problem not only in Africa but elsewhere. My personal feeling is that we should all have proper registered marriages, but I am aware of the financial implications often experienced, however, I feel inwardly we should, as a community, be doing something to deal with this substantial problem. We would be interested in having others' views on this matter. MH.*

## **UKUNDA**

I want to tell you what, I always say the *Gospel News* magazine is like our bus in which we meet,

it takes us to our working place to get our daily bread. We all meet in this Magazine by different articles and information from brethren worldwide. Some are near, others so very far away that we can't see each other, but sometimes we see pictures. I would like to urge every brother and sister in this faith, to be faithful, to work for God and be patient for the return of our Lord Jesus to bring peace. What we heard of in Asian countries is really a sign of the Lord's return. So let us be ready, not slumbering. I want to thank you for the good book you sent me entitled, "*Women in the Church*," by Brother Duncan. I thank God for Brother Duncan whom God is using in this ministry. May God bless him In His mercy. I tell you brother that I will continue supporting you in prayer that this project continue to be a blessing to us all.

*Bro. Edward Kunikind*

### **WEBUYE**

I am very eager to know or learn more from the book "*How to grow a balanced diet*". Our family and the community as well live under difficult circumstances of growing our own food. This is due to lack of proper knowledge. I hear from the *Gospel News* of Jan/Feb 2005 that it can train me in a worthwhile, satisfying and healthy career with my youths and elders in our ecclesias and those around us. We will be able to assess the diet in our community and the crops being grown locally in terms of their contribution to a balanced diet. So please send one copy of this book to my above address in Kamukuywa ecclesia.

*Bro. Wilgibson Mackenzie*

### **news from malawi**

#### **JALI**

I would like to thank you for everything you send to me here. I would beg you to send me an English Bible; I need this Bible because of the material you send me written in English. So if you can send this to me everything will be understood.

*Bro. R. Mapseru*

#### **KASUNGU**

Although the books took a very long time to reach me I am very glad to have received them safely, I and my Sister wife thank you very much for them. I realise now that some books are very useful in our farming work and you have really sent me a very useful book, '*How To Grow a Balanced Diet*' and also the book, '*Where There is No Doctor*'. My farming work is seasonal and at other parts of the year I have nothing to do, so I have plenty of time to read the books you send me. I have very few books on my shelf and I have read them all. Had it been that I had received the book, '*How To Grow a Balanced Diet*' in the past, I think by now I would have alleviated our hunger situations.

*Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala*

#### **LILONGWE**

Sis. Malita and I agreed to be as one body in 1979 and now we have got nine children, which shows us that God still protects and guides us. My message for these last days is found in Psalms 1:1, 2 Timothy 3:1, 2 Peter 3:1. I send greetings to all brothers and sisters.

*Bro. H. Benito*



Photo: Bro Benito and Sis. Malita

I was in Zomba for a month to encourage a number of brothers and sisters and it was all very nice. Also I was in Balaka for one-and-a-half months where I attended some gatherings and everything was good. In Balaka there were a number of JW's and I found one member to whom I would like you to send two *Bible Basics*. Also, if you have a Chechewa copy, please send me one. Lastly, if you have any 'lectures' on Revelation chs 1-11 please also try to send them to me.  
*Bro. Finley G. Nkomelah*

### **MALUWA**

I say thank you for your letter and for *Gospel News*; it is good, and I read it day and night. It tells of the sudden coming of our Saviour, Jesus, and also deals with our fellow brethren and sisters in different countries. I am a man of 35 years and am married to Elizabeth and we have children, girls and boys. I have problems with some verses in the Bible, so please help me.  
*Bro. Charles Kasonya*

### **MIGOWI**

I am encouraging you to send more literature so that we can grow in our spiritual life. We need Bibles in Chichewa because there are some brothers and sisters who do not speak or understand English well and do not have Chichewa Bibles. In addition, could you also provide me with a Bible in English.  
*Bro. Maxwell M. Tebulo*

### **MPINGANJIRA**

I have noticed that many Pentecostal and charismatic churches are 'speaking in tongues', but, alas, contrary to the Bible teachings – in other words, baseless from the Bible. Please be alert! Prophecy started in the Old Testament as well as Mark 16:17, "And these signs will follow those who believe; In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." Acts 2:4-8: "They (the apostles) were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Indeed, the scripture quoted signifies the beginning of speaking in tongues. The marvel was that people from "every nation under heaven" heard the apostles speaking in their own native tongue. God inspired the apostle Paul to give guidance on the speaking in tongues, "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying" (1 Cor. 14:5). Speaking in tongues was to be done in an orderly manner, and be interpreted, so that the church could be edified. Brothers and sisters, don't be carried away with false teachings, always consult the Bible which is our guide and not human beings' thoughts. Those who disregard the provisions of 1 Corinthians 14 should read again 2 Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". *Bro. Morris Assani*

### **NENO**

I am teaching the orphans I told you about last year and caring for them. Any second-hand clothes for them will be gratefully received. Whatever hardship there may be, we will stand still

and pray to our God without ceasing, as He hears prayers.

*Bro. Edmond N. Store*



Photo: The orphan children Bro. Store is caring for.

### **NSELENIA**

I am greatly appreciative of the teachings that you present to me; this indeed helps me to gain and extend my knowledge. My humble gratitude should be extended to my tutor, Bro. Keith J. Lowe, who guided me into the Bible; he confronted me with everything in the 40 lessons without getting tired. I progressed well. My brother is also getting on OK with the course. Although I am isolated, I have many friends at Nipiri Secondary School where I am in form 3, but I fail to convince them of the truth, since I do not have enough materials, even a Bible. I would appreciate it if you could send me five *Bible Basics* and more reading matter immediately.

*Bro Lanjesi Chiyani*



Photo: Bro Lanjesi Chiyani

### **NTAJA**

I am a boy aged 19 years and a Christadelphian. I am still at school and have also developed the habit of reading *Gospel News* and also tracts. With the good news I come across whilst reading the magazine, plus the tracts, I have come to the point of urging you to send me some more books.

*Bro. Tholesi Nazombe*

### **PHALOMBE**

Before I was converted to the truth I did not know that God can really heal, but when I started reading the Magazine I found that God is the only one who can do so. Brother, continue sending me *Gospel News* as I so much enjoy reading it, especially the letters from brothers and sisters. Even when I can't meet with others (as my circumstances are hard at this time) I feel one with them. I can see how we all suffer and how that everything is moving towards the return of Jesus and the coming of the Kingdom. Brother, if possible, please send me a Bible, I haven't one.

*Bro. Thom M. Bicycle*

### **SENGABAY**

I am your fellow labourer in the service of the Lord and a member of Sengabay Ecclesia in Salima, I was baptised in May 2003 after learning the truth from Bro. Duncan Heaster's beautiful work packed in *Bible Basics*. As we are busy preaching the gospel to "all the creatures", there is great need that we, as pioneers, need to know the Word of Truth in depth by reading the Bible for deeper knowledge. After reading through some of the pamphlets written and published by you, I have all the confidence that they can lead an eager reader to the truth as it is in Jesus. Please

send me some more to share with others.

*Bro. George Nkhoma*

### **TENGANI**

I was so glad when I received your letter and rejoiced. I appeal to you to send me material monthly. Please, my request is for you to send me a Bible and, if possible, cassettes for my mother, who lives with us and is blind, so that she may learn of God and grow spiritually.

*Bro. Eleck Bryala*



Photo: Bro. Bryala with his wife, mother and children

### **THEKERANI**

Here in Malawi there is only poverty. Thank you very much for sending the Magazine which I am happy to have, keep sending it to me. Can you send me a Bible in Chichewa as I am unable to read carefully the words of God without this Bible. I shall be very grateful if you can assist me.

*Bro. S.G. Zaliwa*

### **TSANGANO**

The problems which we face here are as follows: (1) We pray under the tree due to lack of money. Sometimes we are unable to finish our prayers because of the rainfall in the rainy season. (2) We try to build our church, but due to the heavy rain it collapses, because we are unable to have the iron sheets required. (3) Because of the heavy rainfall we are unable to harvest bumper yields. As a result there is hunger each year.

*Bro. P. Mbingwani*

### **THONDWE**

Something is radically wrong with the human race: they hurt each other and themselves; they rob and rape; they swear and steal; they murder and molest; nations oppose nations and there are always wars and rumours of wars. The trouble with man is sin. Our greatest enemy is not ignorance or inflation, debt or deflation, disease or death. Our greatest enemy is sin in the hearts of people. The confusion, suffering and sorrow in the world comes because of sin.

Sin separates us from God (Isa 59:1-2). Nothing else can separate us from God, but sin has great power over us. What is sin? What are its results in human life? Is there any way of escape from its consequences?

*Bro. Exvin A. Kasalagwe*



Photo: Bro. Exvin A. Kasalagwe

### **TENGANI**

I am very, very glad to receive your magazine concerning Jesus Christ. I am married with three sons and four daughters. Here in Malawi we are poor and do not have money to buy all the Bibles necessary.

*Bro. Sittaffa Goba*



Above: Bro. Goba with his wife and child.

Below: Two daughters dressed for a special occasion. Note the skill of the Malawian needle-woman.



### **THYOLO**

It is by the grace of God that you are sending me the Magazine and books which are helping me and the Christadelphian church to grow every day. Please continue to pray for us as we are praying for you.

*Bro. Smart Lombe*

### **ZOMBA**

One cannot and should not use force to compel anyone to accept the faith, for faith is a free gift of God (John 6:44,47), It is also wrong to put to death any one for the sake of their erring faith. The ecclesia should use no sword other than the Divine Sword OF God (Eph6:17). The secular kingdom should be separate from the ecclesia and no secular ruler should exercise authority in the ecclesia. The Lord has commanded simply to preach the gospel and not to compel anyone to accept it by force. The true ecclesia of Christ has the testimony that it suffers and endures persecution, but does not inflict persecution on any one.

Bro. MacArthur Salamu

### **news from nigeria**

#### **ABA**

I recieved the package of the *Gospel News* with many thanks! Here in Aba ecclesia, we are not experiencing isolation, I think it is a blessing! We have 81 Baptised members and a number of interested friends. When I read about those experiencing disasters, isolation, drought, etc., I feel pity for them. I know I cant help them in any other way but am praying for them. Please can

you help me get any pen pal because I love writing people outside my ecclesia...they can write to webmaster@ojike-peter4t.com

I am Peter by name and a reader of Gospel News., I want to commend you for the efforts you have been making in gathering informations worldwide and publishing it. I pray that YHWH will guide you.

'Gospel News' has been my companion for many times. It makes me know that I have brethren all over the world and also encourages me when i read of the hardships my brothers are in, especially those in the Arab countries which are mainly Muslin and the faith they have to overcome them.

*Bro Peter Ojike*

### **ENUGU**

I thank those who contribute in various ways to produce *Gospel News*; it acts as a 'TV' where we can see ourselves and hear voices of others. *Gospel News Magazine* is one of the greatest things that happened in Christadelphia, whereby everybody can speak, no matter whether they are black or white. It has helped us to know that Christadelphians are all over the world and we should not bother about how few we may be in our different places; we are all one family (Gal. 6:10).

*Bro. Goddy Nwosu*

### **IKWUEKE**

As Ikwueke Oboro is a newly opened ecclesia we see the work of the truth in these last days as a task while we rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him. This journey which we have started cannot proceed without your support and active prayers of those desirous of strengthening our feeble hands in this faithful labour (Isa 35:3). When God started to form the Israelitish nation, He began with an unknown man, Abraham, and he waited patiently for the Lord. He quietly followed the characteristics of God by keeping His commandments in fear. I take this opportunity to say to all who love our Lord Jesus to follow the footsteps of our father Abraham with confidence and hope. As a new ecclesia, we are still waiting to receive preaching materials from brethren world wide. My wife and I now thank you for your encouragement on our newly opened ecclesia; we desire your earnest prayers for its growth. We apologize for the long delay in thanking you, and may the Almighty God guide you in all your efforts in spreading the preaching materials on us in these last days. In going through *Gospel News* I came across a book, '*Where There Is No Doctor*'. We would appreciate a copy of this, and while we look every minute to receive your return answer we wait for our Master's call.

*Bro. Friday Enyiogu*



Photo: Left (sitting) Bro. F.E. Umesi and right (standing) Bro. F.E. Enyiogu. In front of him is Sis. Janet Enyiogu and Sis. Comfort Umesi. Others are our friends awaiting baptism

### **OGOJA**

I received the 10 copies of *Bible Basics* and *Gospel News*; I am thankful to you for everything. A few copies of *Bible Basics* in the Ibo language will help me a lot when talking to my Ibo contacts in my country home. A number of them belong to the Jehovah's Witnesses, but with a book

written in the Ibo language I think I will bring them to the truth. Please also send me 'Elpis Israel' and 'The Life and Work of Dr. John Thomas'.

Bro. Mike O. Takon

### **URHONIGBE**

I am sorry I have not written for many months, the reason being pressure of things in Nigeria. Despite that I still focus my attention on the daily readings because the Bible is the only thing that can give me solace while facing predicaments. Please, we are so much in need of Hymn Books in my ecclesia, the few we had have been lacerated.

*Bro Osaretin Jolly*

### **news from south africa**

We have had two more baptisms here, they are: Sis Eunice Ntombekhaya Mdibaniso and Brother Sinethemba Mafakula. This brings the ecclesia here to 18. Another lady would have been baptized but her husband a member of the Zionist Church forbid it. We have fenced off the plot of ground for our meeting room and hope to start building as soon as enough funds are available. Brother Templeton has been very ill with peritonitis and could have died, but our Father is merciful. He is much better, but he will be having an operation shortly.

*Norman Durk.*



Photo: The Ecclesias at Candu, Transkei, South Africa

### **news from tanzania**

#### **KILOSA**

The Bible is the Book for today. It contains answers and solutions to today's questions and problems. It relates to youth and old age, rich and poor. Its principles are eternal. History has verified its predictions and archaeology sustains historical record. Its words are charged with light and life. Its wisdom is pre-eminent in all the world. Give your attention to it, reader, for in it lies your only hope of spiritual abundance here, and life in the world to come.

God has stated the plan of salvation in such terms that the most humble can understand it by faith. But the simplicity of the gospel has suffered much from theological debate and 'expert' analysis. Were the uncertain and indirect reasoning of the theologians scrapped and the simple statements of Christ and the prophets taken at their face value, the honest seeker for truth would find in them light and life. That is why Paul speaks of salvation as a secret made known through the living witness of Christ. Only the earnest seekers, whom God calls, can understand it. All such accept the promises of God by faith and find them to be a living reality. Thousands living and dead have found satisfaction at the fountain of living waters.

Men have tried everything else and found only faint flickers of fleeting fancy. They have tasted the apples of Sodom and found them ashes. "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come all to the waters, and he that has no money, come, buy and eat; come buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa. 55:1)

*Bro. Alick J. Noah*

### **IFAKARA**

One of the main supports I received after my baptism seven years ago were the editorials Duncan wrote. The wide range of topics they covered and the things they taught must have helped many in the entire brotherhood. Please collect them in a book so that they are better preserved and send me a copy.

*Bro. Kimimino Mnzava*

### **KIGOMA**

We at the ecclesia of Kibinzi do feel a great need for translating periodicals and other materials into Kiswahili for the following reasons: about 60% speak only Swahili, these are typically our members or potential members. So, many of our members can't speak or write English. We feel that if there were to be a good number of translations of our materials there would be a smooth spread of the word. We put this as a request. Also, we request the book titled, '*Where There Is No Doctor*' for our ecclesia.

*Bro. Abed Edward*

### **KIRUGU**

We received the box which had books and an English Bible. We have rejoiced so very much and thank you. I would like to inform you that I have a heavy burden of cooking the porridge instead of tea and loaves of bread to feed the Sunday School pupils every Sunday. The number of pupils increases day after day and, personally, I have no ability myself, and nor has the ecclesia the funds, to feed them. Please, I need your suggestions, to look after this group of Sunday School fledglings.

*Bro. Jerome Bukambo*

**Comment.** I think one has to be cautious in providing a meal for children and it would be best to consult with your Linkman. If he approves I think the Save the Children Fund, P.O.Box 25651, 195 Wellington Road, South London, On, Canada N6C 6B3, might help. MH



Photo: Members of Kirugu ecclesia

### **KYELA**

Thanks to the CIL for their weekly exhortations and Bible studies which are very informative and understandable. I appeal to all my fellow Christadelphians that, when they exhort, their exhortations should be faithful and generous with mercy, and especially when preaching the gospel. We should teach people to turn to JESUS to be saved, not to ourselves, as politicians do at their meetings. Read John 1:19-23 "This is the testimony of John the Baptist when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites and asked him who he was. He confessed freely, I am not the Christ." It was not necessary for them to know who *he was*. He didn't like people to admire him, but Jesus only. He was an ordinary man. We should not let people respect us because of our positions in our ecclesia, instead we should tell them to respect Jesus Christ our Saviour.

In Matt. 12:15-16 Jesus told those healed not to make him known, "warning them not to tell who he was". Verse 18 reads, "Behold my servant whom I have chosen", this shows that Jesus came as a servant of people, not as a master. Listen to what Jesus says, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave" (Matt. 20:26,27). So here again Jesus still insists that he came to serve, not to be served. John denied being the Christ; his testimony is in John 1:23, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, Make straight the way for the Lord". He was the voice that sent the message of the coming Lord. The voice would have no importance without the message. We ought to be a voice that proclaims the message so that people can hear and turn to Jesus. We should use our voice and proclaim our message that Jesus is for the lost ones, that he is the one who takes away their sins. In verses 29-34, we read that John told them that he had been sent before the coming of Jesus and when Jesus appeared, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". We are to be the witnesses. Look how people have despaired, and are dying without hope of inheriting eternal life. Are there no messengers to tell them why the world is in such a mess? We are to preach the good news of the coming Kingdom of God.

*Bro. Simeon Mwakalinga*

Photo: The family of Bro. Mwakalinga, after Bible study, practising hymns. Left Bro. Simeon, centre Bro. Simeon's wife, Christina and, right, their daughter, Sis. Sefa Tonoka



### **MUSOMA**

The word 'church' has a very special meaning for us. Jesus said, "...I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). We are also told that a great number joined a church for fellowship (Acts 2:41). In the early church they lived and worked together (Acts 2:44-47). We also read of Saul making havoc of the church (Acts 8:3), and of work in the church (1 Cor. 12:27). Christ "loved the church" (Eph. 5:25). The word church therefore can define a meeting place of God's people whether it be on a mountain (Matt. 5:1) in a house (Acts 12:12) or at the riverside.

*Bro. Juma Marwa*

### **UVINZA**

Members of Lugufu 1 ecclesia do not know the English language. Thank you for sending a copy of the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor', we hope it will help us very much at times of sickness.

*Bro. Rehani Pascal*

I am keeping well, together with my family. Thank you for your letter and other materials which you sent me. I am sorry for the delay in responding, but it is because of the instability at the Camp. Sometimes we get no permission to go out of the Camp, and our Post Office is situated at least 30km from here, so before leaving we are obliged to get Authorisation papers.

*Bro. Bernard Wabene W'ikola*

### **news from uganda**

#### **BUSOLWE**

Thank you for the work you are doing. For us this way, we are disturbed by some sickness and

also we are experiencing the sunshine, therefore farming is very hard. My message is found in Jude, vs. 24-25: "To him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Saviour, be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord now and for evermore. Amen." Please kindly send me a copy of *Bible Basics*.

Bro. Yokosani Higenyi



Photo: Bro Yokosani Higenyi

### **BIBLE-LESS CHRISTADELPHIANS**

We are amazed at the number of Brethren and Sisters who appear not to have a Bible of their own, as indicated in some of these letters. The Word of God is essential to our spiritual development, just as our daily food is essential to our physical bodies. We need to be reading the Bible ITSELF rather than ABOUT it.

In an endeavour to rectify this, we would be happy to receive spare Bibles from brethren and sisters to send out, or, if preferred, we can send names and addresses for you to send the Bibles direct. Or we can send for you a new central reference Bible, to anywhere in the world for £10. inclusive of postage

An objection sometimes raised to sending Bibles is that they may be sold. People willing and able to pay for a Bible must truly want one. Whilst this may have occurred in a few exceptional cases, it is not usual. I see a need for a more positive attitude in ensuring that all our members/senior Sunday School scholars, those seriously preparing for baptism have a Bible; where they cannot afford to buy one for themselves we should endeavour to supply them. MH

### **IGANGA**

Sincere thanks go to your Committee who have sacrificed themselves in providing *Gospel News* to us in Uganda. It has really helped our spiritual development. God bless and reward you. Can you please send me my own copy?

Bro. Ofwono Amos

### **MBARARA**

All brothers and sisters here like and love reading *Gospel News*, we always pray to God to enable you to continue the humble work of sending it to us. Another box of *Bible Basics* has arrived but it only means a few for each of the local Ecclesias and there is need for more. We hope and pray for the final print of the Ugandan 'Runyankore' edition of *Bible Basics* soon so that the non-English readers are accessed to the truth. We have appreciated the Bibles given to us, but they are never enough due to the growing number of people joining us

Bro Godwin Mugasi

## **CHAMBISHI**

Prayer is the only way we can speak to our Creator, the Lord God; it is the media He has made available for us to communicate with Him without any trouble. Unlike the systems we use to communicate between ourselves there cannot be any breakdown if we pray with faith. God hears our prayers and answers them. The speed with which sound travels from broadcasting infrastructures to our radios is much, much slower than the speed it takes for our prayers to reach the ears of our Creator, "For the Lord God knows the things that we need before we even ask of Him" (Matt. 6:31-32 +v8).

In Zambia, in the rain season of 1994, there was no rain until January 1998. Normally the signs of the rains come in October, but that was not the case that particular season. However, all the churches prayed for rain and the sky opened, it poured and the drought threat was over. How merciful our Creator is! When Joshua prayed, the Lord heard his prayer and the sun stood still (Josh. 10:12,13). The apostle James says in his letter that a prayer said faithfully would heal the sick, even put one out of trouble (James 5:13-16). Elijah prayed that it should not rain for a few years and, because he was faithful to the Lord, it did not rain (1 Kings 17:7) and in verses 21 and 22 Elijah prayed to the Lord God for the life of a dead boy and the Lord heard Elijah and restored the child to life. Through prayer Elijah did many wonderous miracles. If we read through chapter 18 of 1 Kings God tells us not to pray for our brethren and sisters only, but for our enemies also because some of those people who oppress us are somehow God's chosen people, but their time has not yet come, like that of the biblical Saul who later came to be known as Paul (read Acts 9:1-20) Also Cornelius, Caesar's centurion, had faith when he prayed and the Lord heard and blessed him. The apostles of Jesus performed many miracles through faithful prayers. Our lesson here is perseverance in prayer and meditation on God's inspired word, the Bible.

*Bro. Willies Simbowe*



Photo: At the Bush Camp in Zambia. Bro. Willies Simbowe in the middle, standing.

## **CHINGOLA**

Please send some Bibles, like NIV, AV or ASV. The Bibles we have are NKJV and are not now in good condition because of using them daily. However, to have different versions is better than having just one version. An example I can give you is Micah 5:2. Some Christadelphians have doubts on this and those from other churches. They say Jesus was physically existing from the creation of the world and that Jesus is God Himself. Read also Dan.3. In the NKJV verse 25 ends with a big 'G' – "God"; in the RSV it ends with a small 'g' - "gods". Also read 1 John 5:7. In the NKJV "the Word" is a physical Jesus and this is what people think, but at verse 8 it says exacty as in the RSV at verse 7, and the RSV is talking about the composition of a human body

*Bro. Pinoty Chimbele*

## **CHINSALI**

Today we are living in bad times. However, a child of God is supposed to lift up his head, to look afar and see the blessings of God. Many Christians today are being persecuted. The most important thing for us is to lay up treasure in heaven, where thieves do not break in and steal

(Matt. 6:19-20). We need to keep our lamps burning so that Jesus will find us ready when he comes. Provided we remain clean in our hearts and deeds we need not get worried about our life, what we shall eat and drink, nor for our clothes. Let us put God in our hearts and in all aspects of our life. God is good. So let us do these things during our lifetime; when we die that will mark the end for any opportunities. So let us strive to see that we achieve our goal, which is to be in God's Kingdom. Present problems will be no more in the Kingdom. Christ is the best medicine we can ever have for a troubled mind.

*Bro. Ignatius Chikkwa*

The love of God is far greater than the love of man. Sometimes it is beyond our understanding. There is many an occasion in the Old Testament where the love of God permitted men to suffer for a little while so that far greater good could be done. Nowhere was the extent of God's love more clearly depicted than when He allowed the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. This may seem strange to us, but it did not mean that God loved Jesus any less; it was because of God's love for the world that He permitted the sufferings of His Son. Nor did the decision of Jesus to remain where he was at the time of Lazarus's death mean that he loved Lazarus any less. To many it may seem a dreadful thing that Lazarus should have had to die. Why could not his pain and the grief of others have been averted? The Lord saw it differently. There was a greater purpose already clear to him. This is because God sees death differently, too. For us, death is a time of bereavement, of sadness and loneliness. To God, death is merely the sleep of those who love Him and who are part of His eternal purpose. The apostle Paul explains how this can be: "...even God, who gives life to the dead, and calls those things which do not exist as though they did" (Rom. 4:17).

*Bro. Edward Mutale*

I have been coming across *Gospel News* once in a while and the moment I read them they help me a lot spiritually. It will be of great help if you will send them, because they will be read by a group of four brethren.

*Bro. Dinuiswayo Nyawali*

### **KABOMPO**

I am a baptized Brother in Kabompo ecclesia and was baptized by Bro. John Palmer in August 2001. I have been trying to get included on your mailing list, but in vain.

*Bro. Charles Muhupu*

### **KABWE**

My promotion results are out and I am glad to let you know that I made it to the second year. We opened schools on February 14 and were only in college for two months before being sent on teaching practice to various schools; in the second term therefore we will be required to pay nothing. In the third term we will return for the crucial final Diploma paper.

*Bro. Lapulani Malata*

### **KAFUE**

The whole Bible is the only true message from God, entirely inspired by Him. There is only one God, the Father, who created the world as described in Genesis. The Holy Spirit is the power of God, no one possesses its miraculous powers today. Jesus was born the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was also son of man, through Mary. Jesus overcame all temptation and died to save his followers from sin and from eternal death. Jesus was raised from the dead

by God; he later ascended bodily to heaven and is immortal. Jesus will return to earth and raise from the dead all who have known and understood the gospel. He will judge them and grant eternal life to the faithful. Jesus will rule as King over the ancient kingdom of God restored in Israel. His capital will be Jerusalem and he will be assisted by his immortal followers in ruling the world. The Kingdom will result in everlasting righteousness and peace on earth and all problems, sin, pain and death will finally be removed. The 'devil' is another name for sin, overcome by Jesus. Salvation involves the forgiveness of sin now and ultimate freedom from both sin and death following acceptance by Christ at his second coming. When a man dies he ceases to exist; no part of him goes on living. The only hope of everlasting life is by resurrection of the body at the return of Christ. Belief in God's promises concerning the Kingdom of God and the work of Jesus Christ is essential. These promises were made to Abraham, David etc. and relate to Christ and those who are Christ's., Belief, repentance and baptism into Christ by immersion in water are now required by God of all who would become 'brethren in Christ' and "heirs of salvation". Followers of Jesus need to live lives that will please and honour God.

*Bro. Bornwell Mudenda*

### **KALOMO**

Thank you very much for the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor'. I need more books talking about health care; this is the thing that I'm doing as a home-based care giver looking after sick people in the community.

*Bro. Lameck Mtonga*

At this time of year I am at the farm and have planted 15kg of cotton in my field and also tomatoes in my garden. The Danavant Company, who deal mainly with cotton farmers, provide cotton seeds to its registered members; the Company also provides chemicals to its members after checking and having seen that the cotton has grown well and nearly ready to be sprayed. It was in the year 2002 that I registered as a member and started planting cotton at the farm. Now the cotton is healthy and needs machine spraying so that worms etc. do not damage the leaves, flowers etc. The Company supply a sprayer, but only one per group of 15 people and therefore it takes a long time to get the sprayer as there are more than 15 in our group and the Company is unable to supply more. Because of this problem I would very much like to have my own sprayer, as it takes too long waiting in the group. Also, if I had my own sprayer I could use it for the tomatoes as well. If anyone could help me to get a sprayer of my own I would be thankful.

*Bro. Webster Hambula*

### **KASAMA**

My family and I are quite fine. This is to let you know that I have received everything you posted and I thank you kindly. I am very thankful for the work you are doing by encouraging me towards God's word and truth.

*Bro. Joshua Muchili*

### **KAZEMB**

God made this world and made man to be in control of all that he had created. Because of His tender love we are united spiritually; I know you and am able to call you "Brother" through Jesus Christ our Master though you are miles and miles away overseas. This is very wonderful. I was delighted to receive your letter and the most wanted copy of the debate with 'Rev' Jacqueline Henry, indeed this was a very crucial and sensitive issue.

*Bro. John Kasanda*

## **KITWE**

I am very grateful to receive, 'Where There Is No Doctor', the book 'Demons' by Bro. Duncan and the 'Revision Studies' booklet, also the news items. In this country it will soon be very difficult for an ordinary person to write a letter abroad due to postage costs. I do appreciate your efforts to assist me in every way humanly possible.

*Bro. Elvin Muntemba*

I wish to congratulate the CAT for their effort in preaching the gospel in countries where Christians can be persecuted. Despite death threats you are not afraid to go and preach to those in prison. For this reason I am also determined to do the work of our Master. A while back I was distributing 'Present Day Events' in park lands near Lubambe centre. When I gave one to a lady she read about God's plan on Bush's re-election and Arafat's death. She asked me who I was and I told her I am a Christadelphian. She said, You know that people in this world think that singing and dancing in churches (as is the case in our country) is the way to worship God. The true gospel of God has past its true identity, so keep on what you are doing. I have received eight copies of the English *Bible Basics*, plus a KJV wide margin Bible. Surely this will be a success in helping towards the proclamation of the word of God because of it containing (1) the *Bible Companion* reading tables and (2) a summary of Christadelphian doctrines, all of which will help the reader to understand the word of God. I wish to inform you that I have started a new way of distributing *Bible Basics*. I try to infiltrate our doctrines into other churches; I begin with six copies of *Bible Basics*. I supplied a Christian bookshop in Kitwe town; this bookshop is frequented by people of different churches. If some of them begin to read and study *Bible Basics* they will share what they read with their fellow church members and, by God's grace, the true Bible teaching will be known by many more people (Hab. 2:14). So please, if possible, send more English *Bible Basics*; I will try the same tactics in other towns of the Copperbelt.

*Bro. Robert Miwele*



Photo: Left Bro. Robert Miwele with Bro. Elvin Muntemba

## **LUSAKA**

As a matter of interest, I became a Brother last year, on April 18th. I came into contact with the truth in the Northern part of my country when my parents thought of moving there. I met Bre. Evans Mwansa and Stephen Chanda who shared the truth with me openly. Please send me *Gospel News* because I enjoy reading the encouraging articles and Christian experiences as we await Jesus' coming.

*Bro. Jaxon Kalumba Jr.*

## **MISAKA**

I was an active Catholic before I joined the Christadelphians. In 1994 I heard the call from the Lord God through Bro. Nelson Bwalya and other brethren from Kitwe ecclesia. When I was only a contact I was doing my work in politics, being well known and feeling very pompous. I left worldly things in 1997 and was baptised in 1998. Nowadays in Misaka we are six baptised

brothers – no sisters. We have tried to preach the gospel, but fail in this area; they are coming to have knowledge, but doing like Nicodemus did to Jesus. Their children come to my home like beggars and fear political leaders.

*Bro. Costa Mwapa*

### **MUZOKA**

I'm so glad to hear that you will be sending me the books, *'Where There Is No Doctor'* and, *'How To Grow A Balanced Diet'*; this will, indeed, help a lot. It all needs perseverance to have some of the things you mentioned go in the direction we want – that is as long as it doesn't take wings overnight. You really need to spell out your ideas, which at first only a few will realize and go in your direction because of its importance. I like the saying, If you give a man a fish he will eat at once. If you teach him to fish he will eat for the rest of his life. It's good you talked of three areas of concern, which I concur with. This will have an impact which many of us are going to really appreciate.

*Bro. Wilfred Chibomba*

### **NAKONDE**

I would like to start the Correspondence Course that is in two parts, *'Introducing Bible Basics'* and from the *Bible Basics* manual. The other thing is, can you help me with a King James Bible. I gave the one I had to someone who didn't have a Bible, so I'm using the NIV, but when we're having a Bible study it is difficult to follow without a KJ Bible. If you can please help me I will be very happy.

*Bro. Martin Sinrukwa*

I am writing this letter to tell you that I really love having the *'Introducing Bible Basics'*. We really know that the word of God is the light to our path and we try to live by it. We should all continue working for the Lord, for we know well that our labour is not in vain, for we shall enter His rest when Jesus returns to set up the Kingdom. I also have to inform you that my father has changed our address to above.

*Sis. Esther Muntete*

## **news from zimbabwe**

### **BINDURA**

I am grateful for the textbook, *'Where There Is No Doctor'*; it is quite an interesting and helpful book in our environment and very educative. I am in touch with a lady who is very interested in the truth which I have proclaimed to her. She has been convinced and is willing to be posted the Bible literature lessons from any interested tutor, brother or sister. I am appealing for an old Oxford dictionary to refer to the complicated vocabulary either in the Bible or in the literature. Brothers and sisters, we are living in the last days and we should choose the narrow and not the wide road. The 'free agency' is with us – for good or evil. We were created in the image of God so that we can pray to Him and follow His commands. In the Bible we are told that there shall be famine, war and outbreaks of diseases. These are actually signs of the times. We should be ever prepared for the return of Christ. He can come like a thief. There is no way we can elude death, it's the penalty which was imposed on Adam and Eve after they had been deceived by the serpent and had eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We too must die (unless Jesus comes soon) and wait for the resurrection and judgment. Whenever I fall asleep I want to be laid

to rest in Christ with Christadelphian members. Through them I found the well pronounced truth. The present is the only time we have to repent.

*Bro. Joseph Mucheri*

### **BULAWAYO**

I am now in Bulawayo looking for a better job. I was working as a gardener, but the money I was earning was below living conditions. If I fail to get employment I will go home and try to look for land to grow crops that are cash-crops. My question is, Why are brothers and sisters going back to the world? Many are not going to the meetings and some are fighting for positions in the ecclesia. Romans ch. 12 says there is one body and many members. The theme of 'one body' is very common: God chose one nation, one land, one covenant, one temple. We have read in Exodus that God delivered the people of Israel – His people, His family – from Egypt. God said that man and woman would be united and become one flesh. An example: if one part of a car wears out the whole system will stop. If one brother or sister draws back to the world they are a loss to the body of Christ. According to Romans 12 we each have a part to play in the one body and we must use our gifts according to the grace given to us by God.

*Bro. Dzingai Sumburera*

### **CHEGUTU**

I would like to thank you guys for the good work you are doing by *Gospel News*. Keep up the good work and God bless you.

It takes two to argue. Without warning the driver of a car (driver A) changed lanes and cut in front of another driver (driver B) who had to brake suddenly. The incident could have ended there, but driver B showed his annoyance by loudly and repeatedly sounding his horn. After that the matter could have been dropped, but driver A put his hand out of the window and made an obscene gesture. Again, the episode could have ended there; instead, at the next set of lights driver B opened his window and shouted, 'Idiot!' The contest escalated until, finally, both drivers were out of their cars expressing themselves with punches. Opportunities to defuse the situation had been presented but ignored. This pattern of escalating hostility is an unfortunate aspect of human nature, souring friendships, marriages and other relationships. Both sides in such conflicts fear that letting the other side have the last word would be seen as a sign of weakness and defeat. People seem to believe that to walk away from contention would be humiliating. Humiliating? This word is interesting. You may not like someone else mistreating you, indeed, you should try to avoid it, but what is wrong with humility? James (4:6) wrote, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." God's word declares, "It is to a man's honour to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel" (Prov. 20:3). In God's eyes it is honourable to swallow one's pride in order to halt strife. Stopping an argument is not necessarily difficult; if one person stops, often the arguing ends there. It takes two to argue. The book of Proverbs tells us, "The beginning of strife is like releasing water". A small leak in a dam can quickly grow until there is no stopping the flow. Finally the dam bursts. "Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out" (Prov. 17:14).

*Bro. Tapera Bandare*

We have Sunday service at a school in our community which sometimes attracts more than 30 adults and about 15 scholars (who are attended to by Bro. Bautie Mbewe and sometimes Sis. Susan Phiri). Our main service is a devotional session which is proving very interesting to every one. Also, we recently opened a class which is being run by Bro. Farai Phiri for the Bible students and every elder is free to assist. We always pray and ask for more prayer for the growth of our ecclesia and for our Brother Delory Mbewe who is unwell.

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and, indeed, to every one. We should pray continually in every circumstance and give thanks to the Almighty. We should ask for forgiveness and deliverance from our sins because His love endures for ever. Therefore, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all the people. Above all, brothers and sisters, we must have love and try to live in peace with each other. Read 1 Thess. 5: 15-28.

*Sis. Memory Lunando*

### **CHINHOYI**

Thank you very much for all the publications we receive regularly. May God kindly add more blessings to this job well done. May Jesus soon be here for us to enjoy his partnership in the new Kingdom. May peace and grace be with you for ever and ever.

*Bro. Gift Lungu*

I am in isolation and write to request the book, '*Where There Is No Doctor*'. I live in a remote area where our nearest clinic is about 27km away, and from where I live to the main road is 12km. Mode of transport to the main road is either scatch-cart, wheelbarrow or bicycle, where he/she (the sick) can be carried by either a bus or a car to the clinic. In some cases there is no medication at the clinic and no money to get the person to the provincial hospital. I do appreciate the book, it will be most helpful to people like me. Many thanks to the author and to God who gave him such thoughts.

*Bro. Moses Ajiweka*

We have seven children at Zumba 7 where we also have our Sunday service. Our Sunday session starts at 10-11am. After Sunday School we have Bible studies with our four students and it is now two years since they began learning the truth about the Kingdom of God. We break bread every Sunday with Bro. Moses Ajiweka, Bro. Emmanuel Kondowe and Sis. Joyce Wiki. We have a problem: we only have one Shona Bible which belongs to Sis. Joyce. Most of our students speak only Shona, therefore there is a need for more Bibles. If you can supply one or two Shona Bibles it will help a lot. I am also requesting the book, '*Where There is No Doctor*'. We hope to have an ecclesia here as soon as we have more baptised brethren and sisters. Greetings to all Christadelphian brothers and sisters world-wide. Our prayers are with you. Please pray for us as we preach the truth in a world infested by evils.

*Bro. Obert Wiki*



Photo: Bro. Obert Wiki at work at Zumba 7 Anchor Store where he displays Christadelphian books and discusses with customers the truth in the Bible.

### **CHISHUMBA**

Christ said, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth".

We are pleased to announce the baptism of MISHECK HONDOMA and EVELINE

SHAMBASUNTO on March 27th and of RANGI NAJIKADZINO, FADZE ZTARARE, GLORIA

ZTARARE, and one student from Mpukufa village on April 17 We pray that God will bless our new

Brothers and Sisters in their walk to the Kingdom of God and we give thanks that the Lord has

blessed our ecclesia in strengthening our numbers. God willing, we hope to have additional baptisms soon. I am requesting a reading glass, dictionary, Shona Bibles, Shona *Bible Basics*, NIV reference and concordance Bible and. 'Where There Is No Doctor' and Bro. Thomas, His Life and Work. Please also try to send Hymn Books and Sunday School material because now I am dealing with pupils. I wrote to the Canadian, Save the Children's Fund in March, but as yet have had no reply.

*Bro. Emmanuel Maugente*

### **CHITUNGWIZA**

My aunt, the owner of the house to which my letters were sent, has sold due to certain hardships we are facing here in our country, so please note the change of address. In my ecclesia we have started a Sisters' Union. We Sisters are a helping hand to our brothers. Many marriages/homes are breaking due to the fact that we do not fear God. We might be baptised, but that doesn't necessarily mean we know what we are doing in His eyes. I do feel His call each and every day. I think another way for the Sisters to advertise our church is to have it printed on our headgear, then people will want to know about us. We can spread the truth even by having choir competitions among our ecclesias, making our own cassettes with our own music, not always hearing those from other churches. I feel pained by this. Please let us help each other in letting the truth be known.

*Sis. Maureen Chimunya*

### **DETE**

I am so glad that I have heard the word and followed it and that my family are also Christians. The Bible tells us that we should be shining lamps which shine brightly. We should shine from ourselves in our homes and be seen to shine by our Christian works, so that people may follow our Lord and repent. I was in hospital in 2002 for over two months when I nearly died, but the Lord has done great things for me. I think of Job and all his sufferings, but he was blessed in the end.

*Sis. Miriam Ncube*

Don't cease to post me some books and other reading material. Regarding my problems, I will wait and pray to God so that things will be easier.

*Sis. Precious Phiri*



Photo: Sis. Ratidzai Magadzire, wife of Bro. Tarirai, Nyandoro.

### **GURUVE**

Abraham and his wife Sarah waited a long time and then the promise came of a son. As brothers and sisters we must be faithful believers, having been baptised (immersed) and made clean from our sins. Let us not be like the prodigal son who had half of the inheritance and spent everything. Then came the famine in the land where he was and would have eaten the pigs' food. Then he thought it would be much better for him to go back to his father. This is like us

when we repent, we work God's work preaching the gospel.

*Sis. Loveness Ngunga*

### **HARARE**

I praise God for being with all of us during our troubled world. We should live with hope that one day the Son of God will come and rescue us, as God did to the people of Israel during their living in Egypt. God was with them, for He loved them. Hosea tells us of the love He had for His people. God is also with us if we keep remembering the love of our Lord Jesus in dying for us. Regarding my work, things are a bit better than they were. My work gives me much pressure which means that I sometimes work on Sundays. But God may provide me with a better job. God provides everything a man asks for through prayer and faith and according to His will.

*Bro. Israel Mutundume*

### **KADOMA**

Life today is hard. From the beginning of March there was no food in our town. The business men are hiding it for the high price. The main thing is I must be sure about my salvation (1 Peter 2:13-15). We must put Jesus as a part in our hearts. People are greedy for money. Please pray for us that we will not lose our Hope. God's eyes are always upon us.

*Sis. Alice Wilanbo*

### **KARIBA**

When one member suffers the whole body also suffers. Here we are praying with one accord for our Brother Revy who has been unwell for some time and has been moved away from us to his rural home, where he is in isolation. Please pray with us for all in Christ to remain faithful. We are now nine Brothers in Kariba with the baptism of Decent Mashili and Emmanuel Mhenella last year.

Let us consider how we may spur one another forwards in love and good deeds, contending for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints (Hebrews 11). I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my song. I turned 40 recently and my years have been few and difficult, and the Lord has become my salvation.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name. Blessed is he whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit, only truth and freedom. For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive the Bible, the written word of the Lord is true and is no lie. Just as it taught you, obey Christ's commands and abide in the Lord.

The *Free Gift* is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more has the grace of the one man *Jesus Christ* abounded for many So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. God will give to each according to what he has done. "To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, He will give eternal life."

The Lord says, "See, I have refined you, I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed. I will not give my glory to another." God created man in His image to be transformed by the renewing of his mind, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared, obeying Christ Jesus' commands, living in him as he does in us.

Do not give way to fear. Your prayers have been heard, you have found favour with God. Be faithful, truthful and watchful.

*Bro. Joshua*



Photo, back from left: Brothers Witness, Joshua, Richard, Innocent. Seated: Brothers William, Revi and David. This was taken at the 2004 Annual Conference.



Photo: Sunday evening daily reading and Breaking of Bread. From left: Bre. David, Levi, William and Joshua.

It just seems as though the time which has been prophesied has come concerning both deeds and events that are happening. There have been earthquakes and the Tsunami disaster which killed thousands of people; houses and other buildings, seaports, gas pumps, water supply networks etc. have all been destroyed during that deadly event. Not only so many lives lost, but there was hunger and disease outbreaks. But what do world leaders think about this? We know that God is the head of all leaders; leaders in this world should therefore acquire their power and knowledge from God before venturing into any projects like the 'Disaster Warning Systems'. All world events taking place today have been foretold in the Bible, and God, as the Creator, has a purpose for the world. As world events trumpet the soon return of our Lord, are we fit to stand for judgment and rule in the coming Kingdom? To the affected people in the Indian Ocean nations, we pray for them and hope God will always be with them in their time of need.

*Bro. Witness Majecha*

### **MABVUKU**

Thank you very much for continuing to send me *Gospel News* and thanks be to God for His mercy and everlasting love and His grace. Now, here are my problems: as I told you some time ago, I have been residing on a small farm compound paying monthly rent. Although I have poor health since years ago, through God's care and the love of His only Son, Jesus Christ, I am kept from many temptations. As you know, I am isolated, living far away from my ecclesia and brothers and sisters. Last year I only met with them on April, 11th, 12th and 13th at the Resthaven Bible School when we had four visitors from the UK and since then I have had no opportunity to meet with them. From that time the farm has been invaded by 'war veterans' or 'ex-freedom fighters' and nobody is accepted to live on this farm. Since then I have not found any place to live and have tried hard, but in vain, I just have nowhere. I am still in the truth, although I cannot attend the weekly ecclesial meetings.

*Bro. Maxwell Mlakah*

### **MAGUNJE**

Many thanks for all books you sent. They arrived safely and were received with great joy. Here in Zimbabwe things are not yet settled. Here, in the rural areas, more and more political gatherings

are taking place and people are forced to attend. However, God is still with us as we do not even participate due to our beliefs. People are beaten and some killed. When I read of the 'signs of the times' these happenings shew us that the Lord is now around the corner. The world has been preached to, and the preaching still goes on, so people are hearing the gospel. Help us with this, and that God will keep us secure in Magunje.

*Bro. Weston & Sis. Ruth Kamota*

I want to write more articles until our Master comes to his vineyard, so that he will find me at work. We are blessed here through your work. God bless you, you are on the right channel. I don't know how to express my heart on what you are doing on my side. The rains are now falling [Feb]; in the month of January we had very hard sun – three weeks without rain – so we have now got hope. I am preaching hard here at our place and the surrounding areas – buses, houses, banks etc. – giving leaflets, 'Glad Tidings' and other literature. Many people are responding to the word of God and some ask for some books, but I have got none to distribute. If I can get more leaflets, *Bible Basics* and *Glad Tidings*, I will do my level best to find the 'lost sheep'. On March 21 we visited a Brother who is sick and is one of our members. He is now at his home at Bururuka. We encouraged all members of our ecclesia to visit him any time. We gave some prayers and sung hymns – our Brother loves hymn singing and at our ecclesia we sing and feel God near us. And we do sing – and I mean sing good! Our sick Brother was very happy and felt comfort from our visit to him. God willing he will be back to normal through God's blessing and our prayers and support.

*Bro. Stanford Kuuzha*

My wife and I are strongly edified by *Gospel News* and monthly exhortations. In the past it was easier for us to travel to our nearest ecclesia, which is about 86km, once per month. As a self-employed person I was using my home-made gas bottle to raise fares for us. Now, carbide stones (these are stones which dissolve in water to form gas) are hard to come by – if you happen to find them you buy them at an exorbitant price. At our ecclesia they mostly say there is scarcity of money (bus fares) due to sky-rocketing of prices. This directly implies that my wife and I benefited much from monthly exhortations and *Gospel News*.

*Bro. Christopher Mugwagwa*

Thank God for the 10 *Bible Basics* in English which I have distributed to brothers and sisters. We also need more Shona *Bible Basics*. Though the parcel took a long time to arrive, I was glad to receive the books. Here we have many brethren and sisters who are studying *Bible Basics*, but we need a dictionary for some of the more advanced words. I enclose a photo of Chishumba ecclesia.

*Bro. Emmanuel Mangente*



Photo: Chishumba Ecclesia

### **MASVINGO**

I am pleased to see the publication of my articles since they help develop those of my colleagues who are not in the truth and have the conception that only those from Europe can

write articles! I have now found a vacancy at Morgenster Teachers' College. I thank God for you in all my prayers for your sincere help. I'm facing a lot of questions from various denominations, since the College I am at is a Reformed Church Institution where you are supposed to attend their services. There is also a lot of pagan belief, so pray for me to remain in the truth revealed in the Bible. I couldn't cope with the preaching here because there are so many pagan doctrines. God willing, they will get to know the truth. I would like to send greetings to my tutor, Sis. Rebecca Paul, whom I have not heard from. I have tried to contact her, but with no response. If she can, may she please contact me. I hope that this year will herald the Lord's coming, since there are many facts pointing to his coming – wars, poverty, drought, increased theft and crime etc. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Finally, all of you have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind (1 Peter 3:8).

*Bro. Simon Mudavose*

### **MATHABISA**

I thank you for your faith. I say, God bless you for giving us the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor' which I received on February 7. We are now busy reading it so that we can fight off the different diseases which are facing our country.

*Bro. David Ngwenya*

### **RIMBI**

April was a very busy month for me. On the 8th I went to Mozambique visiting students and only managed to meet a few of them, the reason being that I didn't inform them that I was going. I left them with money so that one or two of them could come to my place in Zimbabwe, but they haven't turned up. On the 15th I left Chipinge for Bulawayo to attend the South Sub-Committee and while there I met several brothers from other ecclesias. I had an opportunity to give an exhortation. On the 29th I left Chipinge for Mutare for my personal business as well as taking the opportunity of visiting brothers in Mutare. I telephoned Bro. Stanford who came and met me and we also met another brother, so we went straight to a quiet room where we did the daily readings. They asked questions and I helped answer them. From Mutare I went straight to Rimbi where I had an appointment with students on the 30th. Then on May 2nd I proceeded to Mozambique visiting students.

*Bro. Moses Dhlakama*

## **News from Europe / Eurasia**

### **news from belarus**

#### **SHKLOV**

Because of so many problems here I have decided to leave for Ukraine. I am hoping and praying to our Father that there things will be better.

*Bro. Edik*

#### **STAI**

I am very encouraged that, despite your busyness, with the Lord's work you are able to write to me, thank you. We are meeting once per month in Minsk for the breaking of bread, but it costs

me about \$15 to get there, which is a lot for me from my pension. Although the world around us - even in this village - is like the world of Lot and Noah, I am determined to hold my faith till Jesus returns.

*Bro. Ivan*

### **VITEBSK**

My brother and I have now been confined to the house for nine years with our illness, the paths around our village are too rough and often muddy for us to pass there in our wheelchairs. We both dreamt so long of being baptized, and we are so very glad we are now baptized. We are totally lonely here, we have no friends, and we are simply so grateful that we were sent the *Bible Basics* and were able to learn the Gospel of Hope. We are both sick with asthma as well, we think this was because of the very cold winter, now we feel our whole bodies have thawed out, but it causes us attacks of asthma.

*Bro. Sasha*

### **news from israel**

#### **BAT YAM**

We here are all well. We were sorry to miss the parents of Sister Cindy when they were in Israel, due to Sis. Natasha's illness. We so miss Duncan and Cindy and are hoping they can come here soon. Interest in the Gospel seems to have become less here compared to what it was before. However, I am still distributing copies of *The Last Days* in Russian; so many people are interested in that book, because it speaks about the Arab invasion of Israel.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### **news from kyrgyzstan**

#### **ISSYK-ATINSK**

It is so nice to receive a letter from another brother. I am trying my best to grow spiritually by reading the literature sent to me. My great dream is to be able to introduce the true Jesus Christ to many people, and to encourage them spiritually to grow and be like Him.

*Bro. Ramid*

We are continuing to spread the true Gospel. The biggest opposition here is from people who disagree about the devil. This false belief is held strongly in this place, both by the Moslems and by the so-called Christians of Orthodox church. Sometimes it is quite depressing to preach to them. We urgently need more literature. There is a big problem for the brothers in prison who will soon be released. Their families either reject them because of their faith, or they have no families. There is much unemployment and as you may know the economy is in ruins here and the Government always near to collapse. So when they are released, some will have nowhere to live. Let us pray for them.

*Bro. Anvar*

### **news from latvia**

**AIZKRAUKLE**

I am trying to persuade my son Maris to come in to Riga with me to attend the meetings but he won't be persuaded. I feel that there are at most only a few years for us to wait before Jesus comes and I am hoping my health will last out until then.

*Sis. Irena*

**BRINDIESI**

I am expecting a baby and am very terrified as we have no money to pay the doctor for anything at all, please pray for me.

*Sis. Ilona*

**JURMALA**

Thank you for the support I received. Things are hard for me as I am having to work for no money at the moment as someone stole something from our site, and the workers have to work without pay until there is enough money to pay for it. I am talking to other people here about God.

*Bro. Mikhail*

**LIBAGI**

I am really so sad not to be able to come to the Bible study weekend. I have to work that shift, and if we miss a shift, then we lose our jobs, there are no excuses allowed - not even for ill health. I remember you all sincerely as my true brothers and family in Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Volodya*

**MADONA**

We are busy now in the summer but still I am reading the many books sent me after my baptism. My favourites are "God's Truth" by Brother Alan Hayward and the books about prayer, this is what I want to improve.

*Sis. Sarmite*

**PURE**

My deepest sorrow is that I couldn't get to the Bible weekend. I had to work, as there is much work in our factory this summer as we work to process the harvest. I pray for all brothers and sisters whom I know by name, and I read with you each day from the same Bible chapters.

*Bro. Normunds*

**RIGA**

Now it is very rare that I am well enough to come out to the meetings, so I thought I would write. I want to share with you that although I am now almost totally confined to my room, I am with you. I seek to serve God, and if I can only do that with my mind rather than my body, then I shall do so, praying for those of you at the ecclesia as I know you meet together to study and serve the Master.

*Sis. Aleksandra*

Many thanks to you all for your nice words of consolation and sympathy on the loss of my mother. I was really in need of comfort. I'm really happy to have brothers and sisters like you. My dear mother suffered a lot before her passing away. My only comfort is that by God's mercy, her sufferings are now over. I keep strong in my faith and look for comfort in God's word, saying with Job: "The Lord gave and now He has taken away, may His name be praised" (Job 1:21).

*Bro. Valdis*



Photo: Recent Fraternat at Riga

### **TUKUMS**

I am looking forward to the Bible weekend in Riga. Recently I fell and damaged my arm, also my old mother is so sick and has been in the hospital. The problem where we live in the village is that there are no shops, or medical care, and it is hard to get into the town because we have to hitch-hike. I value above all my faith and the hope we surely have.

*Sis. Vaira*

### **VILANI**

The situation in this part of Latvia is getting worse and worse; now that all is so expensive in Riga, nobody can afford to move there, all able young people are moving out, and there remain here only those like me, the old and the sick. I enjoyed reading Hebrews chapter 11 in the Bible readings. I re-read it a few times. By faith those men like Abraham did what they did; all I have left is my faith, this is one thing I learnt through losing my health.

*Bro. Fyodyor*

### **news from norway**

It was good to hear you had a great Bible School in Russia. It's great that there are so many Christadelphians in Riga. You can meet each other often. Not so long ago Bro Ray Willets from Oslo, together with another Brother from England, came for a visit. We read the Bible, did the breaking of bread, and just spoke. It was nice to meet them. I pray to God and say thanks to Him for all good things that happened in my life.

*Sis. Helena*

### **news from russia**

#### **KAZAN**

I am endlessly glad that all the work of preaching has come to something and that many have been baptized. For those who have left the faith I am sorry, but the comfort to me is that some, even many, will find salvation because of God blessing our efforts.

*Sis. Ludmila K.*

#### **RZHEV**

Now I am 19 years old I am able to go to work in the factory. I still have time to read the Bible and preach. Recently I distributed exactly 1000 of the *Bible Basics* leaflets in the town here. May God keep you all.

*Bro. Aleksandr*

## **STAVROPOL**

I am thankful beyond words for the help I've been given. I am now 72 and after my illnesses this winter I still feel very weak, even though the warmer weather has come. I have to walk 3km. to the nearest road where there is any transport and 18km. to the doctor's and 9km. to get my pension, as I can't trust anyone else to bring it to me. I have a very old New Testament, printed in the times of the Czars, and as I write this I have just finished reading that from cover to cover. How long I will last I don't know. But now I have the hope, the understanding of what life is all about, I am so sorry it took me so long, but my baptism was a dream come true. The fact that you took the initiative to help me practically is a great blessing which I also don't deserve. I love you all and so dream to be able to meet more brothers and sisters.

*Sis. Ludmila*

## **TYMSK**

Now the winter has past we are busy working in the fields. My family are well and it is such pleasure for me to see the children interested in reading the Bible with us each evening. They all desire to be baptized when they are older.

*Bro. Ivan*

## **news from uzbekistan**

### **TASHKENT**

I wish to inform you that despite all problems in this country and the massacre at Andizhan, I was untouched and am alive and well by God's grace. There is something greatly missing in our world, and it is the coming of Jesus with the Kingdom of His Father.

*Bro. Oleg*

### **The Truth Spreads To Iraq**

We are delighted to report that the first Iraqi Brother has been baptized. One of our aims is to spread the true Gospel into all the world before the Lord's return. We have consciously aimed at spreading the Truth into Iraq, a land clearly in need of the truth of Christ at this time. We've placed banner adverts on Iraqi websites - one is still there at <http://www.iraq-today.com/> - and tried other methods to spread the Gospel there. After much correspondence, we're pleased to say that Brother S has come to know the Gospel in truth and requested baptism. Plans were made to visit him, and much research done. We'd have had to enter from Turkey overland, and then travel through Irbil, Mosul and other hot spots to reach our brother's town. We were fully prepared to do this but the sheer cost of the trip was beyond us. Most Western contractors are helicoptered around the country with armed guards; even without going to this extreme, the trip would have been costly as well as dangerous. After several phone calls and much correspondence, we decided to invite our friend to baptize himself, and this he has done.

## **Living a Good Life as a Christian**

What a wonderful thing to be born again to do His will which means our old self dies and a new life commences in us! It all means a lot to every one of us who has been baptised, when, this new life begins.

At times we do suffer for good things ahead of us, and we can, like Paul, realise our own weakness yet still be in Christ. With special concern, we can refer to Naaman who was healed of leprosy. He was meant to suffer, and almost took the wrong decision over which river to choose. Bathing in the Jordan was actually symbolic of baptism; he did it seven times and his skin became as smooth as a child's.

We should therefore continue to pray and should pray for others, just as we are told in Colossians 4:2-4, and we then do what is required of us and wherein we fail, we repent and obtain forgiveness.

*Bro Wilfred Chibomba (Muzoka, Zambia)*

### **Reform Your Ways**

If we look in 2 Chronicles 15:1-7: "The spirit of God came upon Azariah, son of Oded. He went to meet Asa and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found of you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. For a long time, Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the Law. But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and sought Him and He was found".

This still applies to us. Before we knew the truth, we were in darkness but when we heard the word preached to us, we believed and were baptised. We had searched for the truth and found that there is life in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our old life had been buried in water and we came out to a new life. Verse 7 says, "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded".

We should not give up just because we have been many years in the truth and the Kingdom hasn't yet come. No, we must keep on reforming our ways and encouraging one another in the truth. "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:14-17). These things will keep on encouraging us to go ahead with the word of God and through prayers, without which we will not see the greatness of Him who created the universe

All those who come to worship God should reform their ways in front of God. If we really change our ways and actions, our eternal life is assured. "As surely as I live, declared the Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways. Why will you die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11). We should try and live a life which is always being commended by our Heavenly Father.

Please, please let us change our ways and do the will of God, as the time is near for the return of our Lord to establish the kingdom (Philippians 4:4-9). We must practice what we have seen from the apostles through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Bro Weston Kamota (Mayunze, Zimbabwe)*

### **Testimonies from Cape Coast (Ghana)**

Since my baptism in 1981 I have experienced much hope and joy in fellowship with Christadelphians; their teaching is very, very good. As a Christian my faith is very strong – like that of our Brother Abraham’s was in God. The Almighty Father told him to go from his country and kindred to a land that God would show him. I was a Roman Catholic, but when God called me I didn’t look back. Sometimes I face very critical situations in life which demand giving up things in life, but when I remember Abraham I feel better. I also remember Exodus 14:14, "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still" and Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you. I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." With these words in mind I hope and put my trust in God. God will fight for us. I pray that our Almighty Father will remember us in all our situations. I also ask for prayers from our brethren and sisters.

*Bro. Joseph Agyemang*



Bro. Joseph Agyemang in a wheel-chair with his wife, Monica and two of their children.

I was baptised on January 1, 2005. Really, my little experience of just a month and one week with Christadelphians shows that they really know the Bible. Now I can read the Bible regularly, but in the past it wasn’t like this. I pray that the brethren and sisters will pray for me so that my new faith will survive the pressures of this present world.

I am Sister Monica Williams Agyemang, the wife of Bro. Joseph Agyemang.



Photo: Two recently baptised, Bro. Stephenson Joel Aidoo and Sis. Monica Williams Agyemang

I am a lad of 20 years old. I was a Methodist church member, then stopped for reasons beyond my control. My Uncle, Bro. Joel Ebow Acquah, brought me to the Christadelphians. I was baptised on January 1st, 2005. I pray that our Father will protect and guide me in my new faith. I also finished learning carpentry about three months ago and I ask brethren and sisters world wide to pray for me so that God will help me to get employment. May our faith increase and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, remember us all in the coming Kingdom.

*Bro. Stephenson Joel Aidoo*



Photo: Some of those at Cape Coast. Bro. Joseph Agyemang (front). I recall Bro. Joseph as a cobbler mending my sandal when I was out there in 1982 and his determination to work for a living, despite his affliction. It is lovely to see his wife, who has now been baptised, and his family. May God bless them all. MH

I would like to really thank the Almighty as He has led my life through history. I was eager to find a place at Morganster Teachers college for a three year diploma course, and for the provision of finance to cater for the fees. Many people are dying because of hunger, crimes, violence and suicide but by his grace, I'm alive to preach the gospel to all nations as he said on his departure.

Finally, brethren, pray for me to be in sound doctrine as I am far from other brethren at College. I should be grateful if you would send me some copies of Bible Basics (English/Shona) as I have many students here in need of them. And also a booklet, 'Who are the Christadelphians?' Brethren and sisters worldwide, preach the gospel without ceasing till he come. (Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:11 2 Peter 3:15).

*Bro Mudawse Simon (Masvingo, Zimbabwe)*

**Always remember that, whatever betide you,**

**You are never alone, for God is beside you. *Helen Steiner Rice***

## **Commitment**

As we proclaimed that we want to be God's people, we should prove it by bearing fruit. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22, 23). The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. We should be faith-filled and believe in God's ability to answer prayers. Remember the Lord is far from the wicked but hears the prayer of the righteous. If we pray for something, we must believe and not doubt because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. If we doubt, we should not think we will receive anything from the Lord, since we will be double-minded, unstable in all that we do (James 1:5-8). But if we truly believe, we will wait patiently for the promised kingdom to come. As we seek to bear witness to the truth, we will encounter hardships but we must remain close to the Almighty.

*Bro Tofava Gibson (Chegutu, Zimbabwe)*

## **Our Way of Escape**

I think everyone around the world uses buses; we are talking about those who travel to and fro to their jobs. Inside the buses there are windows with instructions to passengers to use the windows as an exit in emergencies. We as Christadelphians are in a spiritual bus. The bus we are in is the world.

When God created mankind (Adam and Eve), they disobeyed Him by eating the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. Then sin entered the world. Since then everyone has lived in a world full of sin. So in our bus, God has put a window through which we can escape from the temptations and sins which we face.

Brothers and sisters, the window is on our side waiting for us to escape. That window is Jesus Christ and he is waiting for us to escape from earthly troubles through him. Remember that Jesus said, "Come to me, all you weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:25). And in verse 30, "My yoke is easy and my burden light.

Finally, I say to you, my brother and sister worldwide, let us use the window to escape from the temptations which can prevent us from entering the Kingdom of God at the second coming of His son (our window) to rule the earth.

*Bro Patrick Chakaipi (Mt Darwin, Zimbabwe)*

## **The Road to the Kingdom**

The men Caleb and Joshua and the Old Testament have a lot for us to learn. Caleb Num.13:30 encourages his friends with whom they were sent to spy out the land to be positive in their thinking. I am most encouraged by this man's faith in God especially as he says in Num.14:8-9,

"Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us, their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us, do not fear them."

But the people of Isreal did not believe and wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb (Num 14:10). By changing the name of Hoshea the son of Nun to Joshua, which means "God is salvation" (Deut 32:44), God is speaking to us through Moses, that His people will be delivered from their enemies and that the object of His promise to their forefathers was to be given them in its due season, if they were faithful to Him. Their contined disbelieve cause them to linger for forty long years in the wilderness. They all fell asleep but His faithful servants Caleb and Joshua entered the promise land. (Num. 26:65).

Caleb was promised to enter and inherit the land because of his wholehearted trust in God. He was 40 years old when this promise was made to him (Joshua14: 7-10) and 45 years after the Lord had kept him alive and as strong as he had been 40 years earlier. At 85 years old he requested, and was given, Hebron. If we remain faithful to the end we will inherit salvation and will never grow old in God's kingdom - we will inherit everlasting joy.

Caleb gave his daughter as wife to Othniel the son of Kenaz for fighting and taking Debir (Josh 15:15-17). There are many lessons here for us to learn. That the kingdom road is slippery and narrow and few find it. That our fellow humans, even brethren, will discourage us along the way to the kingdom. But those who continue to the end will be granted salvation.

*Bro. Emmanuel Nanji (Bamenda, Cameroon)*

### **Actions Speak Louder than Words**

Just as Jesus told his disciples to "Go ye and preach the gospel to every creature," we might be able to move the whole world if all of us, worldwide, arise and play our part. Before Christ comes, we might, with his help have transformed the faces of our countries, and they repent like Nineveh and be saved. The key words are: *Discipline and deeper devotion*. Let us arise and fulfil our possible destiny. *Let us not let Christ down*. These are not mere words, they are words with power of achievement.

God will test us because the rewards are great and therefore the test must be great also. He will prove our sincerity and we should expect that there will be more difficulties. We are currently the bearers of the word of God, we have been chosen by Him. Let our life be a sacrifice to Him and so eagerly wait for the second coming of His son to raise the saints to shine as stars in the firmament. If you are willing and ready, arise and say "Here I am, O Lord, send me out".

The good news of the Kingdom of God must be taken to all territories and islands which are yet unopened to this message. The conditions of the present world, place before us Christadelphians both obstacles and opportunities in an increasing number of countries. The world is witnessing the fulfilment of the warnings that the Bible contains. Now is the time when Christadelphians must cling to the covenant of God, resist every temptation and remember that they are the holders of the precious trust.

May I encourage all Christadelphians, in a spirit of faith, to arise everywhere and teach the word of God with love and great effort. By prayer and the power of God, we shall succeed. Dearly

beloved, I call upon you all to arise with sacrifice, confidence and trust in Christ. I also ask you to listen to the voice of the Lord and be out to serve. If you can join my hands, please ACT.

*Bro Nimrod Masida (Bungoma, Kenya)*

### **The Call to Glorify God**

We must all think more carefully about the purpose of glorifying God. Why should we glorify God? First and foremost, we must know that when Jesus was praying, he said "Father, glorify your Son that your Son also may glorify you. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do" (John 17:1-5).

There are things at times that make many people turn away from God. Some people think that fellowshipping big brothers and whites may make them see God but in actual fact that is useless. Many brothers have ended up belittling poor brothers who preach to them, but I only ask you, brethren, to complete the work of God (1 Kings 19:7-13).

Which work? This reference relates how Elijah replied to God and shows us that we must complete God's work before we glorify Him. How can we complete God's work? It is by living the Truth and preaching to others the good news of God. So, my dear brethren and sisters, prepare the way for the Lord by completing his work.

*Bro Mayende Erisania Sifuna (Busia, Uganda)*

### **Visit to Mauritius 30th April - 9th May 2005**

Mauritius is no longer the quiet island we visited 12 years ago with pot-holed roads and sleepy villages. Quatre-Bornes, where the ecclesial hall is situated, is a vibrant town with significant traffic jams, and traffic lights and the road from the airport to the capital, Port Louis is now a freeway, M1 no less! But the smoking buses still hog the road down to Flic en Flac. Quite a contrast to the magnificent beauty of the island.

Michael was very sad with the new road from Q.B. to Flic en Flac. All the switchbacks have been ironed out and the sugar cane fields moved far enough back from the road to stop the water sprinklers from dousing an unsuspecting passenger!

We arrived late on Friday April 30th minus Michael's luggage. Next day, Bro Jean Claude Topize met us outside the old meeting room in Quatre Bornes and we followed his motorized bike to the present hall which was only a few bricks high in 1993.

The ecclesia now numbers approx 25. The Saturday afternoon Bible Class was the first of three held each week and was well attended by the brothers and sisters and their children. Michael gave the first talk in the series of four on Phases of Life and the meeting was rounded off by two hymns sung with gusto. One of our main reasons for visiting Mauritius again was to contact some interested friends, Jean Maurice and Esther Prosper who had come to know of us and the

gospel message from being on the *Bible Basics* web site. Their details were passed on to us and the ecclesia by Bro Duncan Heaster. They are a delightful couple who both work in IT.

On Sunday evening after the enjoyable meeting of remembrance, Jean Claude, Blulette and the Prospers joined us for dinner where we got to know each other better. Our friends were able to attend the Tuesday Bible class along with three other members of their family. Wednesday evening, Jean Maurice and Esther joined us for dinner and we had an animated discussion on life after death, heaven going, hell and the grave and Satan. After the meal we went to the room and discussed the nature of the Lord Jesus which was one of the points Jean Maurice had difficulty with.

On the Tuesday before the Bible class, we spent a happy hour or two with Bro. Lilkan and Sis. Santa Ancharaz at their home. Their daughter Brenda was there too and we chatted about their health problems, life in Mauritius and the ecclesia. Michael was able to help Lilkan with a computer problem which left our brother a happy man!

We were scheduled to have a chat with Bro Herold La France, still the Recording Brother, before the Bible class on Thursday but with others arriving very early not much was discussed. The Prospers were able to attend once more though they brought their one year old son Matthew along who voiced his displeasure most of the meeting while Michael talked on the third Phase of Life – Fellowship

That evening, Herold led us to Bro Harry Bhagal's and after much calling he eventually came out to see us. We had been trying to contact Harry without success so he gave us another number and on Friday we phoned hoping to set up a meeting, but this number proved to be discontinued as well. Sadly we were unable to chat to Harry who has not been attending meetings for quite a long time and needs encouragement.

Friday afternoon we popped in to see Lilkan and Santa again, specifically to give Lilkan a CD with some Bible programmes he could use for his interested friends and private Bible study. This gave me a chance to practice my creaky French on Brenda and Santa.

Next was a visit to Port Louis to meet all of Esther's family at her parents' home. They do seem to be a very well knit family and as several of the members have tagged along at the bible classes there is hope that more of the family would respond to personal classes. Father, Cyril, is a Pentecostal pastor and quite a character with some very unusual theories on biblical numerics but does not believe in many traditional Pentecostal beliefs.

On Saturday we were at the hall for the last in the series on Phases of life – Death. The attendance was low as many only finish work at 1.30 – 2pm. Afterwards, Bro. Jean Claude led us up to his home where we had an excellent evening with the Topize family and dinner rounded off with Chinese Grass Jelly and Ice Cream. We briefly met his brother Patrick.

The Sunday meeting was at 10am and the Prospers managed to attend again. Hopefully they will continue attending when we are gone and build up a good relationship with the brothers and sisters. Bro Herold and Sis Lalita La France came with us after the meeting on a trip across the island to see the Jhureea family in Poste de Flac. Last time we saw them, they were in the throes of house alterations but now their main home is established and daughter Dorothy is running a fresh chicken business on the premises with her cousin Geraldine. We did not meet son Joshue who works on a golf course.

It was good to have this time with them and renew the bonds of our fellowship; they remain strong in the faith and are planning an extension to their home to house a meeting room for the ecclesia. Bro. Herold and Lalita visit them once a month and that certainly helps their faith in spite of their relative isolation. All too soon the visit was at an end but we hope to return again much sooner than before God willing and enjoy the warmth of the fellowship of the happy and busy ecclesia.

*Sis Vanessa Floyd (South Africa)*

### **Hearing Aids**

There are several brethren in Africa working with those with hearing difficulties. One of the problems is getting sufficient hearing aids and so should you have any surplus aids could you please let us have them and we will put them to good use. MH

### **Peace**

"If you only knew today what is needed for peace!" (Luke 19:42). When we look around and see the things that are happening in the world today, it is quite clear to us all that there is no peace in the world. Everywhere you hear of fighting, murder, wars and rumours of wars. It does not matter which newspaper you open, you will find the terrible things that people are doing to one another because of sin, hatred and jealousy. The great men of the world have been trying for many years now to bring peace to the world and none of them has ever yet succeeded. Not only is the world in this condition, but it is sad to say that many of our homes also do not have peace in them. Worst of all, though, is the fact that there is a very large number of people in the world today who do not have peace in their own souls and this is where the root of all the trouble lies.

### **Why is there no peace?**

In the beginning God created the world as well as the grass, flowers, trees and all animals that live under the water as well as those that live on the ground. God also created Adam and Eve and in this entire creation there was peace. Adam and Eve were not afraid of any of the animals, and the animals lived peacefully and happily together. The sheep could walk next to the lion and the lion would not harm it. Above all, there was peace between God and man, and Elohim talked with Adam and Eve. They had no fear in their hearts towards God.

Then the serpent, who is the enemy of peace, the father of lies, told Adam and Eve that they would not die even if they disobeyed God and took of the fruit which God had told them not to eat. Just as many people still, to this very day, listen to the voice of the devil, the sin in our natures, so Adam and Eve did what the serpent tempted them to do and sinned against God. At that very moment the peace they had enjoyed left them – all the peace and beauty which God

had created was now destroyed in one act of sinning, and fear entered the hearts of Adam and Eve.

That evening when God came as usual to talk to them, they hid themselves and were afraid of God's presence. "Sin came into the world through one man and his sin brought death with it".

Like Adam and Eve, the children of men prefer to disobey God and follow Satan's advice. The Jews rejected the Prince and when Pilate put Jesus and Barabbas before them, they shouted, "Away with Jesus! Give us Barabbas!" In other words, they were saying 'Take away the Prince of peace and give us hate, wars, murder and sin!' These people of their own free will chose Barabbas. The days in which we are living are similar. God has given us a choice. We can have Jesus as our Saviour and our King and he will bring peace into our lives. He says, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid" (John 14:27). The sins within our lives have taken us far away from God, and in our sinful state we have no peace in ourselves. But Jesus is always standing with outstretched arms waiting to receive us back, to restore us, to make us sons of God and to give us peace again.

We are told in Romans 5:1, "Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." There is nothing in this world that can give us peace. Money, riches and fame cannot give it, drink cannot give it and putting our names on a church roll cannot give it. There is only one way to receive peace for ourselves and that is to come to the Lord Jesus, confess our sins to him and turn away from them. "If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right; He will forgive us our sins and purify us from our wrong doing" (1 John 1:9). The peace which Jesus gives is a peace far beyond human understanding (Philippians 4:7). It cannot be explained by man, but we can experience it in our lives if we are willing to turn away from sin and sinful friends and to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve him only. We may be able to live without peace but we cannot afford to die without peace: "For God's kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace" (Romans 14:17). Therefore, if we do not have the peace of God in our hearts when we die, we certainly will not be welcomed into his kingdom.

*Bro Mayende Erisania Sifuna (Busia, Uganda)*

### **Family Life that Pleases God**

*Husband's Position.* The Bible says that a husband is the head of the family (1 Cor 11:3). A husband may have only one wife. They should be properly married in the eyes of the law (1 Tim 3:2).

A husband should love his wife just as he loves himself. He should treat her the way Jesus treats his followers (Eph 5:25, 28, 29). He should never hit his wife or mistreat her in any way. He should honour and respect her (Col 3:19).

A father should work hard to care for his family. He should provide food, clothing and housing for his wife and children. A father should also provide for their spiritual needs (1 Tim 5:8). He should take the lead in helping his family to learn about God and His purpose (Deut 6:4-9).

**Role for a Wife.** A wife should be a good helper for her husband (Genesis 2:18). She should assist her husband in teaching and training their children (Prov 1:8). God requires a wife to care for her family lovingly (Prov 31:10, 15, 26, 27). She should have deep respect for her husband (Eph 5:22, 23, 33).

**Parents and Children** God requires children to obey their parents (Eph 6:1-3). He expects parents to instruct and correct their children and study the Bible with them (Deut 11:18, 19). Parents should never discipline their children in a harsh or cruel way (Col 3:21)

*Bro Jeremiah Chimhini (Mansa, Zambia)*

### **Putting Love Into Practice**

*"My children, love must not be a matter of words or talk, it must be genuine and show itself in action" (1 John 3:18).*

In world affairs today we seem to hear constantly of meetings, conferences, seminars and conventions being held to discuss the needs of people and the ills of the world. Thousands of people attend at enormous cost and countless millions of words are spoken. Whilst acknowledging the need for and the advantages of such discussions, we still have the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed and the helpless.

Each and every follower of the living Christ is in a position to do something to alleviate the suffering of others. This may not be on a grand scale, and in all probability will not compare with international needs. However, every act of Christian charity will do something to ease the overwhelming burden being borne by the under privileged.

One needs to prepare oneself in prayer and meditation and, having sought God's will, then to move out amongst His people, there to minister to their needs.

*David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **The Beautiful Gate**

One of the doors that led into God's temple at Jerusalem was called the "Beautiful Gate". The decorations at the gate walls were impressive and people yearned to enter through that gate all the time.

However, people with defects or visible illness were not allowed inside the gate. Inside the gate was beauty, freedom and the presence of God, but outside were laid the sick who were characterised by poverty, sadness, pain and neglect.

The families of the sick people only put them before the gate and left them to their fate. This was the story in Jerusalem at the time the apostles started their work. Peter and John were going to the temple to pray when they met a lame man who had been laid at the gate to beg for alms. The man was filled with sorrow as he watched people entering and leaving the "Beautiful Gate" daily but could not follow them because he was lame (Acts 3:1-3).

Have you experienced such a situation in your life before? You may not be physically lame but your trade, office work, business, family problems, schooling, finances and marriage, as well as sickness, may be lameness to you. You may need only a little help, but who can you lean upon? Men are disappointing you, as well as brethren, sisters, family and friends, and there seems to be no hope; but your time of salvation is now.

Jesus did not heal the lame man before he died, but Peter and John did. The lame man wanted a temporal benefit from persons who entered the temple gate, but Peter and John restored him to permanent health through Jesus' name. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God" (Acts 3:4-9).

The Lord will turn your sour situation soon, so that people can praise him. Nothing is late before the Lord, and your night will be turned into day. The lame man got up and rejoiced, though he never knew that his salvation was to take place that afternoon.

The eyes of the Lord sweep the earth for Him to strengthen His chosen "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong on the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him". (2 Chronicles 16:9). Let us all therefore have faith in the Lord and wait patiently for him; have trust in him, call upon him and he will bring you out of all your problems.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 says: "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."

Aren't you one of his chosen? The Lord will change your disgrace into grace. May God be with us all as we wait for the Jesus Christ.

*Bro Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)*

### **Iranians in Azerbaijan March 2005**

We have had five persecuted Iranians in Azerbaijan. However, three of them got to Canada and are now attending ecclesias in the Toronto area. This has been the result of a huge amount of prayer and countless visits, emails, phone calls and letters to UNHCR and other bodies, as well

as sterling efforts by our Canadian brethren. We can only give thanks for the Father's blessing so far.

This leaves our brother A and sister B. Deported back to Iran from Turkey whilst seeking asylum, they were tortured and imprisoned and then miraculously delivered; and finally escaped to Azerbaijan. They've been here for some time, but have had little success with UNHCR. Recently things looked very bleak indeed; they couldn't, it seemed, renew their visas there, were under threat of deportation to Iran, and the UNHCR and Azeri authorities had 'lost' their case file and documents.

An emergency visit was made by Bro Phil Ashforth of the CBM and Bro Duncan of the CCM, and CAT involvement. A joint letter was written by those organizations ahead of time, urging UNHCR to not allow this evidently sincere brother and sister to be deported to their death sentence in Iran. After long discussions and much effort with a lawyer, their case file was 'found' again, and the lawyer confirmed that their visa can be extended. There is a new official at the UNHCR in Baku who appears more sympathetic to their case; and we are also pursuing other channels of help, for which, again, we are grateful to our Canadian brethren. So this visit had God's especial blessing; a situation which looked dire has at the very least been put on hold.

We believe that God's special blessing was likely added to our human efforts because of a more united approach amongst us. The CCM look forward to yet more and deeper co-operation with the CBM in future over these urgent cases.



Photo: Bro Duncan Bro A and Bro Phil, outside the UNHCR in Baku

Our brother and sister are fearful to go out much in case they are hassled by the aggressive Azeri police, who carry out spot checks frequently, especially focusing on Iranians and Pakistanis. The long period of anxious waiting in fear has taken a huge toll on them, although spiritually they remain focused upon the Hope of the Kingdom. Phil and Duncan held a breaking of bread with them and enjoyed good spiritual fellowship with them, seeking to encourage them to hold fast and to realize that the sufferings of this present life are nothing compared to the eternal weight of glory in the Kingdom to come.



Photo: Bro Phil, A&B with Duncan breaking bread in Baku

They very much appreciate our wonderful Sister L's monthly visits to them and we pay tribute for her tireless attention to them and others in their situation.

We ask for your prayers and continued support of them in this trying situation which they now continue to face. Please spare a prayerful thought for them in this nerve-wracking and faith-

testing experience which they are going through every hour. And please pray for wisdom for those of us trying to deal with the complex red tape which surrounds them.

There are other Iranians needing our attention and care in Turkey and a visit will soon be made to them, God willing. Please pray for it.

## **Prayer**

How do we build this relationship with God? How do we begin to come under His care and protection? The answer is by *prayer*. The Apostle James tells us "draw nigh to God. And he will draw nigh to you" ( James 4.8). The apostle Paul emphasizes this teaching "Pray without ceasing" (1Thes 5.17). As already mentioned , God is very near to us for in him we live and move and have our being. But why should we pray to God? Again, the Bible is filled with recorded incidents of men and women who turned to God to help them in their hour of need. There were many things in their lives that they could not control. They needed care and protection. So they turned to God in prayer to help them deal with those parts of their lives that were out of their control.

There are numerous examples in the Bible that illustrate the response of God to meet the needs of individuals who were experiencing anxiety and worry. It is a Biblical theme designed to teach the interconnection that exists between God and man. Let us take for an example Hannah. She was married to Elkanah who had two wives. The name of the other wife was Peninnah. Now Hannah's dilemma was that she could not have children while Peninnah could. Unfortunately, Peninnah made it her business to make Hannah feel inferior because she was childless. This distressed Hannah greatly, especially as time passed with no change in her situation. In fact if you look up this recorded incident in 1 Samuel ch1, the Bible states that God had "*shut up her womb*" (i.e. not allowed her to have children).

When the anguish became so great, Hannah exercised the only option she knew and that was to pray to God. She was making a special prayer at the temple in Shiloh when the priest, Eli, saw her speaking to herself. Initially he thought she was drunk . He didn't realize that she was praying.

When she explained what she was doing, he understood her sadness and told her to leave in peace as he would ask God on her behalf to grant her the request she was making of God . This she did and in the course of time she became pregnant and had a son who she named Samuel. This child was to become a famous spiritual leader in Israel when he grew up.

There are many lessons for us in this account but the one that we particularly note is the answering of prayer . Every human being faces uncertainty; God has designed life in such a way as to have uncertainty, so that we will realize our dependence upon Him.

## **Is Prayer Relevant Today?**

The question that many people will ask is, Are prayers answered? It is exciting for us as believers to know He can answer our prayers. It has been proven time and again by those who put their trust in God. These are real events happening to real people. The thing that baffles those who doubt, is that prayers are answered very naturally. It doesn't appear extraordinary to us who pray when we need help and find events coming together to address our specific problem. We are completely convinced because of the very personal and specific nature of the help we receive. It is the timing that also makes it more than coincidence. It gives believers great assurance and a sense of peace and inner confidence after witnessing such occurrences in their lives.

## **Responsibility and Commitment**

Is all this care and protection from God just for our own benefit? Do we accept all this support and not feel some sense of obligation and responsibility?

Consider some words of the psalmist: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither by thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the **LORD**, and do good ; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the **LORD**, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the **LORD**; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass".(Psalm 37.1-5)

As we read such passages, it is very clear that God is teaching us to be righteous, to turn aside from sin and evil. We observe the reference to "Commit thy way unto the LORD"; To encourage us, He gives us the things we need, but in return He wants us to transform our lives. Consider the words of the Apostle Paul to the believers in Rome: "And be not conformed to this world : but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12.2)

As we observe very carefully how God answers our prayers, we see the corrective component as well. After all, no one is perfect . Again, the skilful manner in which our weaknesses are exposed by events and circumstances reinforces the knowledge that is working with us to produce a better person. It is beyond coincidence that we are being shaped and fashioned by the Creator's hand who is looking after our ultimate wellbeing . If we allow this process to take place, if we allow God to shape us, we become a truly beautiful product of God 's creation! This is what is meant by spiritual maturity.

## **Spiritual Maturity**

What the Bible message is clearly saying to us is that God our Creator wants us to trust in Him. We initiate relationship by prayer and He responds, but we must be sincere. He will take care of our worries and anxieties if we put our trust in Him and allow Him to lead us. As we have

mentioned earlier, He has designed our world this way. This is a law of the universe. It is certain and reliable. It is like a hidden secret waiting to be discovered. The uncertainty in our lives is obvious as we look into the future, whether it be later today, next week or next month. It is how God has created this world to cause us to realize our dependence and need of Him . The Lord Jesus is very definite about this relationship, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow, or reap, or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them . Are you not much more valuable than they" (Mat 6:26 NIV) Jesus concludes his teaching in this chapter with the assurance: "do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Mat 6:34) This is the life philosophy that God and His son Jesus want us to have .*Put our trust in God and He will provide.*

This is the message that is consistently portrayed throughout the Bible. In the example of Hannah, we see her spiritual connection to God strengthened by her experience. Can we not all identify with these similar needs today ? The answer is, Yes and it is within our power to act and receive. The Bible invites us to build our lives around God. There is much to learn

*Bro Godwin Mugasi (Mbarara, Uganda)*

### **Subject: You're a Keeper**

I grew up in the 40s/50s with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it... A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more. But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away never to return. So, while we have it, it's best we love it and care for it and fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick. This is true. For marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and ageing parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep, like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special and so we keep them close! I received this from someone who said I was a keeper and pass it on to you to keep and pass on to others you don't always see, but you know they are always there!

*Things God won't ask on that day.*

1... God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

2... God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

3... God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

4... God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

5... God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of our ability.

6... God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

7... God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbours and your brothers and sisters.

8... God won't ask about the colour of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.

9... God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation. He'll lovingly take you to Himself, even if you have lost your way many times. He wants us to be as patient and loving with others, as He is with us.

*Woodpark Woodpeckers (South Africa)*

### **Why the Flood in Noah's Days? Gen. 6:5-6**

We are to learn from the Bible why certain things happen, and we are also to find out why God had to punish people for certain wrong doings. It is from such observations that we can determine to make our way of living acceptable before God. We are therefore to learn and follow the right way required by God for our salvation. If we are to be saved we need to follow God's ways and requirements and to forsake unnecessary pleasure.

During the early days of man living on earth he chose to disobey God and the result was death. It seemed to man that what God told him was a lie and in fact instead of believing his Creator he believed a creature. By disobeying God he brought himself in the line of death and was sent out from the garden of Eden.

From Adam to the time of Noah people died. But in Noah's time God chose to punish people because they were more wicked. God did not tolerate this, so he told Noah to prepare for his salvation. Noah did his part by constructing a ship in which he and others, and the animals were saved. Why did God think to punish people and to kill them by flooding? Even those who could swim got tired and they were swept away in the deep waters, and there was no dry land for them to escape to.

In Genesis we learn that it grieved God that he had made man (Gen.6:5-6): "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." This is a clear picture of what man had done up to a point that God

could not tolerate such wickedness. In vs. 11-12 we are told that the earth was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence: "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." God told Noah that what was happening on the earth grieved him and for that reason He was going to destroy man. Noah was told that man was corrupt and the earth was filled with violence. So we can see that it was corruption, violence and all sorts of wickedness that brought them punishment. God did not tolerate the wickedness and the violence which was being committed in those days.

Let us go again in the Bible and look for wickedness. The people in Noah's days were really very wicked. They said in their heart that there is no God and they were corrupt, and they did abominable works. No one understood or sought God. People had gone aside from God and were all filthy, no one did anything good, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3, Romans 3:10-18. "As it is written, there is none righteous no, not one; there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways. And the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

So we can see how God defines wickedness and such wickedness was happening in Noah's days. That was the reason for God destroying the people. This is also happening now, we are in exactly the same situation. Psalm 10:7-11 "His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity. He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor. He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net. He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones. He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it." Isaiah 59:7-8 "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace."

God has defined the wickedness of man that provoked His anger in Noah's days. No peace and no consideration for human life, people being killed brutally, corruption in every way and walk of life, no justice, the truth from the Bible is put aside and even the truth itself is being made corrupt by men with money that people should teach lies. (Matt 28:11-15). This is the wickedness of man and it is this that God saw and it grieved him and He is also grieved at what is now happening. Men may think that God does not see, but we have read that the former people thought likewise but we also hear that God descended to see if the crying of people was true. And the innocent blood which is being shed is crying before the Lord God and God said he is going to destroy those who destroy the earth. Innocent blood is being shed and life destroyed for no apparent reason – this is wickedness.

When the cup is full Jesus will come to stop the corruption, violence and all other kinds of wickedness. Jesus Christ said the very same things would happen prior to his second coming:

Matt. 24:37-38: "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark". And Jesus will find such things happening until the righteous enter into the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is coming to set up the Kingdom of God, to destroy of the wicked and give eternal life to the righteous. Isaiah 3:9 "The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves." We have heard of the people's wickedness and violence that provoked God's anger, and the same things are today's news on both radio and TV. So what do we expect? Jesus told us that these things will happen prior to his coming and our duty now is to wait for his second advent. Matt.24:36-44; Luke 21:34-36. So may the Lord come to end human suffering and end all wickedness, corruption and violence and stop people crying, and wiping away the tears, for every moment of the day blood is being shed and tears from the eyes are never dried.

We need Jesus Christ now! When we hear and see news from the radio and TV. we see human suffering, wickedness and violence as mentioned in the Bible. The immoral behaviour of people tells us clearly of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we have to take care of ourselves, how we behave and to seek God in righteousness. Our belief and faith should be centred on our Lord Jesus Christ so that when he comes we shall be worthy of the Kingdom and salvation will be ours. We should separate ourselves from all wickedness, corruption and violence which brought destruction to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Adam disobeyed God and believed a lie, and death has followed up to this day. So let us follow the second Adam, the Son of Man, the Lamb, the Son of God, Jesus Christ and believe in him so that we shall be saved.

*Bro. A. Liwawa (Neno, Malawi)*

## **Rejection And Freedom**

Few of us take rejection very well as we all want to be part of something greater than ourselves, so much so it seems we are prepared to modify or even compromise our personal belief system (what we believe about ourselves) to gain or keep that acceptance. And thereby we project an image of ourselves which, simply put, is pleasing to others whom we may hold in high esteem. We hold them in esteem because for instance they know more than us and can pontificate on many matters scriptural and so on, and whose approval we may desire to make us feel good about ourselves etc. This is putting one's foot on the slippery slope of power and control, because we are handing our own power over to others; and control of ourselves to control by the group or its tacit leader and legalism. Of course we don't know we're doing this, as we have become well socialised by this time into this sort of 'going along to get along' behaviour. We in essence hand over our freedom which Christ died to secure for us. Freedom in Christ is emancipation from the arbitrary rule of men. The freedoms I mean are these:

To see and hear what we see and hear, rather than what we're supposed to see and hear; to think what we think, rather than what we're supposed to think; feel what we feel, rather than what we're supposed to feel; imagine what we imagine; rather than what we're supposed to imagine.

When these freedoms are compromised, as they are in all of us from childhood, then we are mystified, we cannot trust ourselves, indeed we become taught not to trust ourselves. Hence we are unable to exercise self control because we've handed that power over to another or

others.

*Bro. John Stibbs (Pine Rivers, Australia)*

### **Free Bible Study Tapes**

We would like to introduce a scheme for (those in the mission fields) listening to Bible tapes. There are taped talks given by brethren from all over the world. The plan is that we would like you to form groups of, say, four to circulate tapes amongst yourselves. The four-member groups may be ecclesias, groups or those in isolation. Each of the four members of the group would be sent ten tapes. When they have listened to their ten tapes, they will then pass them to another member of their group and they themselves would be sent ten tapes from another member of their group. This process would continue until all in the group receive back the ten tapes they originally started with. They could then keep those tapes or give them to others and inform us, then a further supply of ten further tapes would be sent to each member of the group. You need to form your own groups, and let us know who the four members are and we will then send them ten tapes each to start the tape reading circle.

#### **TAPES WANTED.**

Some brethren and sisters have tapes no longer required and we should appreciate it if they would send them to us for the above scheme. MH.

### **Scenes From Masvingo Rural Ecclesia, Zimbabwe**



Top: Meeting for discussion at Bro Admire's House.

Below children acting scenes about the Queen of Sheba. .



Top, the rural scene.

Centre: Building the Ecclesial hall in 2002:

Below, the Sunday School



## **The Favour of God**

Many today are desiring the favour of God upon their life, family, business and finances. Are we seeking attention on our lives for our own glory or to up-lift the gospel of our Lord and Saviour? And then how do we receive His favour? In the Old Testament, they always were seeking the favour of God. They went about this in some very diverse ways. Some did not care if it was the One True God or the god of this world. They just wanted to prosper in some way from a supernatural power. I guess I would ask; Have things really changed very much? Look at the world of entertainment and the political realm. It seems people will do anything to reach a selfish self-motivated goal. And the day to day world is no different. In this new covenant, we are receiving His favour through salvation in His Son. After all, if it is favouritism, then the Lord Jesus is who we want to contract with. Because in all honesty, to be in God's favour can only be accomplished through His Son. In this favouritism are all the blessings and promises of the Bible. Those who love and acknowledge the Son of God, do honour to the Father, who shows favour to them through the Son. Let us desire God's favour, with a pure heart (the word pure from the Bible means no mixture of evil). We cannot mix the gods of this world with the One living God, the Creator of all things. It is impossible to mix Jesus Christ and sin within the same heart. We must make our bodies submissive God's will. When we make a mistake it is not the end but just another step in maturing as one of God's chosen ones and that is what we are becoming, first we are called and then we are chosen. We can have favour with God and Jesus, and we must tell others of this favour.

*Bro. Ramazan (Turkey)*

## **There is a Reason for Every Problem**

Joshua was chosen by God to lead the Israelites after the death of Moses. God promised to give him successes and to be with him throughout his leadership (Joshua 1:1-9). "Have not I commended thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest (verse 9)." God assured him of victory over all their enemies including the Hittites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Girgashites and Amorites, but along the way, he was defeated shamefully (Joshua 3:10; 7:2-6). Though he had earlier won a war against the city of Jericho that was more fortified, the Israelites suffered a defeat against an unknown town like Ai.

The people of Israel had witnessed God's presence and power as they left Egypt and travelled through the desert. God gave them food that fell as dew (manna), divided the Red Sea for them

to walk through and gave them water to drink from a rock. The wall of Jericho fell down by shouting, so why should a weak army like that of Ai defeat Israel? There was a reason.

Achan secretly stole some treasures from Jericho and hid them in his room, but God saw him and was angry with the Israelites (Joshua 7:1). The sin of Achan caused the Israelites to lose confidence and the lives of some soldiers. This was not a story of the past. It happens all the time in families, work places, homes and even the church (ecclesia). The curse put on some families in the past continues to disturb the generations till some members see God. "And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from the chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and olive yards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever.' And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow" (2 Kings 5:25-27). Envy can cause people to put obstructions in the path of their compatriots through physical and spiritual means. Job did no wrong, but lost everything (Job 1). Naomi, left Bethlehem on her own to go to the land of Moab and lost everything (Ruth 1:1-5).

People may try very hard to make a life for themselves, only to meet difficulties and defeats all the way. Principalities abound and people need God to deliver them. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places". If this is our situation, there is a reason for it, "therefore, take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:10-17).

*Bro Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)*

## **The Sunset of Time**

"The end of all things is at hand". "Behold, I make all things new", (1 Peter 4:7; Rev 21:5). They say that all good things come to an end. I have a better version: all bad things are soon going to end and only the good will remain.

The fact that our world is tormented by evil is not secret. Just read any newspaper on any day of the week. You will be reminded, though you probably had not forgotten, that all is not well with the planet.

Each night the sun sets on countless lives that have been ravaged by normal occurrences of the day: Ravaged by war. Ravaged by crime. Ravaged by broken relationships. But the same sun always rises again, only to reveal that the madness continues. Despite the many anguished cries that plead so desperately that morning should not come, it does - again and again and again. That is until the sunset, not of another day, but of time itself, descends upon this earth.

Be assured the tears that flood over our bustling world are not shed in vain. The Almighty God has promised to wipe away all tears from our eyes. A glorious day of healing is just ahead.

The sun will finally set on all sin and suffering, never to rise again. There is One enthroned in heaven who has promised the eternal demise of evil; affliction will not rise up again.

Sin will run its course. Sinners will repent or rebel once and for all. This hijacked planet will return to its owner. All intelligent beings will proclaim with one voice, "Just and true are your ways, O King of the saints" (Rev 15:3). "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mat 13:43).

The plans have already been made for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). For the first heaven and the first earth, the present brutal nightmare we now endure, will soon pass away. When that day of gladness comes there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying and there shall be no more pain (Rev 21:1, 4).

The sunset of time will be followed by the sunrise of eternity. This present reality of heartache will give way to the new reality of endless love and peace. So do not hesitate to answer the question that matters most: How can I be one of the happy citizens of God's coming kingdom?

Well, there is another sunrise you should know about. This one is more personal and awaits its day of dawning in your heart. Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness. God says to you who obey "My saving power will rise on you like the sun and bring healing in its rays" (Malachi 4:2). You may claim your citizenship in the kingdom of Christ by inviting him into your heart as Saviour and Lord. Understand and believe the essential Truths and be baptised. He will heal the wounds your sins have made by the light of His forgiving and renewing grace. He has reserved a place for you in his plan. Do not miss it for anything.

*Bro James Zuitete (Harare, Zimbabwe)*

### **Soya Beans**

There is reluctance in some parts of Africa to grow and use them, preferring traditional foods. However, they are a relatively simple crop to grow and can produce good harvests. The seed contains 20-21% high energy fat and 35-40% high quality protein. Their nutritional value is demonstrated in the following chart showing protein and lipids fats % compared to other crops and foodstuffs. We would be happy to send any in Africa a copy of a Zambian Agricultural Officer's notes on their production.

<b>Crop/Foodstuff</b>	<b>Protein %</b>	<b>Lipids Fats %</b>
Meat	17	16
Fish	16	0.5
Eggs	13	12
Rice	7	1
Maize	9	4
Soybeans	40	21

## **Problem Box: The Roman Catholic Church and the New Testament Canon**

*The impression is often given by Roman Catholics that their church decided which books should go into the New Testament. Critics of the Bible claim that the New Testament can't be taken seriously because the choice of books was made by men, some being rejected, and some accepted.*

These claims all depend upon setting up an impression that a group of men sat down at a conference, with a pile of books in front of them, and decided which ones they would put into the New Testament canon - throwing some into the bin, and accepting others as Divinely inspired.

However, this is simply *not* what happened! There was no single 'Council' or conference which decided which books should be put into the canon [i.e. the list of inspired books which make up the New Testament]. The history of those 'Councils' makes it clear that it was more a case of confirming that the books already widely accepted as inspired were in fact inspired and should be included in the canon of the New Testament which was then being produced. Initially, Christianity began amongst largely illiterate folk. They heard the words of the Old Testament prophets read to them, and then they had copies of the Gospels and letters read to them. But as everything had to be copied out by hand, producing a whole copy of the New Testament was a major task. As things became more organized in the church, there had to be a decision as to which set of documents was going to be copied out and made into a 'book'. But they were largely a *confirmation* of the books which were already widely accepted as inspired. In any case, those Councils usually only had local authority over a few churches- none of them universally decided, once and for all, for the whole world, which books should be accepted: " Synodal judgments and episcopal pastoral letters concerning the contents of the Bible become usual only in the fourth century, and at first are of only local importance. They encourage uniformity between the various areas of the church, but are unable to bring about a completely uniform canon until the Middle Ages" (1).

How, then, did it come about that the early church knew which books were inspired and which weren't? Paul and Peter were aware that there would be false prophets within the early church as well as true ones (2 Pet. 2:1). These false prophets wrote down their false teachings and claimed they were inspired. So there had to be a system of deciding whether a prophet was true or false. There was a Holy Spirit gift which enabled the early church to 'discern the spirits' - to know for sure who was inspired and who wasn't (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Jn. 4:1). 1 Cor. 14:29 suggests that as soon as a person claimed to be 'prophesying' from God, then the person with the gift of discerning spirits was to be present with them and to confirm their words. And Paul goes on to say that anyone who doesn't submit to this, doesn't really have the Holy Spirit gifts.

### **Testing The Prophets**

There were other tests of these prophets- if they didn't accept that Jesus was Lord, they didn't have the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). If they held false teaching about whether Jesus came in the flesh, and walked in hatred of the other Christians, they also were to be rejected (1 Jn. 4:1-10). When Paul says that God and the holy spirit witness to the truth of what he is writing, he is presumably referring to how those with the gift of discerning spirits had tested and approved what he was saying (Rom. 1:9; 9:1 cp. 2 Cor. 11:31; Gal. 1:20; 1 Tim. 2:7). What all this means is that as soon as a genuine New Testament prophet gave a prophecy, it was *immediately* recognized as such, because all these methods of 'testing the spirit' had been followed. This, by the way, explains

the very 'dogmatic' and self-assured tone of some of the writers. They insist that their commands have God's authority (1 Thess. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:15), and therefore must be obeyed (2 Thess. 3:14). They can insist that what they are saying is actually the will and command of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37) and their inspired preaching was "of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:13). These claims would have come over as arrogant and baseless - unless there had indeed been the process of confirmation of their words as explained above. The writers can ask for their letters to be read at the gatherings of the early church - which initially would have been based around the synagogue practice of reading from the Old Testament Scriptures. Their writings were clearly accepted on a par with those writings - as soon as they were issued (1 Thess. 5:27; Col. 4:16; Rev. 1:3).

### **Quick Acceptance**

All this is why we find a very significant feature in both the New Testament itself, and in the historical, uninspired writings of the early Christians: *they speak about the New Testament writings as being inspired Scripture just as they speak of the inspired Old Testament writings*. So Peter, writing in A.D. 68, speaks of Paul's letters as being amongst "the other Scriptures" (2 Pet. 3:16), i.e. on the same level of acceptance as the Old Testament Scriptures. In 1 Tim. 5:18, Paul combines two quotations, one from the Old Testament and another from the Gospel of Luke, and calls them both "Scripture": "For the Scripture saith "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn' [Dt. 25:4]. And, 'The labourer is worthy of his hire'" (Lk. 10:7). Polycarp, writing in about AD115, combines the Old Testament Psalms and Paul's letter to the Ephesians in a similar manner: "In the sacred books.... as it is said in these Scriptures, 'Be ye angry and sin not,' and 'Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.'" Some years later, the [uninspired] second letter of Clement (2:4) quotes Isaiah and then adds: "And another Scripture, however, says, 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners'" - quoting from Matthew. The first epistle of Clement, dating at the latest to AD95, quotes from many of Paul's letters and from the Gospels; but very significantly it doesn't quote from any of the books which later were rejected at the Councils. So, the 'new' writings of the New Testament were accepted on an equal footing as the Old Testament Scriptures from soon after they were first circulated. Notice that this was all *before* the Councils met to assemble the canon. The books were widely accepted as inspired *before* them! They didn't give those books an inspired status. It's also apparent that the 'new' books didn't go through much of a process of being recognized as inspired. As outlined earlier, they were accepted as inspired immediately.

### **Debate?**

There were a few books which *were* debated at the Councils, especially the letter to the Hebrews. All of them have one thing in common: they don't make clear, or there is debate about, who actually wrote them and whether the writers were apostles of Jesus. Hebrews doesn't mention who wrote it within the text of the letter. But it had been accepted as inspired from the beginning, using the tests explained above. The Councils discussed it only because of the lack of stated authorship. But there was no debate over the majority of the books that entered the canon. Again, the picture of men agonizing over whether or not to include every book we now have in the New Testament is simply a caricature of the situation. Even from the beginning of the second century there were references by early Christians to a collection of books called the "Gospel and Apostles". Clearly a body of letters and the the four Gospels had already developed - well before the Councils even met (2)!

Roman Catholics make the point that their church not only decided what went into the New Testament but also added the Apocrypha, which Protestants don't accept. But it's historically inaccurate to say that the Roman Catholics decided what went into the New Testament - the decision was made well before the founding of Roman Catholicism as we now know it. This religion started from the church at Rome. Their leaders claimed that their church should have universal ('Catholic') control over all other churches. They decided that the leader of the church of Rome, now known as the Pope, spoke directly from God; his decrees were to be treated as the word of God. They showed by this that they utterly failed to take into account the Biblical teaching about 'discerning the spirits'. In this and many other matters they showed themselves to be completely out of harmony with the word of God. It is therefore a baseless claim to suggest that they, who consider their leader to speak God's word, should have any right to define what is or is not inspired. The simple fact is that the canon of the New Testament was fixed well before the development of 'Roman Catholicism'.

### **Concluding Thoughts**

God wants to communicate with us His creatures. It would make no sense for Him to inspire some books and allow them to be mixed up with books which He didn't inspire. He wants to speak to us clearly. There can therefore be no doubt that He worked *through* the various church Councils towards the end result of us having the New Testament which we now have.

God has shown us throughout the Old Testament how He works. Yes, He can do great miracles. He could have made the New Testament float down from the sky, complete with printing apparatus. But He didn't. He has always preferred to work through the 'still small voice' rather than through anything dramatic (1 Kings 19:12). He is of course God and not man, and He does and can do miracles; but He works with what has been rightly called 'an economy of miracle'. He works through normal historical processes, through people, misguided people, bad people, good people. They all play their role. Given this, how He worked in order to give us the New Testament is exactly in keeping with how He has worked before. There was the miraculous, Divine element - the writing of the books and the gift of 'discerning of spirits'. And then there was the normal historical process - the books being gathered into groups, and then published more widely, and finally being fixed into the canon of the New Testament which we now have.

*Notes. (1) Hans von Campenhausen, The Formation of the Christian Bible (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1968) pp. 331,332. (2) There was a collection of "New Books" (Ignatius), called the "Gospel and Apostles" (Ignatius, Marcion), seen even then as part of the "Oracles" of God (Polycarp, Papias, 2 Clement), or "Scriptures" (1 Tim., 2 Pet., Barnabas., Polycarp, 2 Clement), or the "Holy Books" or "Bible" (Testimony of the 12 Patriarchs). All these writers quoted were writing before the Councils met.*

*Duncan Heaster*

### **Instructions to Youth: "The Lesson"**

2 Timothy 3:12 Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Jesus Christ will be persecuted

Philippians 2:3-5 Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had. 'To follow the ways of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

2 Timothy 3:15 Since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 11:39, 40 What a record all these have won by their faith! Yet they did not receive what God had promised because God had decided on an even better plan for us, to be rewarded with them.

Luke 2:47 All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. When Jesus was twelve years old, he went with his parents to the festival as usual. But the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this. Some of our parents currently do not know the Holy Scripture; try to teach them to know the Bible.

1 Timothy 4:13 Until I come, give your time and effort to the public reading of the scriptures and to preaching and teaching.

Matthew 21:15, 16 But when the chief priest and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, 'Hosanna to the son of David!' they were indignant and said to him 'Do you know what these are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes', have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants you have perfected praise to God'.

1 Timothy 4:16 Watch yourself and watch your teaching. Keep on doing these things, because if you do, you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

*George Maina Wabwile (Bungoma, Kenya)*

## **The Prophecy of Joel,**

### **Chapter 1 – Nothing to offer but ourselves**

'It's all gone wrong'. 'I have had such a rough time, it's not fair'. How many times do we hear, or indeed make, such complaints as these?

Read the book of Joel ch. 1:

A great plague of locusts has spread its destructive blanket over the land of Israel. - While drought has also brought its devastation. – Nothing is left, not even for an offering to God. To the people the calamity suggested God's displeasure with them, some tried to drown their sorrows.– Most simply felt dispirited, discouraged and depressed.

The prophet's message is to turn and give themselves totally to the Lord,. Even though they have no offerings to bring to Him they can still bring themselves and call to Him, for He is ready to meet them.

How often our response to God is affected by our circumstances. When things go well, we rejoice and praise God. When things go wrong, we sink into despair and self-pity, feeling that God has forgotten or rejected us.

If we can learn to give ourselves to Him, even though everything seems to be against us and we feel stripped and empty, we will find that He is with us in the mess and that makes a lot of difference.

*Are my moods and reactions controlled by circumstances or by Jesus living in me?*

### **Chapter 2 – Knowing God makes the difference.**

If our reactions to events and circumstances are no different to those of people with no faith or hope in God, are they not entitled to ask the question, 'Where is your God?'.

Read Joel 2:1-27

Using graphic, poetic language, Joel paints a picture of a locust hoard as a great army destroying a city, Verses 1-11 As a result people of other nations could point their fingers and say 'Why has this happened to you? Where is your God?' Verse 17.

Being a Christian does not mean that we are given some sort of Divine immunity to disaster, difficulty, trial or unpleasantness, economic restraints, unemployment, the death of loved ones, suffering and many other things which are common in the world. These will be experienced as much by Christians as by anybody else. In the middle of their problems Joel points the people forward to the expectation of great blessing. No matter what our present situation, with confidence in God, instead of turning inwards in despair and self-preservation, we will still be blessed as we serve others and others will see the difference. God is with us, verse 27.

*A circumstance or situation which would otherwise devastate me can actually mature me with God's help.*

### **Chapter 3 – A call to conflict**

At every stage of the course it is good to know you are on the winning side.

Read again Joel 2:28 – 3:15

The dramatic military images used by Joel picture the great preparations for the battle of Armageddon. God challenged His enemies to do their worst, to prepare for war bringing all their resources together for the battle, (ch.3:9-10) The language used portrays the conflict intensifying as the Day of the Lord approaches. From God's perspective there is no doubt about the ultimate outcome of the battle.

#### **GOD LIVING AMONG THE PEOPLE**

Throughout scripture the ultimate picture is of God living and ruling among His people through the Lord Jesus Christ resulting in blessing, prosperity and justice among them and through them to the whole of creation.

#### **Read again Joel 3:16-21**

Joel's prophecy ends with a glorious picture, a complete reversal of all that is portrayed earlier. God expressing His judgement and rule through Jesus and his (then) immortal people.. It is important for us to grasp that God's desire is to be among us, to bless. The picture in verse 18 is of a beautiful, fruitful land, flowing with life-giving streams. By comparison, all that the world has to offer will seem a ruined waste, verse 19. However, God will be with us if we are not simply

seeking personal, selfish blessing, but that we use all that He has blessed us with for the benefit and help of others.

*Bro. Fibion Ngozi (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

### **France and Spain June 2005**

Applications for *Bible Basics* continue to be received from the immigrant communities in Western Europe. For some time JELENA, originally from Ukraine but having lived in Zaragoza, Spain, for some years, has been studying *Bible Basics* in Russian. Having been through Orthodox, Catholics, Adventists [with whom she was 'baptized'], she still hungered for a personal relationship with the Lord based upon truth. Mocked by her neighbours for never having gone to confession for four years and not attending church - 'going to church' is a real big cultural thing in Spain - Lena has her faith where it should be - in her heart. It was a pleasure to have some long discussions with this lively, prayerful, intelligent woman and to eventually baptize her into the Lord Jesus in the bath tub of a hotel in northern Spain. Although in a difficult personal situation, our Sister is a great Bible reader, and incidentally was very pleased to be presented with the Ukrainian edition of *Bible Basics*. We feel sure that providing literature in the exact native language of contacts is indeed worthwhile and enhances their grasp of the Truth.

We moved on to another town to visit GELA. She is a wonderfully brave woman, originally from Africa, who has gone through some awful experiences and which are ongoing. She is in need of our prayerful support as she 'is in a very very difficult situation, although she is one of the most prayerful people we have met anywhere. Again we are delighted to announce her baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ. She presented us with some-home made materials which we are happy to offer for sale to the highest bidder! A man's leather belt hand embroidered with beads; two key rings likewise hand embroidered with beads; and two wrist bands with the Kiswahili greeting 'Jambo' embroidered on them in beads. Her situation is indeed very difficult and anyone wanting to know more can contact Cindy direct at [cindy@apollo.lv](mailto:cindy@apollo.lv)

Next stop was France, where we have a number of promising contacts from the immigrant community in France. Amongst these, we met up with our long time contact JEAN-FRANCOIS. A native of Congo, he's living near Geneva Switzerland, but had been sent to Paris by his company for training. We were delighted to meet up with him there on a break from his training course. Since having decided to be baptized, God has greatly blessed him with a good new job, and he was simply so happy to be baptized in that bath tub of a Paris hotel. The message of Hebrews 3:6 came to mind: holding fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. We immediately passed our brother's mobile number to local French speaking sisters who were able to text him felicitations and greetings. His younger sister has recently escaped the violence in Congo and is now with him, along with his wife and two young children, and we pray for them in their difficult situation as they settle in to a new life in Europe.

So we commend our two new sisters and brother to the Lord's care, returning to Latvia very convinced of and thankful for the work the Lord is guiding us to amongst the immigrant communities of Western Europe.

## **The Truth Spreads In Russia**

A difficult visit has been made to north central Russia, and to cut a long story short, 3 days later SERGEJ and IRINA were baptized into the Lord. They live in poverty and we were able to give them some welfare support. Many of these highly remote areas were settled during the Soviet period in an attempt to 'open up Russia'. People went to live in places that really can't sustain much human habitation, and were largely supported by State subsidies. Now the subsidies have gone, but the people are left living in these remote places attempting to survive by subsistence farming. The growing season is so short. Sergej and Irina are out in the fields planting potatoes at the moment, hoping for a good harvest by the end of the summer, which they will store and live off through the long winter, rationing them and their children to a few potatoes and carrot each day. However the long winter and sudden rise in temperatures has resulted in major flooding which is making their sowing very difficult. Please pray for them.

The collective farms [kolkhoz] where people once worked are now all broken down and not supported by the State any more, so there is no employment there, subsistence farming is the only way. With Winter temperatures averaging -45 degrees centigrade, life is miserable and alcoholism rampant.

We drove and flew down to southern Russia, near the Chechnaya border. We met with an active ecclesia in the area, and were pleased to baptize NATASHA. With all health care now having to be paid for, so many have urgent requirements for operations and medicines which they just can't meet. Sis Natasha has a baby who is very sick; she returned from the doctor's with an X-ray scan and prescription for an operation, but she has no money to pay. She is partially deaf and there is little work in the poor village where she lives.

We were able to give some help, and also to Bro Sasha for treatment required for his wife. We can only do this through the generosity of your continued support and we and they so appreciate it.

Bro Sasha reported further about Bro Vladimir, who he says has been persecuted by Orthodox priests and unfairly imprisoned on a trumped up charge. He asked if we could send food for him to our Brother's wife, as conditions in the prison are awful. Any who would like to send some food parcels should please contact us. Bro Sasha also reported regarding the problems of our Bro Nikolaj in Chechnaya. His house was totally destroyed in the fighting but the State won't give him compensation as the house was in the name of a relative who was killed. He is apparently living in a ruined house in Grozny, but recently visited our Bro Sasha.

From southern Russia we flew via Moscow to Udmurtiya, an autonomous region next to the Moslem republic of Tatarstan. Here there lives ANDREJ, a long-term contact with an excellent knowledge of Scripture. Andrej had attended the winter Bible School in Kazan but needed to be more sure about the issues of the devil and the non pre-existence of Jesus. Now he is sure; he has carefully researched all the doctrines of the Truth in great detail, and it was a pleasure to visit and baptize him. We promised to pray for his unbelieving family. We give thanks to God our father and ask for your continued prayers and support as the Gospel spreads literally into every corner of the earth.

### Point to ponder

"Let my words be sweet, because tomorrow I shall have to eat them"

### Personal Testimony

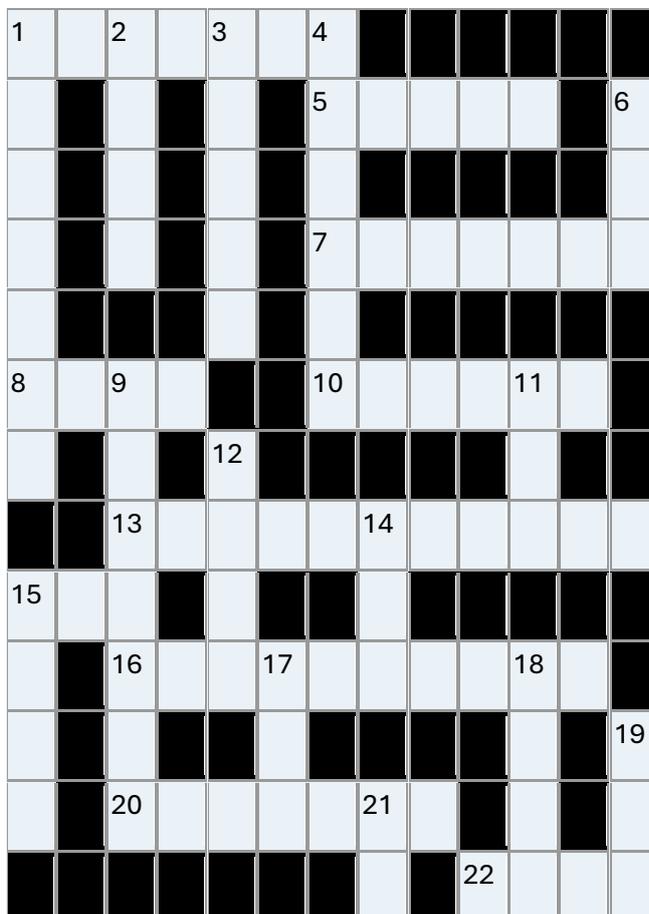
I would like to really thank the Almighty as He has led my life through history. I was eager to find a place at Morganster Teachers college for a three year diploma course, and for the provision of finance to cater for the fees. Many people are dying because of hunger, crimes, violence and suicide but by his grace, I'm alive to preach the gospel to all nations as he said on his departure.

Finally, brethren, pray for me to be in sound doctrine as I am far from other brethren at College. I should be grateful if you would send me some copies of Bible Basics (English/Shona) as I have many students here in need of them. And also a booklet, 'Who are the Christadelphians?' Brethren and sisters worldwide, preach the gospel without ceasing till he come. (Luke 19:10; Hebrews 2:11 2 Peter 3:15).

*Bro Mudawse Simon (Masvingo, Zimbabwe)*

*Bro Mudawse Simon (Masvingo, Zimbabwe)*

### BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**Across.** 1. Jesus is our. 5 Land of slavery. 7 Nebuchadnezzar was king of. 8 He was saved from the flood. 10. This prophet rebuked David when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. 13 Eve was made from the... 15 He succeeded Abijah his father as King. 16 Praise the Lord. 20 This disciple was a tax collector, also called Levi. 22 Means 'red' also called Esau.

**Down.** 1. Eve was deceived by this. 2 'I will fulfil my...to the Lord' 3. Naomi's daughter in law. 4. Israel's firstborn son. 6. 'Surely he was the... of God (Matt 27). 9 He was called the friend of God. 11 "Repent...be baptised 12 He was murdered by his brother. 14 It enables the lamp to keep burning. 15 a shepherd of Tekoa. 17 Abraham's nephew. 18. Among the. 19 His father was No 8 across. 21 Exodus (abbreviation).

#### **Answers to the Crossword**

**1 Saviour, 5 Egypt, 7 Babylon, 8 Noah, 10 Nathan, 13 Rib from Adam, 15 Asa, 16 Halleluiah, 20 Matthew, 22 Edom.**

**Down: 1 Serpent, 2 Vows, 3 Orpah, 4 reuben, 6 Son, 9, Abraham, 11 And, 12 Abel, 14 Oil, 15 Amos, 17 Lot, 18 Aged 19 Ham, 21 Ex.**

*Bro Silas K Chishimba (Mufulira, Zambia)*