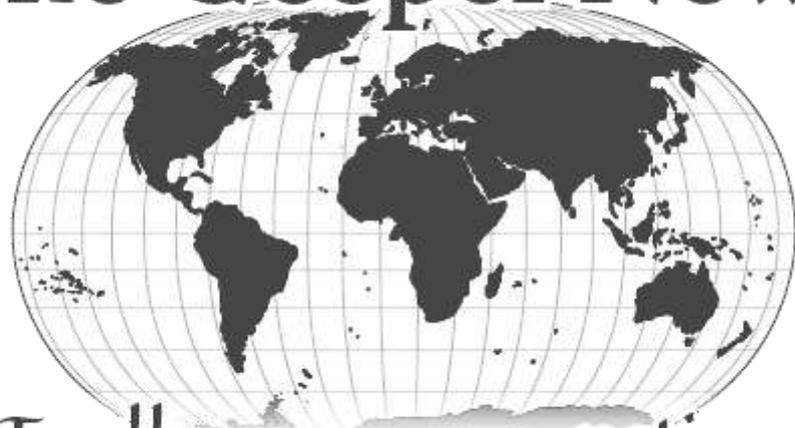


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



EDITORIAL - Out of the Comfort Zone

The Lord's teaching style continually revolved around posing explicit and implicit questions to His hearers. John's Gospel contains a total of 161 questions; and one brief passage in Mark (8:14-21) records how the Lord asked seven questions in quick succession. In this sense, the Lord Jesus intended to be intrusive into human life; He penetrates the depths of our being. His call to pick up a cross and follow Him was radical- so radical, that His hearers both then and now tended to [even unconsciously] negate the totally radical import of His demands.

The Challenge Of The Cross

The rich young man would fain have followed Jesus. But he was told that he must sell all that he had, give to the poor, and take up the cross to follow Christ (Mk. 10:21). Notice how the ideas of following Christ and taking up the cross are linked. The man went away, unable to carry that cross, that sacrifice of those material things that were dearest to him. Peter responds with the strong implication that he *had* done all these things, he was following the Master, and by implication he felt he was carrying the cross. Notice the parallels between the Lord's demand of the young man, and Peter's comment (Lk. 18:22 cp. 28; Mk. 10:21 cp. 28):

"Sell all that thou hast and distribute to the poor	"We have left all
...and come, take up the cross	[no comment by Peter]
and follow me"	...and have followed thee"

Peter seems to have subconsciously bypassed the thing about taking up the cross. But he was sure that he was really following the Lord. He blinded himself to the inevitable link between following Christ and self-crucifixion; for the path of the man Jesus led to Golgotha. We have this same tendency, in that we can break bread week after week, read the records of the crucifixion at least eight times / year, and yet not let ourselves grasp the most basic message: that we as followers of this man must likewise follow in our self-sacrifice to that same end.

The Gospel records, Luke especially, often record how the Lord turned and spoke to His followers- as if He was in the habit of walking ahead of them (Lk. 7:9; 10:23; 14:25; 23:28; Mt. 9:22; Jn. 1:38). As we saw above, Peter thought that following the Lord was not so hard, because he was literally following Jesus around first century Israel, and identifying himself with His cause. But he simply failed to make the connection between following and cross carrying. And we too can agree to follow the Lord without realizing that it means laying down our lives. The Lord brought Peter to face this with a jolt in Mt. 16:22-25. Peter was following Jesus, after He had predicted His crucifixion (for Jesus "turned, and said unto Peter"). He thought he was following Jesus. But he was told: "Get thee *behind me*...if any man will come *after me* (s.w. 'behind me'), let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and *follow me* (s.w.)". The italicized words are all the same in the original. Peter didn't want the Lord to die by crucifixion at Jerusalem, because he saw that as a follower of Jesus this required that he too must die a like death. Peter needed to get behind Jesus in reality and really follow, in the sense of following to the cross, although he was there physically behind Jesus, physically following at that time. The Lord was saying: 'Don't think of trying to stop me dying. I will, of course. But concentrate instead on *really* getting behind me in the sense of carrying my cross'. John's record stresses that the key to following Jesus to the cross is to hear His word, which beckons us onwards (Jn. 10:4,27). All our Bible study must lead us onwards in the life of self-sacrifice. But Peter loved the Lord's words; yet, as pointed out

to him at the transfiguration, he didn't hear those words of Christ deeply. And so he missed the call to the cross.

All this explains why we find it so hard to stop our minds from wandering at the breaking of bread. It explains why we struggle with the records of the crucifixion. Who He was there, what He was there, is a powerful imperative to us to do and be likewise. For we are brethren in Christ, in Him, the crucified Christ. In our deep subconscious, it seems to me, we know how we ought to live in Him. We don't respond well to merely being told how we ought to live by well meaning brethren. The final motivation must be a real person we know, a man, a human, a more-than-man, a hero who inspires and reveals our deepest conscience. And in the cross we have just that Man.

The Radical Life

In the account of Peter walking on water we have a cameo of what it means to walk out of our comfort zone. Peter asked the man on the water to invite him to walk on the water; for Peter knew that only Jesus would be that demanding. He's a demanding Lord for us too. Peter didn't have to get out of the boat. But He realised that following the Lord Jesus involves this stepping out of our comfort zone. For us, it may be making a radical donation of our money, our time, a donation that really hurts, that is significant, not a giving that is well within our comfort zone. Or it may be a radical forgiveness - and I'm sure we can all think of many other things that may be our 'walking out on the water'. Picture Peter as he stood by the side of the boat, wind blowing his hair back and forth, rain driving into his forehead, his brethren muttering, 'You're absolutely *crazy*, there's no need for this...we're only going to have to save you ourselves'. He must have felt so alone. There was no human encouragement. Probably his thoughts went back to the wife and children he had left behind on the other side of the lake, in that humble home in that quaint fishing village. But his focus was upon one Man, the same Lord and Master whom we look out to from the sides of our ships.

The sheer bravery of Peter stands out. Was he afraid? Of course he was. But he focused all his faith into the word of Jesus: "Come!" He overcame his fear to the point that he climbed over the side of the boat. Picture him there, with one leg over the side and on the water and the other still in the boat. He couldn't stay like that. He had to go only forward. The only thing that kept him back was fear. And it is basically *fear* which holds us within our comfort zones. Fear, fear, fear...that's all it is. To know 'truth' in its experiential sense should free us from fear; for fear is related to the unknown. God appeals to Israel: "Of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied?" (Is. 57:11). Fear leads to our abdicating from the responsibility of making choices; and this is why humanity has such a dearth of truly creative imagination, and why genuinely new ideas are so rare. But the true life in Christ is a life of repeatedly overcoming that fear, the fear which paralyzes, which holds you back. Let the widow woman of 1 Kings 17:13 be our heroine; she had totally nothing, just some flour, and she was hunting around in a parched land for two sticks with which to make a fire to bake it for her and her son to eat there last meal, then to lie down in the dust of death. She must have been literally on her last legs. But then God, through Elijah, asked her to give Him even the little she had. And Elijah encourages the frightened, wide-eyed woman: "Fear not!" And she went forward in faith and gave him her very last hope of life in response to the Father's challenge.

Fear is, to my mind, the greatest single barrier to faith and true spirituality. It is fear alone which stops us from keeping commitments, from not entering into covenant relationship as deeply as we are bidden. This is why people shy away from covenant relationships, be they with the Father

through baptism, or to another person through marriage or having children. Fear holds us back. We fear even ourselves, our own spiritual capacity, our standing before the Father. Our inner anxieties, our unconscious inner conflicts as we stand with Peter on the edge of the boat, often lead us to criticize others or to speak and act with a hypocritical bravado. Yet true faith asks us to risk. As my beloved Brother John Stibbs once e-mailed me:

"We are asked to risk all we believe ourselves to be, we may find we're not what we thought ourselves to be, our constructs of the self will be pushed to the limit and we're afraid of what we may find of ourselves, that we may not be what we imagine ourselves to be in the construct upon which we have built our theories of the self. Obeying rules, staying within the construct, is much easier, much safer. We may have never tested ourselves in the real world. To launch off into the unknown, into a future that contains or may contain unknown risk, where our worst fears are realised, the greatest fear may be that we are failures... most of us, it would seem, don't have enough faith in there even being a God to risk even getting out of the boat let alone walking on the water".

Don't underestimate the power of fear. Nor let us fail to appreciate that the fearful are listed alongside the unrepentant whores and idolators who shall remain outside the city of God (Rev. 21:8). Our thirst for love, our fear of death and spiritual failure before a perfect God, the fear of displeasing or misunderstanding the infinite God...these fears should all be taken away for the man or woman who is truly clothed with the imputed righteousness of Christ, who knows him or herself to be "more than a conqueror, through him that loved us". Yet they have a way of persisting in our weakness of faith. And so there develops a conflict between our true conscience and the false suggestions of our faithless fears. All this can lead to neurotic behaviour and a repression of conscience. The only way out of this is to boldly step forward as Peter did.

Murderers often reveal that their psychological motivation was not merely hatred, but fear - fear of what that person might do, or who they might show them up to be. Fear, therefore, is at the root of all lack of love and respect for our brethren. We fear the poor image of ourselves which they reveal by their actions or examples; and so slander and hatred of them in the heart [Biblical murder] develops. If only we can cast away this kind of fear, then love will take its place; for perfect love comes when fear has been cast out (1 Jn. 4:18).

It seems to me that we have over intellectualized our 'faith', until we almost obsessively seek to *understand* at every point what God's plan is for us. But the life of faith is an abandoning of ourselves to the Lord, asking Him to guide us and invite us, as Peter did. It is our fear which leads us to 'choose not to choose any more', to resign responsibility for our choices. Human beings tend to allow themselves to be carried along by their instincts, desires and fears. Perhaps this, for some, is rooted in a childhood background where they never knew the carefree life of a child, but had to calculate in detail the result of every action and deed. Even if this were happily not the case with us, society has groomed us to do just this in later life. And this militates against the life of true choice, which is the life of faith - choosing to walk out of our comfort zones into the challenge of the Lord's protection and grace. It is in this that Peter's climbing over the side of the boat sets us such an inspirational example.

Living a life that has come out and comes out of the comfort zone is not the same as making occasional forays out of it. There is a tendency in all of us to make such temporary, ultimately insignificant forays out: to write a cheque for an amount well within our total wealth; to occasionally rise up to the challenge of forgiving others. We are in those moments like the

Moslem who occasionally glances over an Internet site about Jesus, gets a little bit interested, and then runs back into the safety of tradition; like the well-behaved, submissive adolescent who occasionally does something just a little bit 'naughty'. Yet the call of Christ is far more radical than that. It is a call to live permanently on the edge, permanently risking ourselves and stepping out of line with all that seems humanly sensible and safe: decent living, nice habits, occasional kindness, doing no harm to our neighbour...all these things can be seen in the lives of some who make no claim to Christianity. Personal, real repentance, the shattering personal encounter with the real Jesus and His real demands...this is a life of an altogether different order.

Christ Manifestation

So how exactly was Peter motivated? We want to know, because it's the motivation that we so urgently need. The Lord "stretched forth his hand" to save Peter (Mt. 14:31); and this is the very phrase used by Peter in Acts 4:30, speaking of how the Lord's hand is "stretched forth to heal". Peter saw himself on the lake as typical of all whom the Lord saves. Yet, it was *Peter*, not the Lord Himself, who stretched forth his hand to do the Lord's healing work on the lame man (Acts 3:7). Again, Peter is thinking back to the incident on the lake and perceiving that he is now Christ manifest as he had intended to be then. Thus it was the principle of Christ manifestation which inspired Peter to reach out of his comfort zone so dramatically, and, properly appreciated, it can motivate us likewise.

When Peter was sinking, he was living out the picture we have of condemnation at the last day. Mt. 14:30 says that he began to "sink" into the sea of Galilee. This is exactly the image we find in Mt. 18:6, where the Lord says, in response to the question, 'Who will be the greatest?' that he who offends one of the little ones will be drowned [s.w. "sink"] in the midst of the sea - and his audience would have immediately associated this with the midst of the sea of Galilee, just where the storm had occurred. Peter seems to have realized that this warning was pertinent to him, for it is he who then interrupts the Lord to ask how often he should forgive his brother (Mt. 18:21). Peter sinking into Galilee, giving up swimming but desperately throwing up his hand to the Lord [you don't swim with a hand outstretched], is the position of each person who truly comes to Christ. This is the extent of our desperation; baptism, conversion to Him, is most definitely not a painless living out of parental expectations. Note how they were "tossed" or 'tormented' (Gk.) by the raging waves (Mt. 14:24) - the very same word is used about how the rejected will be "tormented" in condemnation (Rev. 14:10; 20:10). Peter's salvation by the hand of the Lord was representative of us all. As he drowned there in the lake, he was effectively living out the condemnation of the last day. But he appealed urgently to the Lord: "Save me!" Later, Peter was to use the same words in his preaching, when he appealed to his nation to "save [themselves]" by calling on the name of the Lord, just as he had done on the lake (Acts 2:40). He saw that those people were in just the position which he had been in on the lake. *And therefore he could passionately appeal to them with real credibility.*

And thus we come to a gripping piece of logic. Peter is set up as our example. All who will be saved will have called desperately upon the name of the Lord, deeply knowing their own condemnation. They will have stepped out of their comfort zones. For all true conversion to Him involves a stepping out of the boat and walking to Him over the waves, dying in self-condemnation and rising again. If we didn't go through this at our baptism, be assured that we will. For there are various stages to conversion; hence the Lord could tell the already-converted Peter: "When you are converted, strengthen your brethren". Our community has been deeply shocked by the fact that young Christadelphians in Iran and Afghanistan have recently been

murdered for their faith; others have been tortured and imprisoned. We find it shocking and disturbing. And yet when I have commended those who endure these dangers with such devotion and joy, their response is basically, 'But this is what we signed up for in baptism. We agreed to share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We expect no less'. And we should all have this attitude; that we have been called to give, to sacrifice, to give out, to risk, called to the life of bravery in the face of loss, suffering and death - the life and living which characterized that of the Lord Jesus.

Life On The Water

Try to imagine how Peter felt as he walked on the water. It must have been an exhilarating life to live for those seconds or minutes that he lived life just as his Lord would have him live it. Peter walking on the water is how we each can live life, walking with Jesus amidst every discouragement and distraction. This life of excitement, of adventure, of continual risk, living outside the comfort zone, this is the life which there is in Christ. We don't need to live under Islamic persecution to live this life. In suburban Sydney or central Riga or rural Zimbabwe, the call to this radical life is just as clear - if only we will perceive it. We may die in our beds, cared for in a loving Christadelphian old people's home until our last breath, but this doesn't mean that we aren't living the life of risk, the brave life, the dangerous life, with all the loneliness and creativity that arises from a life outside the comfort zone.

At Peter's initial conversion, he had also been in his ship on the sea of Galilee and had seen Jesus walking near [s.w. 'by'] the sea shore (Mt. 4:18). He left his boat and responded to the call to follow Jesus. Now it's the same basic scene, but this time Jesus is walking not "by" the sea but "on" the sea. The similarity is perhaps to teach Peter, and us, that the Lord's real call may be repeated throughout our lives; the initial response may be relatively painless, but through the storms of life, the Lord teaches us, as He did Peter, how radical is the response required. To follow Him meant not merely walking away from the cares of this life, the boat, the nets, the fishing - but if Jesus walks on water, then those who follow Him must do likewise. And Peter, to his immense credit, perceived this; he saw his Lord walking on water as an imperative that demanded he do likewise. For him, Jesus wasn't just a Saviour on whose back he could ride to salvation in God's Kingdom. Yes, He is, of course, our Saviour when we sink and drown in our weaknesses. But He is more than that - He is an inspiring example. Peter's wish to walk on water wasn't motivated, therefore, by any form of inquisitiveness or dare-deviling; wanting to walk on the water was rooted in his grasp of the fact that if this is where the Lord walks, then axiomatically, he must do likewise. When the Lord walked "by" the sea, Peter had come out of the boat and followed Him; now the Lord walks "on" the sea, Peter perceives that he must follow Him even there. For "he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, as he walked" (1 Jn. 2:6 - the same word is used as in the record of Peter's walking on water with Jesus, making it possible that John is upholding Peter's example for us all). For many, our conversions were relatively painless; indeed, for those raised in the faith, it may have been easier to get baptized than to walk away from it. But the essentially radical invitation to follow Jesus is repeated in later life; and the validity of our earlier choice to follow is put to the test by our later response to the same invitation.

There are opportunities galore in these last days to walk out of our comfort zone, not counting the cost, into the real life as God intended. Many are trying to do this, very falteringly. You're surrounded by your brethren who in ways great and small, private and public, are living this life. Why not join them.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from burundi

BUJUNBURA

I have not been able to reply because of the situation of war in our country. Your booklets have helped me very much, please go on sending them to others; the Lord will give you back whatever is due to you.

Sis Elysee Nimpagaritse

news from cameroon

BAMENDA

Thank you for the wonderful work you are doing in the missionary field. We run a radio programme here with help from Bro Andrew Walker. This programme is broadcast every Sunday morning and is known as The CBM Half Hour of exhortation over radio Hot Coffee. I find Gospel News magazine most helpful. Articles from Gospel News have been used for broadcasting, for example in Jan/Feb 2005 we broadcast the article "Why Delay Being Baptised"? by Sis Laura Burdekin of the UK and "Never Give Up, Get Going" by Bro Joseph Oppong of Ghana on different Sunday mornings. On several occasions the public have requested a re-broadcast.

Bro Emmanuel Nanji

news from ghana

AGOGO

I am grateful that you didn't delay in writing when you heard of the falling asleep, in Christ, of my father, Brother Charles Aboagye. I read your letter to the whole family to signify that we have got Brethren and Sisters outside Ghana. I want you to thank the Brethren and Sisters in Ghana for the love they showed to me during this time and I know you would have done the same had you been here. Send my sincere gratitude to other Brothers and Sisters in England who contributed in one way or another.

Bro. William Aboagye

SHAMA

As we are all aware, troubles in the world still continue in this year of 2005, with all our hopes depending upon the coming of the Lord to put things right. We therefore must support each other on our walk to the Kingdom, which our good Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, is coming to set up on the earth, when there shall be no more sickness, pain or death for those found faithful by him. So let us all hold fast to the end. You will be happy to hear that Sis. Cecilia is now keeping up in health. The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is very useful to me in my studies; thank you

very much for making it possible for me to have it.

Bro Joseph Oppong



Photo: Bro. John K. Dadzie (Winneba)



Photo: The meeting hall at Shama Junction. In the front row are four newly baptised Brethren and Sisters.

CAPE COAST

I am writing this morning from Queen Ann's Point "Ekon" near Cape Coast. You will be very glad to hear that, with the assistance of our Almighty Father, we have baptised two souls, they are the wife of Brother Joseph Agyemang, Sister Monica Williams Agyemang and the nephew of Brother Joel Acquah, Brother Stephenson Joel Aidoo. Brothers Joseph and Thomas from Accra witnessed these baptisms. We pray that our Almighty Father will guide them to the coming Kingdom. Amen.

Brother Lawrence Nkrumah

news from kenya

BONDO

I have finally received your letter, *Gospel News* and other things. Sincerely, I am grateful indeed for your kind gestures and for other things provided in the past. This testifies that we are working in one accord and for the one destination - the coming Kingdom of God. We hear of the many many preaching efforts you make outside of Great Britain, meeting many Brothers and Sisters and friends to study the scriptures. Here in Kenya, many Brothers and Sisters cannot afford to travel to gather to see each other and share their problems and to have Bible discussions. There is much poverty prevailing among Brothers and Sisters in the country and the only hope we have is for the Kingdom to come fast when God's will shall be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Language is a problem and it reminds me of what happened after the flood. But we have the hope of one language being restored in the coming Kingdom (Zeph. 3:8-9). Please kindly send me copies of *Introducing Bible Basics* and *Bible Basics*; they will be most useful to me and other friends this side who are eager and willing to learn from the scriptures.

Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

Photo: Bro. Raphael Aimo, second from right, with some Brothers and Sisters outside Kibera ecclesial hall, Nairobi, after partaking of the emblems



As it is hard, and even very dangerous, to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ in some countries, I would like to urge Brothers and Sisters in such countries to seek those things which are above, where Christ is at the right hand of God, where our life is hid. Because, as the Bible says, the sufferings we are seeing and facing in this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us when the Lord Jesus returns. I always pray for such Brothers and Sisters, and even those in the midst of other denominations where the true word of God cannot be accepted very easily. I would urge them, and indeed all of us, to stick to what we have got no matter what it takes, hoping that our King will soon descend to reward those worthy with everlasting life. I pray that Brothers and Sisters in the whole world will remain strong in faith and prayerfully obedient as we eagerly wait for our Master and, by God's grace, eternal life in the Kingdom.

Bro. Vincent Odhiambo

KISUMU

I am writing during this time when the world is witnessing what they never expected in their lives. It is a time of sorrow to me as a Christian and all others who have seen the situation in the Indian Ocean in the news media, like radio and television. The cause can be explained by scientific hypothesis, but to me it seems to be beyond human knowledge and understanding because God is the one who created the earth and He is the one who has power over nature.

At Mount Sinai, the Israelites cried when God came in thunder and lightning. To prove that God has power over nature, He sent a terrifying situation accompanied by thunder, earthquakes and lightning. During the time of Noah, God had used water to ensure that only Noah and his family, who only was faithful to Him, survived through the boat he was instructed to make. The Israelite had to ask Moses to intervene with God (Exodus 19; 34:10).

However, God has a good life that is coming if only the people can change and give their lives to God in a trusting faith today. Jehovah is ready to change every harmful event in their lives (read Isaiah 65:17-25).

Bro. Jared Oleo Nyateng

KISUMU

I saw the advertisement for '*Where There is No Doctor*'; it is a great book, as is *Bible Basics*! Ahero is not an ecclesia; two of us are still in isolation. Did I ever tell you the story about an incident in the waters on my baptism day? We were about five to be baptised and some were preparing to take photos. One of them saw strange movements our way, so he stopped, but did not notify the others. It was a crocodile fighting his way to us. Sadly, the ceremony ended and all of us were at last out of the water.

Bro. Nelson Annyal

KITALE

Thank you for the *Gospel News* that you send. I am enclosing a photo.

Sis. Lydia Fuchaka

Photo taken of Cherangany ecclesia. held in the home of Sis. Fuchaka. From left Sis. Lydia, Sis. Agnes Koech, Bro. John Chege and Bro. Benjamin Koech.



KOBUJOI

I have five young friends undertaking the Sunday School lessons; one is a girl aged 14, very active; I will try and find some suitable material for her. Thank you for your letter and the literature enclosed, it is of great interest. Also the packet of 2005 Bible calendars arrived safely; thanks a lot for these. Last November I had the opportunity of attending a Bible School at Kamukuywa and I found the studies very interesting and thought provoking. Brethren and Sisters from neighbouring ecclesias also managed to attend. The recent earthquake claimed many lives and caused a lot of damage. To the world it was just another catastrophe, but to us it is another signal that our Lord Jesus is soon to appear. Our redemption is much nearer than when we first believed.

Bro. Geoffrey Chirchir

NAIROBI

I'm so sorry for having taken so long to write. I'd like to inform you that I'm holding a Bible discussion with three contacts, one of them is now attending the Sunday meetings. Being French-speaking was an excuse by the other two for not attending the meetings so I decided to open up an English training three times a week. I therefore request an English dictionary, if possible. I would also appreciate it if you could send two copies of *Bible Basics* in French. Please pray God that these friends may join us in the way to the Kingdom.

Bro. Innocent Baruani



Bro. Innocent Baruani and friend, Ishimwenge

NANDI HILLS

We know that Jesus is now immortal and that he intercedes for us. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no one can come to the Father except by him. I was sorry not to have attended the meeting last year, but the letters, which were sent to me, were late. Also, my elder son was riding a bicycle from Eldoret to home and a Tanzanian lorry knocked him down and he was admitted to Eldoret hospital where he stayed for three months.

Bro Henry Mwei



Photo: Bro. Henry

OTHAYA

I was delighted to read the debate on Women's Role in the Church. Where possible, send me more Bible literature. If you have any English/Kiswahili translations to be done I am ready to do it freely since I have a lot of spare time. Also, if you have Sunday School material I would be glad to have it to teach some children in an orphanage.

Bro. Joseph Kanyi Kingori



Photo: Bro. Joseph Kingori

SINDO

I think of the man David, son of Jesse. We read from the Psalms (15:1-5), "Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy hill?" Every Brother and Sister all over the world hopes to have a share in God's coming Kingdom on earth. We are aware of where it will be established because the Scriptures testify the truth – with Divine authority David was promised a Son who would reign and take over the kingdoms of this world: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32). Jesus warned us to watch and pray because we do not know when he will return. We must remain firm in the true faith of Abraham. Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, has set the supreme example for the human race to follow; he is a living witness to our faith, he is the Author of salvation, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus died and was restored to life again; he conquered sin, which has the power of death.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

TONGAREN

I was very happy when I read in *Gospel News* about the book 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet' and request a copy from you. Apart from helping me to grow in faith, this book you offer will teach me how I might get more food for the family. I have got a small farm, but it cannot produce enough food, so over the year I harvest very little.

Bro. Henry Kitingia

Thanks for writing, I was pleased to receive from you. The Lord is still with me and the children, despite the odds and ills in life, having to go without food at certain times. I am improving bit by bit in health. There are a lot of special foods and drugs I was advised to take, but there are no funds. In summary, we are in great suffering, but our hearts are still hopeful that the Lord Jesus will soon come and solve all our problems. I'm happy that you've been praying for us and I beg you should continue persistently. You enclosed a copy of contact person in Kenya regions for welfare, but I have met a rude shock that Bro Benedict Miruka is no longer alive (he has fallen asleep). However, I'm hoping that if you forwarded my letters to Bro.' Phil Lawrence, then they may consider my case. Maybe you didn't see that I was diagnosed for TB and meningitis.

Bro Odiwuor

BALAKA

I am so grateful for all the wonderful things sent to me about the Bible, through the help of our Master, Jesus Christ. I read them all and feel my faith is getting deeper. You are strengthening my faith through this work. As we all know that our Master is nearer than ever before, there is nothing to do than spread the gospel worldwide. Here there are several people seriously interested in what I am telling them. If possible, would you send me two *Bible Basics*. Let us remember that the world God made was not a world of want, disease and death. He made it a place of plenty, health and life. Man's sin and the result of it brought about the sufferings we see. Even for God's own people this is the place of groaning (Rom. 8:22-23). The question the world really should be asking themselves is: Why should we expect anything except pain and death? For this world is full of rebellion against its Creator. To reject the Giver of all life should mean the loss of life. Yet the God of mercy keeps on letting people live on this earth. He gives them blessings (Matt. 5:45) and time to learn and turn to Him before it is too late, yet many are so thoughtless and thankless.

Bro. Eason Makwecha

KASUNGU

Be assured that your efforts in producing *Gospel News* are not in vain. The news and various testimonies contained therein have completely changed my life. I now know God as a caring Father and really present every time we need Him. Also, *Bible Basics* has greatly transformed my world view as a Christian. I thank God for instilling this love in you to share with the world what God is doing.

Bro. Pickmore Swira

NSANJE

Thank you for responding to my letter by sending literature and *Bible Basics* which helped me with some of the answers to the questions I asked. I would also let you know that a 'study manual' alone won't help during Bible study time. I have no Bible to refer to the chapters and verses contained in various topics. So could you please send me a Bible to help me know the truth? I believe we can only find the truth from the Bible. I want to dedicate myself to working for the Lord. Help me by prayer that I might be a strong believer of Christ and of God. I was sorry to hear about Bro. Sasha, who fell asleep in Christ, but there is the hope of the resurrection with the coming of the awaited King.

Stuart Bingala

PHALOMBE

I am very much pleased with the *Gospel News* books you sent to us. I received them. I failed to respond to your letter because I had no money. Here in Malawi, I'm still preaching the Gospel. As of now I have seven churches which I visit.. In the past I received a bicycle now the bicycle is not in good condition because the tyres, tubes and other spare parts are worn out. So if I happen to visit other churches, I have to travel on foot; I am unable financially to buy these parts for the bicycle.

Bro B. Chipala



Photo: Bro Chipala Sitting

Photo: Brethren at Phalombe Ecclesia



SALIMA

I am a self-employed person and conduct Bible seminars regularly, more especially along the lake shore region where our doctrines are not yet discerned by the general public. Bro. Emmanuel Mphambe from S. Africa has been here to support us and has told us to work hard. *Gospel News* has brought something fruitful to all of us who get a copy. The book 'Where There is No Doctor' will be so helpful to me if you could send me a copy.

Bro. Austin F. Nyirenda

After reading about the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor' I felt I should request a copy for our Sengabay ecclesia, which we will share with two other ecclesias. Four people were baptised in August last year at Chinguluwe in Salima, they are: Bro. Austin Frank Nyirenda, Sis. Emily Mayimba, from Sengabay, Sis. Gladys Mphambo and Sis. Eunice Mphambo from Chapita ecclesia, also in Salima. We also had two more baptisms in October last year at Sengabay in the fresh waters of Lake Malawi. Lovingly, the two baptised are a couple, Bro. Jailos and his wife, Sis. Chimwemwe Jailos.

Bro. George Nkhoma

Photos: (1) Sis. Chimwemwe Jailos being baptised by Bro. George Nkhoma and (2) Bro. Jailos being baptised by Bro. Jonas Ngwanda



news from mauritius

Concerning the translation of booklets in different languages, I feel honoured and excited to help in the spreading of the gospel all round the globe. I can translate – or better – I understand English, French and Mauritian Creole.

Bro. Vikram Permall

news from nigeria

IKWUANO

The Sunday School materials which you thought I may have received have not yet arrived. I hope, God willing, they will surely come. I am happy to hear about your activities; I am sure by the grace of God all will be well with your endeavours. Can you favour me with 'Eureka' and

some Christadelphian song (hymn) books?

Bro. Friday Ekeleme Umesi

news from south africa

DAVEYTON

I have already distributed 10 *Bible Basics* in N. Sotho language and now I have to distribute another 10. I enjoy this so much. I have been highlighting to people about 'Living with Alcoholism'; they seem to like this booklet. Many people are trapped in alcohol. Please send me more of these booklets. Thank you for uplifting my spirits. Our country is dying; it is becoming empty with youth dying of alcohol and drugs, not excluding HIV. I am prepared to stand up and distribute the booklets, although my gout is giving me no rest.

Bro. Francis Chauke

DURBAN

Thank you so much for allowing us in South Africa to be able to read copies of *Bible Basics*. I recently borrowed the Library edition and found so much information that I was not informed about through the church. Unfortunately I had to return it to the library. Please can I have a copy of this book and any other book from which I can gather more information about the Bible? I am a new Christian, so I need all the info that I can get, something about fasting and how it should be done

Miss Melanie G. Moody

SOWETO

I was laid low for about a week, but by the grace of our Heavenly Father got the right medicine. I am well now. I have the same problem that Bro. Roberts had in understanding Rev. 13:1-18. Kindly send me some literature if possible. I would also like two Hymn books (large print) please. I am holding on to the Truth. There are so many churches around here that it is hard to build an ecclesia, but God, our Heavenly Father, is always strengthening me; I am getting stronger every day. I often break bread alone and am lonely. I hope and pray that you are all well. Please do not forget me here.

Bro. Elijah Rabaji

news from tanzania

KASULU

In my Camp Adventist pastors hung loudspeakers on the top of trees in order to abuse all churches who meet to pray to God on Sundays. This lasted for two weeks at the playground of Muyovozi Camp. Many churches were very angry and took the pastors to the police office. Beloved, is it true that only those who pray on Sundays will appear in front of the court of the Lord? Let us read what is written in Col. 2:16-17:

Bro Isaac Habonimana

KIGOMA

Thank you indeed for your letter; it is always very nice to hear from you and feel the brotherly love that binds us all strongly in the Lord. I am strengthened very much when I read about the work of God being achieved by Brethren and Sisters world wide. We have to pray earnestly for the Kingdom to come; the world is full of wickedness and cruelty towards other people. Our ecclesia of Lugufu 1 has written to the *Christadelphian Save the Children Fund*, Canada, to get kits for our scholars. We have 35 children who attend Sunday School regularly.

Bro. Isidore Mwibeleca

We thank God for our visitors: Bre. Tim Evans (UK), Samy Mutunga (Kenya), Benoit Mukedi (Arusha). We were pleased to have the exhortation on Zechariah 9:9. Thanks also to Bro. Mike Harris who sent books, pens etc. and for his encouragement. Also to Sis. Jo of UK who sent us more lessons for the children. We shall be pleased if other Brethren world wide will have the courage to visit us and to send us more materials for preaching, which all helps to increase our faith.

Bro. Amnobe lyungu



Bro. Amnobe lyungu (right) and a friend

Our ecclesia is going on well. Firstly, services are held. Second, the Sunday School is still going on, but we are short of books, in particular Bible Basics so (Third) we need more books. Fourth, according to our report of June last year, we want to ask especially regarding the completing of our church: benches, table and so on. What stage has this matter reached? Finally, we thank you for our new Post Box Number, which we got this year. NB We succeeded in receiving back our Bro. Moris Ebuela and we are attending all the services together. May the peace of Jesus Christ dwell among you.

Brethren of Kagunga ecclesia

MBEYA

It was a very great day when I opened the parcel of literature in front of my family. We all knelt down and prayed to thank God. Please will you kindly send me the two courses, *Introducing Bible Basics* and *Bible Basics* study manual? I have also read in *Gospel News* that a book called 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet' is available and I hereby request a copy for my ecclesia.

Bro James Mwangomo

MOROGORO

We all should be steadfast in waiting for Jesus Christ our King. Here in Morogoro I persist in proclaiming the everlasting Gospel. I need Bible course books for teaching them, and I beseech you, brother, to send these books very soon.

Bro. Simon A. Mpazi

SIKONGE

The number of interested people here was good, but has decreased from 20 to six. The problem is that we have no proper place to meet (ecclesial hall). We have a plot, but are weak economically. I send a photo. I need you to send me *Bible Basics* in Kiswahili and thank you for remembering me with *Gospel News*, by letters which strengthen me and also for the

calendar.

Bro. Ezra Baruti



Photo showing Bro. Ezra Baruti, & Bro. Ezra's wife with S.S. young people

SUMBAWANGA

Many thanks for helping me to know the Truth of God since 1992 until now. Is it possible for me to have *Bible Basics* in Kiswahili?

Bro. Joffrey Chiwanga

TABORA

Because of isolation, I would like to pass my sincere gratitude to my tutor, Sis. Hilary A. Iredale, who used to send me various literature which helped me grow up spiritually. I also ask her to go on sending different materials concerning God's word. I also call on other fellow-believers to write or visit those of us who are in isolation so that we do not feel lonely.

Bro. Joseph N.L. Milahula

I would like to thank you for the book on Jacob and Esau. I got one book on learning English from my Sister Sonia Hemingray in France, but because of poverty I haven't any teacher, so it is very difficult.

Bro. Mathias Nyelele



Photo from left: Sis. Elizabeth and Bro. Mathias Nyelele and Bro. Sadoki after Bible study.

TENENDE

I am writing with a request that you send to us copies of 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet' and 'Where There is No Doctor'. The titles of the books suggest they will prove to be of great help to us here.

Bro. Gabriel Mesa Mwaliasapi

USAGARA

We sadly inform you of the falling asleep of our Brother Godfrey Mwakasege at Bugando Hospital (Mwanza town). The funeral took place in the Usagara area on January 26th. Our Brother rests peacefully until the coming of Jesus, which we pray will be very soon.

Bro. Joctor Rufano

UVINZA

The Lord Jesus, at his second appearing, will come in power and great glory. One of the first works will be to fulfil his foreordained office as Judge of living and dead: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the quick (living) and the dead at his

appearing and his Kingdom...” (2 Tim. 4: 1). Divine judgment is a subject upon which few care to dwell, nevertheless it occupies a place – and not a small one – in God’s message, and we neglect it at our peril. Those who listened to the spirit-endowed teachers of the first century heard much concerning judgment to come (Acts 10:42; 17:30-31). The dissolute Felix heard of it from the apostle Paul (Acts 24:25). Both Paul and Peter taught it as an essential feature in the message which they had to deliver (Rom. 2:16). Cornelius listened to it from the lips of Peter: “And he commanded us to preach unto the people and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead” (Acts 10:42). It is possible to stand before Christ in the day of judgment and be ashamed. The scriptures provide ample instruction to this end (Ecc. 12:14; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:28). Let us be wise and give heed to these things. The Lord Jesus is coming soon; his reward is with him and he will give to every one of us according to what we have done (Rev. 22:12). The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people.

Bro. Shadrack Ngambi

news from uganda

BUSIA

In Busia we have baptised three (new) Sisters this year. We now all encourage each other as we journey to the Kingdom. May this be the year of our Lord's return. Could you help to get me a sponsor for the 'Testimony' magazine? God bless you.

Bro. Fredrick Wabwire

Thanks for endeavouring to supply preaching material to us; we are very happy to have it. I am glad to inform you that Busia ecclesia is doing very well. We have many contacts and many Brothers. We also attend Sunday services in the morning and practice choir in the evening. On Saturdays, during evening hours, we always have a Bible class for contacts and Brothers, too. Wednesdays we move home-to-home preaching when invited by Brothers who might have contacts. We thank CBM for buying some land for us. I request, if possible, some copies of *Introducing Bible Basics* and some *Bible Basics* for our contacts. I am training as a primary teacher.

Bro. Mayende Erisania

news from zambia

CHAMBISHI

I have shifted from Kasama isolation to Chambishi where I will at least manage to break bread and fellowship with the Brethren and Sisters at Kitwe, which is some 50kms from Chambishi. Kasama is semi-urban, as a result employment is very scarce. Due to this, my health condition did not allow me to stay there because I couldn't afford the medication both for my family and myself. I started working with a bricklayer as his handyman until I came to learn the trade myself. The only problem that lingers now is the fact that I do not have enough money to go on the Institute for a trade test, yet I am confident and have faith that the Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus will provide, because He knows what I need before I ask Him. I always have a vision that this will happen one day because of the trust that I have in Him. I am grateful that the Lord is with me always, ever since I became a Christadelphian. I walked in total darkness before I learned the Truth. I've been in different types of denominations, but without finding the

light; I even believed in the Trinity, meaning that God was co-equal with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Today I am free of this pagan theory. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father that He has blessed us abundantly by giving us the privilege of entering another year as we await the second coming of our glorious Saviour. I pray that our Brothers and Sisters world wide continue walking tirelessly toward the Kingdom. My family joins me in passing our heartfelt regards to you all.

Bro. Willies Simbowe

KALOMO

Thank you very much for the letter and Magazine. I am enclosing a photo to be put in *Gospel News*. The encouraging words I send are from John 14:1-4: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also". I received the Magazines and books. My wife died on January 4 at Kalomo hospital after much suffering and has left three children with me. Everything is God's will. These words make me look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live" (John 5:25). "...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Rom. 13:11,12). My late wife, Naomi, is waiting for Jesus' coming.

Bro. Lameck Mtonga



Photo: Bro. Mtonga

My husband, Bro. Shadreck Mwayer, passed away on November 23. I have a big problem in starting a new life alone. I was serving oranges, but now I am doing no work. Things are very hard; please pray for me.

Sis. Priscillar Lungowe Lubinda

KITWE

Allow me to thank you for *Gospel News* and also in addition the wonderful copy of the Bible Reader's calendar for 2005. I pray the Lord God will bless this work that it will continue getting better and better against the pressures of this sinful world. "...proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:10,11). The great day of his appearing is drawing very, very near: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:17; Mal. 3:2). We shall – God willing!

Bro. Elvin Muntemba

LIVINGSTONE

I want to inform you that our two Brothers, Augustine Mfunge and Kenneth Lumana, fell asleep early last year. We are now only two Brothers in Livingstone, Evans and me.

Bro. Ben K. Matale

LUSAKA

I got your message and was very happy because I like reading from you, because the message you people send to us is good. You see, we in Zambia are very interested in knowing the Bible and knowing it for the purpose of being doers and not only hearers, but we really do need your help so always write to us. Myself, for example, I was baptized a few years ago into the SDA church, so I need somebody to really build me up, and I thank Bro. Kunda who has been a great help. I am a student.

Aaron Chipulu Salamo

I value contact with all brothers and sisters. I live in Lusaka but I rarely get to the meeting in Matero because it is far for me and there is the cost of fuel. But I send greetings to all my brothers and sisters.

Bro. Xavier Musonda.

Here is a picture of me along with my wife and family



Thank you for the literature and *Bible Basics* you sent to me. I was baptised in April last year at Matero ecclesia. I decided to be in the family of the Christadelphians after the Truth was preached to me. I am therefore requesting a Bible or a second-hand one. I have been trying to get one at my ecclesia, but they can't find me one. I can buy one, but those with concordance and references are rarely found..

Bro. Jaxon Kalumba

MUZOKA

The Zambia Committee was touring the provinces and Bro. Kelly Simayumbula, together with Bro. Arnold Kunda, were assigned to visit Brothers and Sisters as well as students in the Southern province. So it was nice to have them visit us on Dec. 13 on their way from Livingstone to Mazabuka. Among things discussed was the issue of Regional groupings, where all members can have the chance to attend and share the good news of our Lord, who is soon to come.

Bro Wilfred Chibomba

NAKONDE

I would like to inform my Brothers and Sisters world wide that I have come back to Nakonde after some 3-4 years. As you know, many of us have been leaving our homes to look for employment in towns. But after all this time of wandering, I have come back to rejoin my Bro. Zacchaeus Muntete and the rest of his family. It was good to be with them again. At this time I went to the book of Genesis when Joseph was not with his family and then when he revealed himself to his brothers. Then what about when his father, Jacob, heard that Joseph was still alive! As we all know, he was very happy. I, too, was happy to be with the family of God. We are still in isolation, but we feel good when we receive letters and books; we know that we are not alone. And we have our God who cares for us. We thank you for your prayers. May the Lord bless us all as we walk together towards the Kingdom, which God has promised to us, if we walk in His ways.

Bro. Martin Simukwai



Photo: Bro. Martin Simukwai

Thank you very much for the book, *'Where There is no Doctor'*. We are all very delighted to have such a nice useful book. We all send our gratitude to the sponsor. Would it be possible to also receive *'How to Grow a Balanced Diet'*? It will be good to know how to manage a good diet with the barest of resources. It is good to work for the Lord quietly as He is able to see the labours of all His sincere workers and will definitely reward them for all their toil for Him. From *Gospel News* we have seen the way the seed is being sown and taking root in so many places. The world is facing a lot of trouble – from man's own making to natural disasters; the recent Tsunami catastrophe, which startled many people, is a case in point. However, we are not surprised by such occurrences, as our Master warned such things would come to herald his coming. In the face of all that the world is going through, we "look up, and lift up our heads, for our redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

Bro. Zacchaeus and Sis. Eunice Muntete

NDOLA

If you have an old Holy Bible (KJV or RSV), please send one of the two; I will be very happy. I am appealing to all readers of *Gospel News* to keep sending information. I once more thank all those Brothers and Sisters who help by donating to the work. No one will reward you but the Lord God himself. Please all read the hymn 268 in the Christadelphian Hymn Book, 'Brethren, let us walk together...' I am fine, but having some problems in finding employment here in Zambia, but with the good hand of the Lord God we are surviving. I am hoping that, God willing, I may find a job in one of the companies I applied to.

Bro. Harris Ndong'a Mulongesha



Left Bro. Harris Mulongesha and Bro. Dez Machila

Could you send me a copy of *'Where There Is No Doctor'*? You are more than a blood brother; you are not doing this work of the Lord God and His Son, Jesus our Lord, in vain. Our hope is beyond the grave. You are casting your net on the other side of the boat and finding that you can "catch men" (John 21:6). *Gospel News* is very interesting, I do enjoy it a lot, and especially your editorials they are excellent. We're marching towards the Kingdom of God, forward with the word of God; we shall never turn back like Lot's wife. In our country life is not easy, but our Lord God is going to deliver us from all our troubles. Let us keep on worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

Bro. James Mwanza

PEMBA

I was happy to receive *Gospel News* for Nov/Dec which was packed with good things. It was sad to read of Nigerian atrocities. We all need to be strong, like Paul. The spirit permitted him to go

to Macedonia after he had a vision. As with Paul, God instructs us on what to do.. We must all surely endure to the end. “To him who overcomes, I will give him the right to sit with me on my throne” (Rev. 3:21). You can go ahead with the leaflet on soya beans; I think it good if we take such measures for the benefit of our Brothers and Sisters.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

news from zimbabwe

BANKET

Things are not stable here in our country; Post Offices have been closed for quite a long time with no delivery. The workers were on strike for two solid months. We are glad for what is coming – the new creation, the new heavens and the new earth. Let us pray for this time, which Christ will bring when he returns.

Bro. David B. Yelulan

BINDURA

God has power over everything. This knowledge encourages us to grow spiritually and have a good standard of practice. I live in isolation and my closest ecclesia is Harare, about 88km away. However, I break bread once or twice a month with fellow Brothers and Sisters, if there are no interruptions, but most of the time I am alone at home. I am enclosing my photo repairing a pair of shoes and in front is a grinder for smoothing heels, rubber materials etc. I am self-employed as a cobbler since jobs are hard to come by. I pray to God to solve all my problems and deliver me from all the troubles I am facing. I also have to cater for the family of my late uncle and I am really desperate. I should be really grateful to anyone who could help me get equipment for my shoe repair project. Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters in the gracious love of God.

Bro. Joseph Mucheri



Photo: Bro. Joseph Mucheri ('Shoe Doctor')

CHEGUTU

For strong words of encouragement my family and I always remind ourselves that we have a Brother who cares for us in UK. Thank you and your family. We are happy to have entered the 'new life'. God still wants us to do His work. We are preaching the word and it is bearing fruit. Please send me *Bible Basics*. 'Forward ever, backward never'. We love the Magazine. "The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace loving, full of love, mercy and good fruit. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness (James 3:17,18). As I write, my wife, Susan, is suffering from a severe head and back ache. She needs to see a doctor in two days after completing her drug course. We as a friendly family to yours ask your prayers for her swift recovery.

Bro. Farai Phiri

CHINHOYI

Let us remember that there is only one mediator, that is Jesus Christ. He is the only one in the middle between God and man. So-called 'Spirits of the dead' cannot take the prayers of humans to God. Some people believe that the spirit of the dead person can give advice to the living relatives. Let us look at some of the Bible chapters.

Ecclesiastes 9:10,

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave where you are going there is neither working nor planning, nor knowledge, nor wisdom."

Psalms 6:5, "For in death there is no remembrance of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks?"

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing and have no further reward."

With these three chapters it shows us that the dead cannot communicate with anyone; only when the Lord returns from heaven will some of the dead be raised. In the meantime the dead know nothing.

Bro Emanuel Kondowe

KARIBA

I am writing to tell you that God is working miracles for our ecclesia. We are now nine Brothers and we are looking forward to more members being added to our numbers in due course, God willing. A number of people are showing interest in the Bible truth and it is a sign that the truth is growing. Please pass my love to all the Brethren.

Bro. Joshua Pakali

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ through whom, by his grace, we have hope and life. When he comes may we be with him in the Kingdom. Brothers, I am so happy to receive your letter. I thank God for the lessons on the truth about God. I now have joy and my mind is now at peace as I stated in my testimony. My family and I have found the Truth and my children, Faith, Naomi, Emmanuel, Nabothi and Portiaw are students of Kariba ecclesia, and will, God willing, be added to us. I repeat that I am so happy to receive the books to strengthen my understanding of the truth of Bible teaching.

Bro. David Mhondiwa



Photo: Bro. David Mhondiwa with his family

KAROI

Here in Zimbabwe, Karoi in particular, we are walking in the light of our Heavenly Father. *Gospel News* being sent to us is being helpful in spreading the word. To all that are sacrificing their money to sponsor the work of Almighty God and our beloved Brethren and Sisters who tirelessly work hard to produce this educative magazine, I wish you to continue the good job. We pray for you and hopefully the whole world is doing the same. I stay many miles from Chishumba but am

always in touch with them by prayer and Bible reading every day, as this is what every Christadelphian does. I am also asking for your prayers as I am working towards introducing a number of students to know God through Bible lessons. A number of contacts are busy reading and answering questions, which I am helping them with. However, reading on their own is hindered by the lack of English Bibles; I have one, which they rotate.

Bro. Steven Tedza

LUPANE

We are not fine because of malaria and many other different diseases. We have found 'Where There is No Doctor' a very important guide to our health problems in teaching us what to do. We live a long way from a Health Centre, also no money for treatment, so we are suffering badly because of the diseases which are affecting us here in our ecclesia Lupane.

Bro. David Ngwenya

MAGUNJE

I was very happy the day I received a parcel of books. If I were a bird I would have leapt and flown in the air with joy! I have got a very big appetite for reading God's word any time; this is my best work until Jesus comes. I was panning gold with my companion at the river Sanyati; it was a hard nut to crack. We worked hard for two weeks and got nothing, returning home with only our possessions. Prayerfully, Brothers and Sisters, if we have faith in our Lord, let us all remember that in every situation in our lives God is in control. I did not get the material that I sweated for and slept in bad conditions, but I've got the word of God, the pearl of life eternal. When I opened our PO Box I saw a big envelope addressed to me and on opening it saw the title, 'Where There is No Doctor'. I sang hymn 43 and someone asked me, Why are you singing? I replied, I am happy today. Thank you, may God bless your work. Amen. I have written for the other book, 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet'; as we are small-scale farmers this book will be very useful to us. This is the most wonderful love I have experienced since my baptism. Our bodies are very weak and can become sick at any time without notice.

Bro. Stanford Kuuzha



Photo: Bro. Stanford Kuuza

I thank our Heavenly Father who has given me this opportunity of writing to you. You know Zimbabwe is a small country, but full of corruption. In terms of the word of God, in our area here (rural) things are not settled, especially towards campaigns. People are treated rudely and being forced to do what they do not want and some are being killed due to politics. For us who know the word of God, we just put ourselves opposite, privately, due to the hope of eternal life. We meet now and then for breaking of bread and other activities like Bible study and Sunday School, taught by Bro. Stanford Kuuzha. Please do send me the book, 'Where There is No Doctor', as it will help very, very much in terms of daily circumstances. Also the book, 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet'. Please, if you have the opportunity, try by all means to send me these books to help both our community and ecclesia. We still have more work to do regarding the word of God until Jesus comes to establish the Kingdom on earth. Let's keep on encouraging

one another and go everywhere God permits us to preach His word to the end of the world.

Bro Weston and Sis. Ruth Kamota

“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged, and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:1-3). Jesus Christ is the Son of God who is coming to take the judgment throne over the whole world; we pray that he will come very soon to take this throne. He will reign from Jerusalem, the capital city of the world. Brothers and Sisters, why do we want to take Jesus’ throne now by judging others? Will Jesus be happy when he comes and finds his throne already taken? Remember, how you judge others, Jesus will judge you also. So let him who has the authority to judge do this work. “Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?”

Bro. Davison Mupariwa

MASVINGO

I really thank you very much for all the literature you have sent. Please pray for me as I haven’t much time to attend meetings, as I am working. I am like someone who is in isolation due to lack of time. Please, if you can, continue your wonderful work of sending me literature, as it helps me to grow spiritually. I do really appreciate that our publications help the spreading of the gospel and also encourage dear Brothers and Sisters world wide, those as far as the Philippines, Australia, USA, Iraq, Iran and Israel.

I am sorry to inform you about the falling asleep in Christ of our dear Sister Alice Museba on the 26th March, and would like to comfort all with the words of 1 Thes 4:16-18

Bro. Simon Mudavose

MT. DARWIN

For some months I was away from home, where I was employed by a certain man. I worked very hard in his gold mine, working day and night, sometimes sleeping under-ground in the mine. This man promised that he was going to give us a lot of money per month, because we were producing many grams of gold each and every day. But, Brother Marcus, my tears can come: the man refused to give us our payments as he said; if we carried on asking him he said he would shoot us and he added that we were eating his food while we were working at his mine. I walked for about 180kms home on foot, and at home all my young brothers and sisters, together with my parents, were expecting that I had come with something to help them. But at home I have read the booklet, ‘Why Does God Allow Suffering?’ and this booklet increased my faith and patience. I will try by all means to find something to do for my family so that they have something to eat. Bro. Marcus, your prayers are surely needed.

Bro. Patrick Chakaipa



Photo: Bro. Patrick Chakaipa with Bro. Steven Swain (UK)

ZAKA

Each and every one who wants to enter the Life gate must enter through the door and not through the window. If you enter any house through the window people will shout, 'Thief!' If they know you, they will ask, 'What's wrong with you?' 'Did you lose the keys?' etc. To enter the Kingdom of God there is only one gate and that gate is Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father (God's Kingdom) except through me." Some of us at Euzryone know that God is the Creator of the universe (although not everyone acknowledges it). As everyone needs Jesus as their Saviour and if they want to be in the Kingdom of God, they must accept Jesus as the Lord and Saviour – the Gateway. Come soon, Lord Jesus, and may people acknowledge you.

Bro Svuuure. Faustino

ZVISHAVANE

I have been 'lost' for the past five years. I was in remote areas. I hardly received any magazines. I thank God for returning me to Zvishavane. Unfortunately my husband died in March last year; he was the first son of Bro. Walter Maniono and suffered from cerebral malaria. So I came back home with the three children. I appreciate the magazines for they spread the gospel news and give news of Brethren and Sisters. There is a lot of teaching in them and Brethren should continue writing about difficult topics such as the devil, Satan, spirit mediums.

Sis. Joyce Maparo



Photo: Sis Joyce Maparo

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from azerbaijan

There are still some Iranian Brethren here who have fled from Iran, and we're praying they will soon be able to leave for a Western country. They write:

It is very good that we can see you soon God willing. Please pray for us and tell to all the Brothers that they pray for us and we do it too for all of you and all of you are in our prayer.

Bro A & Sis B

news from belarus

We are delighted to report the baptisms of YURI and LUDMILA; may they endure to the end and enter the Kingdom.

BARANOVICHI

I am enclosing my answers to the questions in *Beyond Bible Basics* and also the answers to *Bible Basics* from one of my relatives. I so wish Jesus would return soon. It feels now as my only desire in this world.

Sis. Larisa

IVATSEVICHI

With great joy I learnt of the successful Bible School in Russia, even though I am unable to join you, I am very much with you. The thing that encourages me the most is news and testimonies from my other Brothers and Sisters.

Bro. Aleksandr

LEPEL

I was very much hoping to come to the Winter Bible School, as I am totally with you and very much remember and respect the wonderful love shown to me in teaching me and then baptizing me. May the Lord bless you all.

Bro. Ivan

TERESHKI

I was so happy to hear about the Bible School in Russia and the six baptisms. It is hard for us to get out of the village at the moment because of the heavy snowfall. We are looking forward to the final coming of Spring here, just as we await the coming of the Kingdom.

Bro. Vladimir

VYAZMICHI

I have people here with whom I am working to teach the Gospel. The hardness of this Winter has brought out a great interest from people who are becoming desperate, even though some few people are becoming very rich. I pray for you all.

Sis. Nina

news from belgium

I have some Armenian, Iraqi, Georgian and Albanian refugees in my classes. I am trying to get them interested in the faith, and to get into Bible study with them. Please send me the *Bible Basics* in those languages.

Bro. Markus

news from bosnia

We are delighted to report the baptisms of ALDIN in Sarajevo and DAMIR from Banja Luka. May the Lord guide them to His Kingdom.

SARAJEVO

Dear brothers,

How are you doing? Is it cold there as much as it is here? Here the temperature is - 25 celcius. It is crazy...brrhhh. I just write to give you a short note what is happening. I got contacted with a brother from Scotland who is sending some clothes at the end of this month. He came from nowhere, I got his mail and it was encouraging to see that there is a lot people who care about

others. Halleluja. Last few weeks was totally discouraging, we had no jobs or food, or heating. CRAZY! But somehow with God help we are surviving. I have a big struggle with it. I mean, did you ever been in situation that you can help others, but then again you can not do anything for yourself. Is it just test that God is giving us? We just got bigger taxes and honestly in this crazy winter time I am not sure how we will survive. I just pray that spring comes as soon possible. We would appreciate if you can help us. This country sometimes is hopeless, me and my friends just see no way out write now. but then again, i went before the Lord...and God spoke to me this week: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. (Phil. 4:8). All that we do I believe we do for Jesus and the Truth. This is what I believe. I think that if we have needs we should go before the Lord because everything comes from Him. But he also told us to stay together and look after each other. So dear brother I ask you to pray and support us through this hard time...Sincerelly yours :brother in Christ,
Dzenan

[e-mail received 'as is']

news from croatia

ZAGREB

I hope to help the visiting brother and sister with translating when they come here soon. Nobody here seems interested in being baptized. I would love to go with you to Bosnia but I have to work. Remain blessed always!

Sis. Anita

news from georgia

SUKHUMI

Although I cannot exit from this region which is now carefully controlled because of the tensions, I wish to send my warmest best wishes to all brothers and sisters at the Bible Schools which I read about. My connection with you is through the reading by the same *Bible Companion*. I was sorry to read of the death of several brothers and sisters recently. I believe as they did for sure, in the resurrection.

Bro. Guram

news from germany

We are delighted to announce the baptism of DOMINIK in Berlin, after a long study of Bible Basics. Our prayers are with him in his efforts to share the Truth with many others.

news from iran

We receive communications from our Brethren here but they are all in a seriously dangerous position, with Moslem vigilantes searching out all converts to Christianity to inflict the death sentence upon them.

news from israel

BAT YAM

I am now living here, very near to Br & Sis Vezumsky. There is a British Brother now living in Israel and sometimes we are gathering with him for the breaking of bread. I am still working on converting people in Ukraine by correspondence. There is a great need here for the book *The Last Days* as the Russian population here is very interested in hearing about prophecies about the Arab invasion of Israel.

Bro. Vladimir

news from italy

As I have received so much encouragement, I would like to share encouragement with you all too. From Ps. 59:16 we read, that God should be our fortress.

Bro. Naizghi [refugee from Eritreaya]

news from jordan

I want to thank you so much for remembering me here. I greatly commend the new English course sent to me to review. It is truly good. May our Father in Heaven bless you and make this good work prosper.

Bro. Bassam

news from kazakhstan

KOKSHETAU

I feel very bad for a long silence. I so wanted to come to the Bible School in Kazan. I am missing you all terribly.

Sis. Elvira

I have been so ill. The doctor recommended me to have an operation but the cost is \$500 and I earn such low income, it is quite impossible for me. I have nobody to turn to apart from the Lord and I feel very desperate.

Sis. Galina

Please pray for my son Andrej, he is sick, and here it is so hard when a child is sick and needs help. I will try to join in the online breaking of bread some time.

Sis. Tanya

news from kyrgyzstan

We are very pleased to announce the baptisms of RASHID and VLADISLAV. May the Lord keep them in their path to His Kingdom.

ISYK ATINSK

I am very encouraged by the baptisms of Brothers Rashid and Vladislav, we are meeting regularly. There are so many people trying to preach here, Witnesses, Charismatics etc, but the people choose which group they want to belong to because of how much they are given by them, of food or money. The economic situation here is worse and worse. We have great peace because we desire to follow only the true word of God.

Bro. Anvar

I am very happy to be baptized. I was formerly a Moslem. My mother was a Kirgiz and my father an Uzbek. I went to listen to the other churches but got no satisfaction. I am so grateful to Brother Anvar that he gave me the book *Bible Basics*. I have very carefully studied this so many times.

Bro. Rashid

I was baptized recently by Brother Anvar as you know, my great need is for more literature so I can grow deeper in the Bible. I have so many questions, but I am thankful to our Father and His Son that they revealed to me the one truth.

Bro. Vladislav

news from latvia

We are delighted to report the baptisms of SERGEJ and LAIMONIS. May the Lord keep them in the way to His Kingdom.

DAUGAVPILS

I continue here, though this Winter has been very cold and such high bills to pay. I so enjoy *Gospel News* it is my lifeline to the rest of the brothers and sisters.

Bro. Petr

ENGURE

I have been very scared to go out as it has been so cold and slippery and my eyes are so weak now. I am hoping to come to the Sisters' Weekend if I can be taken there by car. I live by the sea and the storms and great cold recently made me always think of God's power to do as He likes, and especially to save me.

Sis. Zina

JELGAVA

Things are begining to get to big point in my life now, I dont know where all that is leading, but I am growing in my belief constantly. I want to thank you once more for being with me and all the things that you have done for me, I doubt I ever fully will be able to see how it would be like without all that, but I am sure that some people in this world will gain much in their way of seeking the truth. True grace never seeks for its own benefit, in this sense you always have been example for me. Indeed, Jesus was (and is today) acting the same way. Thank you for being with me.

Bro. Janis

LIBAGI

I am in a regular rhythm of reading each day by the planner. I was really impressed with the booklet about *Living with Alcoholism*. It is so much needed here. But I see people addicted to so many things, it seems all people around me are addicted to something. I think we need more literature about those addictions and in this way we can bring the people to the truth.

Bro. Vladimir

LIEPA

The cost of medicines and hospital for me is too great, so I am now back at home. I await only for the Kingdom. I can't even afford to call out the ambulance when I feel very bad, because even that costs money. I am only waiting for the Kingdom of God.

Bro. Viktor

MADONAS Raj

I remember the words of old Sis. Aleksandra when I was baptized, that I would have great joy because of it. This is how it has happened, that joy has not gone away. Still I am trying to get people more interested. Because of where I live, not even in a village, there are few people I meet each week, but I am trying to interest them in *Bible Basics* .

Sis. Sarmite

PILTENE

I break the bread and read the Bible here every day. I believe that agape love will alone prevent all divisions. The way is not easy as you once wrote in an editorial. In everything be thankful, I keep telling myself.

Sis. Olga

TUKUMS

I live with hope but amidst many problems. My old mother is in the hospital now maybe for the last time, it is just as well, as our room here in the village is so very cold. I always carry my small Bible with me wherever I go. I am so sorry I missed the last gathering and would love to come to the next one God willing.

Sis. Vaira

VILANI

My diabetes is getting worse, and I have so many weaknesses I fear I may not be with us long. My sight is weakening but I can still read my Bible each day and I am continuing reading *Beyond Bible Basics* which is definitely helping my spiritual growth. But I need some spectacles, +3.5

Bro. Fyodyor

Comment: We've been happy to arrange these spectacles for our dear brother

news from macedonia

SKOPJE

I was out of Skopje for a few weeks to complete my entire rehabilitating process. Everything seems to be fine now. My blood sugar level went up as it was supposed to go and now I have dedicated myself to finish translating the last study of *Bible Basics* in Aromanian. I hope everything's fine and I truly believe to finish the translation as soon as possible. I pray to God

every day for my Christadelphian Brothers and Sisters. May the Lord help us all in our cause. Only He can, eventually.

Bro. Dragan

news from moldova

CHISINAU

I am feeling very depressed at the moment because of much that is going on. I simply want to be alone with God and the Bible, I seek for sincerity in my relationship with Him and with all people. Things are a bit better for us materially as Ira also has work now even if she doesn't earn much. But above all my soul thirsts for God.

Sis. Elvira

news from oman

I was really encouraged to see the new course for teaching English combined with teaching the Gospel. May God use it and all of you mightily.

Bro. David Jacob

news from pakistan

We are delighted to report the baptisms of the following in Sahiwal: Ruksana, Nagama, Abida, Saselea, Rubina, Rabia, Anjila, Mahreen, Yasmeen, Nasireen, Saber and Raaqait. May the Lord guide them to His Kingdom.

SAHIWAL

These days we are going through many problems. Please pray for us. Today however we baptized 12 people.

Sis. Safina

TOBA TEK SINGH

Reviewed the draft of the *Speaking About Jesus* study manual for students of English. It is excellent and we will be able to use it here in Pakistan in our witness!

Bro. Ash

news from poland

POZNAN

I find the teaching materials you've made interesting and motivating, yet the students using them should need a special interest in Biblical things. I tried to use the Bible in teaching languages. But in most of the cases, the students tend to switch the subject and want lessons based on more neutral things. I recently met our new Bro. Krzysztof from Walbrzych and he would like to receive *Gospel News*.

With brotherly love.

Bro. Val

news from russia

We are delighted to report the baptisms of EVGENIJ, MARIJA, ELIZABETA, ELENA, LUDMILA and VITALY. May the Lord guide them towards His Kingdom. Our brother Leonid is being providentially cared for whilst serving his alternative service after his tribunal. He sends greetings to all and was recently visited and found in good spiritual shape.

ABINSK

I ask for your prayers for Brother Vladimir, who, although he left us from fear of persecution, was recently arrested and falsely charged with murder by those here trying to persecute Christadelphians. He is now in prison. Let us pray for him and please pray for us too as the situation here is very hard for us.

Bro. A

AKHTYRSK

My daughter is so sick, the doctors recommend operation and treatment for her which will cost over \$1000. We just can't do this. It is so hard for us now we have to pay for our own treatment. We have no such money. I am re-reading *Bible Basics*. The basic things we believe calm me down, as I am so worried so much of the time, especially now my husband has left me. Please pray for me.

Sis. Olga

ARMAVIR

Things are still impossible for us. We only earn enough to buy fuel for our heater. But we plus have to eat and also I have to buy medicines, and the doctor tells me to buy a special diet! It is impossible for us. I have another invalid here who is interested in the truth. We are teaching him.

Sis. Galina

IRBIT

We are expecting a baby boy very soon, so we are excited about that. I am glad that our whole family has the habit of reading each day from the Bible with the *Companion*, as now our new child will enter into that way of being regularly close with God. We are in need of Bibles here, they are hard to get.

Bro. Vladimir

KAZAN

I was so happy to have been at the Bible School, and to see that all went off so well. The longer the time goes by, the more thoughts I have about it. I was sorry to hear about the fall and breakage of Sis. Ellen Styles, and we are praying for her healing. It was my joy to baptize Evgenij and Marija, we were all so joyful afterwards.

Sis. Ludmila K.

KORKINO

You are most welcome to come here and help us with a small preaching effort, maybe to distribute leaflets and to even hold a public talk in our town!

Bro. Alexei

KRUTAYA

We need more *Bible Basics* here in order to preach. In this cold Winter we are talking to people

and feel much warmth from the love of God we read about each day in His word.

Sis. Tanya

OKTYABRSKIJ

We the Sisters of Bashkortostan wish to thank you so much for *Gospel News* and all your love and care towards us. We appreciate it very much as we wait for Jesus.

Sis. Larisa

ROSTOV

I am making more adverts for *Bible Basics* here, praying for more fruit here.

Bro. Andrej

SARANSK

I greet all my beloved Christadelphians. I am sorry I didn't write recently, my health is not good. But I am still reading with you every day by the plan, which Brother Duncan gave me at my baptism. I promised to follow it, and I do so. I found recently a photograph of myself. When I was very young, I was in Red Army, and we fought the way to Berlin. I operated as a runner carrying information. I crossed the Vistula in Warsaw on the ice. I was once proud of this, and later, I re-visited some of those places, and had my photo taken by the war memorials. Now I see all differently. Those experiences were only my preparation, preparing me to accept the truth from *Bible Basics* and to be baptized into Jesus. I am sending you one of those photos of me by a war memorial, which I found recently, so you can see how I once looked.

Sis. Aleksandra



Photo: Sis. Aleksandra at a war memorial around 30 years ago.

SARATOV

I want to thank you although rather late for the wonderful Bible School which was possible in Kazan. It was wonderful to be with brothers and sisters. On the way home, I went to Kirov Obl. to visit relatives and I was taken ill, I was alone in the hospital for 15 days. Now I am back home. Here we are meeting each Sunday to break bread and all of us are reading according to the *Companion* each day.

Sis. Raisa

SHCHYOKINO

I am very worried about how I will be buried, I am surrounded by people here who not only do not care for me, but who also are totally not Christians. My life has been very lonely, my only pleasant memories are of my late wife, now I am alone but I do believe you are my true family.

Bro. Boris

ST. PETERBURG

I am now kept very busy with the needs of several elderly relatives. The Government here has greatly reduced benefits to the pensioners, and they are in a very difficult situation in paying for their heating during this Winter. I remember even in Soviet times, we Russians wanted to turn to God in hard times. And so it is now, the people turn to God as truly some of them have no other

help.

Bro. Valerij

I am fine here, but I have to work so very long hours, I am tired all the time. I miss you all and love you all.

Sis. Natasha

TALITSA

Here we are all well and sending greetings. However some sisters stopped coming to our ecclesia, and have chosen for the world it seems. We are very sad and don't know what to do about them.

Sis. Vera

TOMSK

I think the new teaching English course is really cool and will do much good. I have thought up a new design for the website www.carelinks.net and will share it with you soon.

Bro. Rinat

TULA

I am so happy because finally my refugee status has been resolved and I have been allowed to take Russian citizenship! I know this is because of your prayers. However I am left with heavy debts from this. I rejoice in the Lord.

Sis. Ekaterina

TVER

You asked if I am still reading according to the *Companion* each day and I can say that yes, I certainly am. But the more I read, the more I feel compelled to take this wonderful knowledge to other people, indeed I am ready to travel to the most dangerous place to give that knowledge to others.

Bro. Sasha

VINOGRADOVKA

The Winter here has been so terrible, I have been sick so often, and would appreciate if anyone can send me some warm clothes. My pension is so small, and also, there is nowhere to buy second hand clothes from. I am reading the Bible with you each day. I rejoice to hear there were baptisms even in Moslem places like Uzbekistan.

Sis. Galina

YELETS

I have been sick a long time and also Vladimir, only now are we able to focus upon anything. We were delighted to look through the new book for teaching English based around Mark's Gospel. We think it is excellent and will bring many to Jesus.

Sis. Nina

news from serbia

SUBOTICA

I have very little spare time at the moment and no computer any more. But I am so looking forward to meeting Brother Duncan and Brother Valdas on their visit. I have plans for making

advertisements here for the Gospel.

Bro. William

news from turkey

We are delighted to report the baptisms of FABIAN and an Iranian refugee brother M. May the Lord bless and guide them to His Kingdom.

I am hoping to meet with brother M tomorrow. I have bought some Bibles in Turkish thanks to your help. I have some persons interested to be baptized and I am telling them all about Christadelphians.

Bro. Scotty

I am pleased to review the draft of the new book planned for spreading the Gospel through teaching English. As I am an English teacher. May you all be blessed with health.

Bro. Ramazan

I need more copies of the Turkish *Bible Basics* as I have contacts in Bursa who are very interested to learn our faith, please pray for them.

Bro. Surreya

news from turkmenistan

We are well here and thank you for your prayers and supports, and thank you to all of you who bought the camels and slippers that we made. It is a great help to us! I am working on the translation of *Bible Basics* into Turkmeni. But there are many problems with computers. I also find it hard to get invitations from the Government for Sister Liz to come but I will try.

Sis. G.

news from ukraine

POLTAVA

I think it is amazing that Jesus as a man, a normal man, died on the cross for me. He got forgiveness for all my sins and not just sins but what I fail to do and to develop to. I am very, very grateful that you showed me the way to Him and to be baptized.

Bro. Vladimir

news from uzbekistan

TASHKENT

As a person with no education and not being an Uzbek, I am having a very hard time just to survive here, especially during the Winter as cost of heating etc. is so high for me.

Bro. Oleg

News from the Americas

news from canada

We are very pleased to report that three more Iranians have arrived here after terrible experiences of persecution. We give thanks to our Father and to the UNHCR for their efforts. Here is a letter from one of the sisters:

My dear brother Duncan,

Forgive me for not being able to write to you for a while. First, we were busy with packing up to come to Canada and when we got here, we did not have a computer. I am sending you this e-mail from my aunt's house but we should be getting internet at home within the next couple of weeks. My dear brother, I will never forget the kindness, love and caring that you, Liz and Cindy showed me and hope to be able to repay a little bit of it in the future. In Canada, I have told everyone that you were my first teacher whom I've learnt much from about the Bible and that you taught me not only from the scriptures but from your own actions. And everyone knows that Armita and I have always loved and will forever love you, Liz and Cindy. I have told all of our brothers and sisters so much about the teachings of you and Liz that they are interested in meeting you, a man who has devoted his life to God. From the bottom of my heart I am counting the days until I can see you, Liz and Cindy again. Also, please let me know who you want to use your English manual for because in my opinion, it would be best for individuals who know both a little English and a bit about the Bible.

Sis Elmira

The bro & sis here are so kind to me especially those who are a bit older. God willing Bro. Mahmoud and me will move to a two bedroom place soon which is nice! As I don't have my passport and documents yet I can't do any thing ... not working .. nor study . What I do is to going to the ecclesia and Bible class and seminar... and in the meanwhile explore more about the city and study some English. I will go to a city with other brothers that is in north of Toronto and will be there for couple of days. There is a meeting there and the city is 600km farther than us . That must be exciting. Please hug and kiss B& M on my behalf when you see them still in Azerbaijan. We pray they too can get here soon.

news from guyana

DEMERARA

Thanks very much for the booklets. Can you send me a Bible for an interested friend? Recently we had heavy rainfalls that caused two out of our three counties to be flooded, that is Demerara and Essequibo. Some people had to evacuate their homes and stay with friends or relatives or use relief homes provided by the Government. As for Mocha (where I live) it wasn't that bad; in fact only two streets had water in several parts.

Sis. Elizabeth Europe

news from hawaii

I lived on and off in Zambia between 1991 and 1994, it was during this time that I engaged and married Charlotte in Japan. I finally left Zambia for the USA in 1994. I was in graduate school studying meteorology and computer programming at Rutgers University in New Jersey between 1994 and 2000. I then left NJ for Honolulu, Hawaii where I have been working for the US Federal Govt as a meteorologist at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center since 2002. I may leave Hawaii on transfer to Guam (another Island south of Japan) effective April 3rd. I have appealed the transfer.

I lived in Hawaii without fellowship until I Google searched a name I was given by Peter Osborn after he visited me in 2003. I now fellowship with Sister Connie Wiedeman, the author of "Lies from the Pulpit". Mike Szabo has just married Fiona from Australia (January) so we are now 4 regular Christadelphians. There is another Sister who joins us once in a while. Starting next week, another Sister just moved from US mainland will be joining us, God willing. So we are growing in Hawaii. Of course the number of Christadelphians in Zambia has grown with those ecclesias in Ndola, Kitwe, Mufulira, Chingola, Lusaka, Kafue and more to be formed in other parts. We do not have an ecclesia in Hawaii yet although we meet at Sister Connie's house We are working on that now. I just wanted to remind you that your work for the Lord is still flourishing with blessings.

Bro. Frank Musonda [ex-Zambia]

news from jamaica

Your sympathy and encouragement in the loss of Sis Mary are appreciated. Right now, the way is rocky and distressing with nights filled with loneliness, but the everlasting arms are strong and our hope in Christ is sure. The greatest sorrow at the present time is that the beautiful meeting hall of my ecclesia in Kingston has been temporarily closed. (Owing to problems paying the utilities bills MH.) We do not want the ecclesia Mary served for 50 years to close. So we shall see what the response for help might be.

Bro. Alan Eyre

Photo: Bro. Alan Eyre as a young man Preaching on the English South Coast in 1953. The tall Sister on the left is Sis. Mary Eyre. Alan and Mary have been dynamic preachers for over 50 years together.



Hong Kong group of Brethren and Sisters. Left Bro Andy, Bro Steven, Joshua son of Sis Yvone (next to him) her youngest son Oliver, Bro Isaac and Sis Liberty

news from trinidad

I had the pleasure of a visit from Bro. Colin Badger from Canada in February; it was truly nice to see him again. I have received a letter from the lawyer who is handling my case and he said that the review of my case has started. If he comes up with anything that may possibly benefit me, most likely he will petition our President, asking him to send my case back to the Appeal Court for a hearing.

Once it reaches the Appeal Court, God willing, three judges (after hearing arguments from my lawyer and a lawyer representing the State) will decide if my case has any merit, and if it does, what should be done with me. The whole process may take a long time, so I have to be patient. My faith remains firm in our Heavenly Father; I hope that it is His will that I be out of prison in the not too distant future so that I will be able to fellowship with by Brethren and Sisters in the truth.

Bro. George Constantine

news from usa

I'm in receipt of the pamphlet, 'The Truth about the Devil and Satan'. Thank you very much. Since I last wrote I have been baptised into Jesus and the one Hope. The reason for this brief missive is to ask for a copy of the book '*The Trinity, True or False?*' You sent me a copy before, but I let Bro. D read it. He's on a different yard to me and we usually meet every Wednesday to exchange literature. He's been waiting to be transferred. He has not shown up in two weeks.

Bro. K S (Prisoner)

"We have a sister in our ecclesia who taught herself the Truth on the internet, downloading all of *Bible Basics*. By the time she got in touch with us she was nearly ready to be baptised. God is indeed still calling out a people for His name. Although we yearn for Jesus to come, we see that it is of God's mercy in order that others can be saved that he has not yet come."

Sis Dorothy Link

News from Asia

news from malaysia

Having read in *Gospel News* regarding the book *Bible Basics* I would like to know more about it. My last visit with Brothers and Sisters of the Christadelphians was around November 2004. I just don't know when the next assembly will be; I was expecting some Brothers to come for the Breaking of Bread, but so far there's no news of them. During my free hours I do make an attempt to read '*The Story of the Bible*' which I have. God willing, I do hope some Brothers will come and visit me at the Welfare Home for the Breaking of Bread.

Bro. Joseph A. Theseira

news from mongolia

ULAN BATOR

Thank you so much for the literature sent. It is really strengthening to me. I am really not feeling well after my operation, although I know all is by God's will. Please pray for me here.

Sis. Vera

news from nepal

KATHMANDU

Here is a photograph of Bro. Kishan and Sis. Kalawati Gurung who were the first Christadelphians in Nepal, having been baptised by Bro. Peter Fry (UK) on Dec. 25th, 1992. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for loving us. He has established an ecclesia by Bro. K. and Sis. K Gurung and has provided an opportunity as children of God (Gal. 3:26-29). There are now 40 members in our Chabahil ecclesia and we are all happy together. Bro. and Sis. Gurung are good examples for us in teaching the truth and with activities. Therefore we hope God will bless our ecclesia to grow a lot and we hope all Brethren and Sisters will pray for us.

Bro. Reuben Rai



Bro. Kishan and Sis. Kalawati Gurung

news from philippines

We are continuing our witness here, still people are interested even those from Moslem background. We received the parcel of literature from you with the more copies of *Bible Basics* and also the Cebuano tract of Brother Duncan's, *What Is The Gospel*. Thank you very much. We are now distributing them.

Bro. Alfredo

Photo: Young people in the Philippines together with Bro John Bonaparte from Singapore Ecclesia, taken after the evening praise



news from thailand

I pray to God many, many times each day. I feel very close to Him. I pray for Duncan, Cindy, Jean, Robin and all whom I know, and also for this world. God bless you.

Sis. Ratanapan

Respect Yourself and Others (Romans 13:9)

Self-disparagement is not a Christian virtue. If we have a poor opinion of ourself we will not have a very high regard for our neighbour. It is when we have respect for ourself that we will hold in high regard others who are also God's creation.

Self respect is not akin to self aggrandizement that allows pride to exalt us to the detriment of our spiritual life and robs us of those graces that should be the hallmark of a Christian disciple. True self respect is created by the awareness that God loves us and that we are his children. This truth abolishes a cringing spirit and enables us to walk tall in the presence of God and man.

Self respect means maintaining a standard of dignity and conduct that is worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ upon whose life your life should be patterned. When you see other people as God created them we will have a kind and positive attitude towards them. We will no longer despise those whom the world classifies as our social inferiors nor envy those who consider themselves superior to us. We will see them all as people whom God loves.

We must respect ourself before we can respect other people, and we must experience God's love flowing through our life before we can truly love other people.

Bro. David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

The Junction

The Lord allows many unpalatable events to befall His chosen before redeeming them. This enables people to see His power, and to increase the faith and dependence of His people on Him. The Lord prefers to prepare people before commissioning them for a service, such as Joseph, David, Samson, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and many others.

The scriptures give many instances where life was not all that rosy for His followers. Elijah was able through earnest prayer to prevent rain from falling for three years and six months; when he prayed again, the heavens gave rain and the earth brought forth fruit (1 Kings 17:1; 19:1-4. James 5:17, 18). But he had to run away from a woman. For believers, the Lord may sometimes seem to be far off in times of need.

A widow in the town of Nain had only one son. He was all the woman had, but he died (Luke 7:11, 12). The Lord met the funeral procession and the desperate widow at the city gate and took pity on her (verse 13). It was at a stage where the widow thought all was lost, but that was the time she met Jesus. The Lord brought the boy back to life and the astonished people praised God (verses 14-16). The Lord will meet us too at a junction in our lives.

Do we think all is lost? It may be sickness, poverty, disappointments and sorrows, but the Lord will surely meet us and change our course. The Lord met Moses in the bush, and Gideon, and their lives were never the same again (Exodus 3:1-17; Judges 6:11-24). Jacob became Israel (Genesis 32:22-29), Elizabeth became pregnant (Luke 1:6-25) and Bartimaeus received his sight (Mark 10:46-52). Let us have faith and work on our problems, if it is within your strength, otherwise let us leave them to God and watch how He solves them for us.

Human beings are not perfect so do not let us be concerned with our inadequacies. Talk to God like a father and He will make a way for you in the waters as He did for the Israelites to pass through the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-31). Likewise also the Israelites crossed the River Jordan by the command of the Lord (Joshua 4:7-13). The Lord made Peter to walk on water and so can we. When Christ meets us at a junction, we will overcome our burdens, for nothing is impossible to God. Paul says: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21) and, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). He has a good plan for us and will meet us at our junction soon. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if you suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror neither be troubled" (1 Peter 3:12-14). Lastly (verse 17) "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing than for evil doing".

In this wise, beloved Brethren and Sisters, know ye that the Lord is in control in all world affairs, and Jesus will soon be on the earth, so let us all get ourselves prepared to meet the Lord at his coming. May we each have a place in that glorious kingdom.

Bro. Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)

Personal Testimony

I thank God for His kindness and wisdom. I was born a Christian. I attended Apostolic Faith Mission (A F M) for the last 15 years. Sis Rebecca Paul (my tutor) has helped me to come across a Bible-based community and their true Bible teaching – Christadelphians. She assisted me in the Postal Correspondence Course which I finished in October 2003. She advised me about the nearest brethren and sisters of Masvingo Rural and I started to attend their Sunday service in March. I should like also to express my gratitude to my best friend in God's vineyard, Bro Kudkwashi Mushandu, who encourages me to study God's word, also all at Masvingo Rural Ecclesia. By God's grace I was baptized on 28 March 2004. Since then I started a new life in Christ and now I never let down the Bible. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Almighty: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart", Jeremiah 15:16. Now I know that "God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," Hebrews 11:6. Since then, my life has changed completely and I am waiting for the Lord's return.

Bro Simon Mudavose (Masvingo Rural, Zimbabwe)

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Brethren from left:- David Wanjala, Manasseh Wamamite and Daniel Wakhabu

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Strife

It is a strange fact that men are often more disposed to lose temper over a slight divergence than over a great one. A narrow-minded theologian may be quite affable with an atheist, but bitterly resentful toward a brother worshipper who ventures to deviate by a hair's breadth from his conception of rectitude in faith and practice. The Jews hated the Samaritans far more than they hated barbarians. The Lord Jesus administered a stinging reproof to this uncharitableness when he chose a Samaritan as an illustration of the neighbour who was to be loved.....

Islip Collyer

"Into all the world?"

Several issues ago we made an appeal for funds to produce Christadelphian literature in languages where there is little or none. Thanks to your support and the wonderful contribution of translation made by many Brethren and Sisters and contacts throughout the world, we are now pleased to inform you that the booklet "What is the Gospel?" [summarizing our basic Christadelphian beliefs] is now available in the following 32 languages. You can view the translations at <http://carelinks.net/doc/gospel>. We earnestly pray that the true Gospel will soon have gone into all the world, so that the Lord's return may be hastened.

Albanian	French	Lithuanian	Serbian	Turkmen
Aromanian	German	Macedonian	Slovenian	Ukrainian
Bosnian	Hungarian	Pashto [Afghani]	Spanish	Urdu

Bulgarian	Kazakh	Polish	Tamil	Uzbek
Cebuano	Kikamba	Portuguese	Tatar	Vlach
Croatian	Kikuyu	Romanian	Tok Pisin	
Farsi	Kirghiz	Russian	Turkish	

Why Do We Exist?

What is the purpose of life? Why are we living on this earth? I put this question to a friend the other day. He replied that man's purpose on earth is to eat and praise God. He is right in a way. All man's other activities only help him to find food. Ask a philosopher or a scientist the same question and they will give their own, sometimes unsatisfactory, answer. I would rather have the answer of my friend.

Biblically, God created man for a purpose that is more than eating and thanking Him. A vivid example is Jeremiah. God said to him: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). Before his conception, God knew him and the purpose of his birth i.e. to be a prophet and spread God's word to the nations. Another example is John the baptist whose coming was to prepare the way for the ministry of Christ. Yes, they are to eat, praise God and help spread the good news about God.

Events in our lives can help us to ask ourselves the same question: To what purpose were we brought to life by God? Why are we still existing? Let me recount a personal story. A friend that I grew up with back home in our village was making jokes with me. "Elijah", he said, "do you remember when we were swimming in our village river and you nearly got drowned? They stamped on your stomach and water gushed from your mouth, nose and ears" I tried to play down the joke but the incident started to haunt me again. I was about eight years old then and about 20 of us around the same age we went to swim in the said river. I lost my balance and in my desperate search for air started taking in water. Immediately somebody lifted me up. That's all I remembered. I didn't know when they stamped on my stomach. I only woke up to see people standing around me. A passing older person saw me and rushed into the river to save me. Yes, other people have similar stories to tell. Why did God preserve us and not allow us to go and be forgotten? I believe because we are for a purpose, not just to eat and say 'thanks be to God'. We are to proclaim His mercy and His purpose concerning the world to others. In Ephesians 1:3-6 we read of having been "chosen before the foundation of the world". Isn't it marvellous that before the world was created God knew us and chose us. He decided that we should be born.

We should see it our duty to proclaim the gospel and purpose of God to everybody. That is why we are here on earth. I used to feel shy to tell people that I belong to that Christian organization with a long and peculiar name: CHRISTADELPHIANS but when I remember that I haven't found fault in any of our doctrines, I am now always bold and tell them of my faith. It is my responsibility to spread the good news of the coming kingdom to others.

We must be humble and totally depend on God for our daily food, give Him thanks and spread the message of His love and purpose to others. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel"

is a command from Christ that we must carry out. Whenever there is the opportunity, let us not hesitate to speak to people about our hope.

Bro Elijah Okorie (Togo)

The Lord is Your Life

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever, said, “The Spirit gives life. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life” (Heb. 13:8, John 6:63). The word of the Lord stands for ever.

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God” – the Holy Bible (1 Peter 1:20,22,23).

“Hear now, my dear brethren, the decrees and laws God our Lord teaches us. Follow them so that you may live.” (Deut 4:1).

“If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.” (Matt.19:17) “God will give each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life” (Rom 2:6,7).

“In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality” (Pro.12:28). “Praise the Lord, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s (Psalm 103:1-5). “The Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people” (2 Chr 30:20).

“He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. To be made new in attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness (Eph.2:10; 4:23,24). “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6). “God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim.2:1-4).

Bro. Joshua Pakali (Kariba, Zimbabwe)

The Ultimate Test of Discipleship

“If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:35).

Christ makes many demands upon his disciples. It is the response a disciple makes to these demands that differentiates him from those who do not acknowledge the Lordship of Christ. The Christian disciple's standards are Christ's standards and in all their ways and attitudes they strive to emulate the Master.

Christian discipleship implies noble living and good works, for it is impossible to live in close harmony with Christ without something of His loveliness being reflected. Christians should be different from non-Christians in so many ways. Not only does the Master expect this difference, but so do those people who offer him no allegiance and give him no love. What is this essential difference?

The mark of true discipleship is the love Christians have for one another. There can be good works without love, but they will lack the penetrative power of inspired discipleship and the faith will become a series of good works lacking inspiration and purpose.

Christ knows human weaknesses and offers us the love we lack to fulfil his purpose.

It is this real Christ love flowing through us that will show that we are His disciples.

Bro David Banda Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

The Bible – God's Revelation

Were we put on this earth for a purpose? If so, what is the purpose?

Take a halt and think! Would a Creator, having the supreme intelligence, wisdom and love to think out, to plan, design and bring about all creation – this earth and all life upon it – have left human beings in ignorance of His purpose of their being here and the laws that would bring them the peace, happiness and joy that men have been striving to attain since the beginning?

God Almighty made His all important truth accessible to mankind. He committed His treasure house of knowledge to writing, revealed in the Holy Bible – His instruction book for mankind. Yet so many have never found the answers so plainly written there. The Bible is God's divine revelation which man is not capable of finding out for himself by any other means.

God equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover and use the laws of science, but absolutely no tools or instrument of science can ever tell us if there is life after death, the purpose of our being alive, where we are going, or the way to a happy, abundant and peaceful life here and now. Our scientists, our world leaders and our statesmen have failed utterly to lead us to the universally desired peace, with happiness and abundant living.

The Bible reveals all this and more. Take a recognized textbook on biology, show this book to twenty different biology professors from twenty different colleges and universities, ask them what it says. They all give you basically the same answer. People seldom disagree as to what recognized text books say – except when it comes to the book of all Books, the Holy Bible.

Take the Bible to twenty different professors of theology or ministers of religion and you will probably receive twenty different answers to just about any question you might ask about it. Here certainly is the enigma of the ages. The most important, yet the least understood book of all books, is the world's best seller – the book possessed by more people than any other. It is

the book that has lived down through the ages in spite of every effort to stamp it out. The Bible is the only book which has foretold, centuries in advance, the meaning of the confused world conditions, and that opens before us the wonderful, peaceful, happy world of tomorrow. It is the one book that predicted in advance, the rise and fall of specific nations and , that reveals the destiny of the world. No mere humanly inspired book could have revealed these amazing events. Such prophecies must have been divinely inspired. Here is the book that has changed more lives than all other books combined. Let us encourage more people to read it in our day..

Bro. Isaac Guzete (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

Personal Testimony 2004

In Isaiah 49:15 God says that He cannot forget His chosen one. I wonder how God chooses His beloved children. Truly He is calling His people, for He called me without asking me to pay for my salvation. Instead, by faith, the precious blood of Jesus covered my sins. Now, brethren, we are not strangers or sojourners, we are the children of God and citizens of the Kingdom of Christ (Ephesians 2:19). Therefore we must pray, copy and practice the behaviour of our Father and the language of our country, the Kingdom of God. We should walk like our father Abraham and like our father Jacob and like our elder brother Jesus. Our conversation and practice should be like theirs. We should avoid the world, for all that is of the world is of the devil (the flesh) and the people of it are like their father the devil, lacking truth and committing murder (John 8:44).

Bro Emmanuel and Sis Sarah Joumer

School of the Prophets

In the Philippines the big Bible Schools are called 'Schools of the Prophets' the pictures on the left were taken at Baguio City, the speakers being Bro Des Manser and Bro Matthew Norton from Australia. I really enjoyed it and was so happy to see all the Brethren and Sisters again and most important the lessons that I learnt during the week. I try to apply and practice these lessons in my daily life and share them with all my friends here. I am far away from my family and my original ecclesia, but because we have one faith, one hope and one love I am not a stranger to them as all of us are united in the one family of Christ. I would like to take this opportunity to say, thank you very much, Singapore Ecclesia, for ther lovingkindness and understanding you have shown to me.



“School of the Prophets” Baguio,Philippines, December 2004

Above: “Daughters of Zion” Below: “Sons of Zion”



Sis Liza Gemino (Singapore)

Criteria for God Hearing Our Prayers

Prayer is talking with God, but there are conditions attached to prayers.

1. You must have faith

“Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith” (Matt 21:22 RSV). It means you must believe that God is able to do what you ask Him to do. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

2. You must be thankful

“Have no anxiety about anything but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God” (Phil.4:6). Thanksgiving is a worship state of mind which is as important as believing in God’s power to help.

3. You must be at one with God

Jesus said, “If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7). Which is the same meaning as Ps 34:15. “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry”. Identification with God’s righteous purpose is a prime factor.

4. You must be resigned to His will

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14). “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt...thy will be done (Matt 26:29-42). It is reasonable to yield to His will before you pray.

5. You must be patient

As David says, “I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined unto me and heard my cry” (Ps 40:1). “Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart”.

If all prayers were answered immediately under the urgency of our pleading we would probably be sadly disillusioned. Our vision is so limited that it is always wisest to wait for God to answer as and when His wisdom may deem best. Lastly, you must cherish no sinful desire, “If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me” (Ps 66:18). This does not mean that a person has to be perfect before they can pray. Over and over again God invites sinners to call upon Him. But you need to be sorry for your sins and willing to be free from every evil thought, word

and deed for your prayers to be effective.
James A. Mwangomo (Ilomba, Tanzania)

No Lying

Two Christadelphians entered a furniture shop in City centre. The two were looking at bicycles displayed in the shop when a delivery man entered. He didn't see a T.V. set perched on a stand and with his cart stacked so high with boxes he hit the television and sent it crashing to the floor. The Christadelphians watched The branch manager said, "You do not need to worry I understand you are aware that accidents can happen. We'll just tell the manufacturer it was damaged in shipping, he'll give us a new one." A blatant lie! The brethren in Christ left the store without making a purchase. They would not want to give their business to a man who would lie without giving it a thought. It's pretty tough not to fall into a pattern of lying, but if we give in to the temptation to lie, soon we are doing it so often that we're not even aware of it. It becomes a way of life. What we don't realize is that for the few bucks we may save, we have sold out on a basic principle of the Bible (Eph. 4:25) and compromised our witness for Christ. The standards of God's Word are high. We must not lower them for the sake of financial gain or because we fear that it's the only way our business can survive. Our rule in business and in all of life should be, NO LYING.

Bro. E. Kagogodza (Concession, Zimbabwe)

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

This was the answer of Cain to the Creator when our Heavenly Father asked him, Where is Abel your brother. In order to understand the inner meaning of this subject we need to understand the historical background of these two brothers, Cain and Abel.

Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. They were taught by their father the way of fearing God, as we assume that he told them what God did to them when they sinned. When Adam and Eve sinned they covered themselves with leaves of a fig tree. But God covered them with animal skin which symbolised the covering of their sin by the shedding of blood, which was the foreshadowing of the Lamb of God (Jesus) who shed his blood for the remission of sins of all mankind.

Cain and Abel appeared before the LORD with their own offering. The Scripture says that Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the first fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the first born of his flock and of the fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. Cain became very angry and his face fell (Genesis 4:3-5).

Our Heavenly Father is the God of love and graciousness. He solemnly warned Cain, as the scripture says, "The Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry and why has your face fallen? If you do good will you not be accepted, and if you do not well, sin is couching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it" (Genesis 4:6-7). Finally Cain killed Abel because he hated

discipline and cast away the warning words of God behind him (v. 8). When Cain killed Abel, the LORD asked Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" Cain answered "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (v.9). As the Bible recorded, it is obvious that Cain and Abel were supposed to be keepers of one another, simply because they were brothers. As God asked Cain "Where is Abel your brother?", so we are also asked by our Heavenly Father "Where are your brothers and sisters". Are we supposed to be keepers of our brothers and sisters? Yes! How? There are three ways described in the Bible in which we should be very much concerned with being keepers of one another:

1. Spiritual food

All believers need to grow in the knowledge of God. We must meet together for Bible study. This has two advantages. Firstly, to guide others, especially new believers, in growing as Brothers and Sisters and understanding the Scriptures. "The unfolding of your words gives light, it imparts understanding to the simple" (Ps 119:130). Meeting together equips the saints for the work of the ministry and building up the body of Christ, "until we all attain to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (Eph 4:13-16). Through meeting together we receive instruction in scripture, "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

2. Humanitarian

We must love our Brothers and Sisters, "Then the King will say to those on his right, Come you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:34-36).

3. Evangelism

Jesus said, "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

In Christ we are all keepers of our Brothers and Sisters. Hallelujah!

Bro. Jonathan Nkombe (Tanzania)

For the Poor You Have Always (John 12:1-8)

After Mary, Lazarus' sister, had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume, Judas Iscariot said she had done a useless thing (John 12:4-6). In response Jesus said, "Leave her alone... for the poor you have always, but me you have not always". It is true that we have, and we shall always have, poor among us. This includes people who are poor spiritually, those who are poor fraternally and those who are poor physically.

By this saying Jesus means that we do not have Jesus' character always. Jesus used many different figures of speech. To be convinced that Jesus was right to say that we have the poor always among us look at Galatians 5:22-26. This passage describes Jesus' characteristics.

When Mary honoured Jesus by anointing his' feet with perfume, Judas said "What a waste," when he was using stolen money to satisfy lusts of the flesh. Shortly after he sold Jesus for the love of money and came to realise that he had done a bad thing when it was too late.

Where could he go to say that he had done wrong to Jesus? Jesus was not with him. To Peter and the other apostles? They were scattered. How could he confront Peter? He saw Peter in the garden of Gethsemane drawing a sword, and cutting off the ear of the high Priest's servant. He thought that perhaps Peter would not pardon him. Finally he decided to kill himself to avoid disgrace. Why? Because he was a coward like King Saul who, when he saw the Philistines around him, was afraid. Fear haunted him, he was not courageous enough to face the enemy. Jesus came to bring us light that we should not remain in our sins. Jesus said his word will judge us in the last day (John 12:46-48)

(No name and address on this article)

Pleasing God

"Without faith it is impossible to please God", wrote Paul (Hebrews 11:6). How important it is, therefore, that we develop faith! And how best is it done? To answer the question we must understand what faith is. The apostle defines it as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Without expounding these terms specifically, we note that they define faith as a conviction of the reality of that which is promised, but which is not yet revealed. It sustains the man of faith during times of difficulty leading to that end.

Granted a true faith, which must stem from a correct understanding of the word, how do we go about pleasing God? Men of God will walk by faith, whereas men of the world will walk by sight. The former will invest in the future by their adherence to the principles of God today. The latter want an immediate return from what they put into life.

Walking by faith implies an implicit confidence in the utterances of the Bible, despite appearances which sometimes seem to conflict with those utterances. Yet faith is not mere credulity, but a conviction founded on evidence. A credulous man is a simpleton and God does not favour such. God would have our minds well furnished with reasons for the trust we have in Him. God has provided the material for forming these reasons. It is found written in the covers of the Bible and is illustrated by events taking place in the modern world about us. The moral, social and political conditions of life, which are so familiar to us, are predicted in the Scriptures and our recognition of this fact can strengthen faith. Above all else we have the miracle of Israel. The most superficial comprehension of Bible prophecy recognizes that in this we have a most compelling latter-day witness. No one can dispute the predictions of the word in relation to Israel; no one can dispute their fulfilment today. In these things we see not merely a vindication of prophecy but a means of strengthening our individual faith.

To grow in faith therefore needs effort on our part. The Israelites were styled "children in whom is no faith". Why? Because, as Isaiah declared, they were "children that will not hear the law of

God” (Isa 30:9). Therefore they were people of “unbelief”, with no conviction; they “worshipped” God but were not motivated by complete trust in Him, they were given a book, God’s law, but they refused to listen to it. Those who had the ability to read and understand the book found excuse for not doing so on the ground that it was sealed; those who lacked ability used that as their excuse.

Indeed, it is essential for us to open and read the Bible if we would develop in faith and so please God. And if we are not prepared to spend time in developing faith, we shall soon succumb to the pressures of the day. Our eternal salvation, therefore, depends upon what we do with the Book given into our hands, in this our day of opportunity. This is both a personal and a communal responsibility. Let us give ourselves to the personal study of the word; to verse-by-verse marking of our Bibles and by daily contact with the mind of Yahweh as revealed in it.

Bro. Patrick Wafula (Kamukuywa, Kenya)

Progress In Pakistan

'Knowing Jesus and making Him known'

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have granted registration to Christadelphians as a legal religious denomination in what is possibly a world first! While some Christian organizations have been waiting for more than 25 years for their applications to be approved, the All Pakistan Christadelphian Church (APCC) has been given legal recognition less than six months after we commenced the registration process. This wonderful answer to prayer means that our Brethren in Pakistan can legally perform marriages, conduct religious services and social activities for members, own property, operate schools and colleges and have legal status.

For marriages to be legal in Pakistan they must be performed by a Muslim priest or authorised Christian minister. If a marriage is not performed by an authorised person a couple may be regarded as living in adultery, and under Islamic law should be stoned. Registration as a Christian Church means that our brethren in Pakistan can now appoint marriage celebrants and issue marriage certificates. This is an enormous breakthrough for us.

When asked what the reasons might be that we were granted registration so quickly the brethren involved in the process answered immediately, 'Prayer!' They explained how that at a meeting with the Muslim lawyer who was preparing our application, they had to hand over a significant amount of money for the Government fees and legal costs. One of our brethren said to the lawyer, 'Can we pray for you?' When the lawyer agreed our brother put one hand on the money and the other hand on the lawyer and prayed that the Lord's money would be used for the purpose for which it was given and that God would bless this lawyer in the important task He had given him to do. The lawyer was visibly shaken and said thereafter that he then realized how important it was that he represent us to the best of his ability!

The application process meant that two of our brethren had to appear in Court before a Judge, inspectors from the Department of Religious Affairs had to twice inspect our facilities in Karachi and several brethren were interviewed. This story is just one example of how committed and prayer-focused our Pakistan Brothers and Sisters are and why God is blessing what they do in

His service. Their most favoured phrase is, 'To know Jesus and to make Him known'

The APCC has rented a facility in Karachi which houses an office, class rooms, a meeting room for the Karachi ecclesia and accommodation for students or visitors. Each room in the facility is named after a province of Pakistan (the Punjab room, the Balochistan room, etc). The room has a wall map of the province and the plan is to progressively add photos, reports, charts, etc, showing the progress and development of the work in each province. They also have an Afghanistan room, as they look beyond their own borders and pray for Brethren whose situation is even more difficult and challenging.

In February it was a privilege to attend the inaugural meetings of the now registered APCC, hosted by the Karachi ecclesia. Under the Government-approved Trust Deed a National Council was also established with representatives from the major population centres where we have Brothers and Sisters and ecclesias. At the inaugural meetings of the National Council, the brethren discussed their visions and plans for the future of the brotherhood in Pakistan, Afghanistan and beyond. There was a great deal of excitement as each Regional Co-ordinator reported on their progress and shared their plans for the future. It was also good to hear the ecclesia singing out of their own APCC 'Praise the Lord' book in Urdu and to see Urdu literature such as *Bible Basics* proudly bearing the name 'APCC (reg)'. As part of the inauguration meeting, the Karachi ecclesia had a Dedication service, in which we were led to consider Paul's analogy of one body, many parts and how we must work as one body. We ended our service with a very moving breaking of bread.

Some of the regional and national plans for the future include:

A sewing centre to train unskilled women so they can make clothes for their families and open up employment opportunities. The sewing lessons will be combined each day with Bible studies...

A *Bible Basics* School for conducting correspondence and in-house courses in various locations to prepare their many contacts for baptism...

Youth activities and leadership training for young men and women, and a campus outreach for college and university students...

Expanding the school programmes already under way which provide education for poor and underprivileged families. The standard of education at the Christadelphian school which is already operating is higher than that offered in many State-funded schools, with the children learning maths, science, geography, English, Urdu and Pakistan history and culture as well as Bible studies. (Some of the State-funded schools teach only Islamic studies, with little or no education in maths, science, etc)...

A Bible training centre to help brethren develop their Bible knowledge and skills in evangelism, leadership, and ministry. It is also proposed to teach practical trade skills alongside Bible courses so that some brethren can become self-employed. This is also important in a country where there is widespread discrimination against Christians and they are denied many employment opportunities...

The translation of various books, articles and courses into Urdu and other local languages.

The APCC is a success story for other reasons too. Pakistan is possibly one of the first areas to become independent of western oversight within a short time. We believe that we have followed the New Testament model by appointing local brethren to oversee the local ecclesias and encouraging them to build a church within its own cultural context and with its own traditions, rather than imposing western culture and traditions on them. An International Advisory Council (IAC) made up of experienced Christadelphians has been set up to work with the Brothers and Sisters in Pakistan to provide support, encouragement, ideas and advice. The IAC is an important link to the brotherhood in the rest of the world and see part of their responsibility as helping the brethren in Pakistan to take their place in a worldwide fellowship of believers, while avoiding western problems and disputes which should be confined as much as possible to their places of origin.

There are many challenges facing our community in Pakistan, where Christians are less than 2% of the population and where discrimination and persecution are widespread. Some of our Brethren have been beaten and tortured, some are in hiding from their families because of their beliefs, others have lost their jobs or been denied education. However, they are all unanimous in their belief that they would give up all this and more for the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord!

We ask for your prayers to join with ours that God will bless this work we do for Him, and all we do will be for His glory.

On behalf of APCC

The Significance Of Iraq

VERY INTERESTING - DID YOU KNOW:

- 1.The Garden of Eden was in Iraq?
2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization?
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq?.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq?.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq?
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq?
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq?
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh - which is in Iraq?
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel?
10. Amos cried out in Iraq?
11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem?
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq?

13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq?
14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq?
15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq?
16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq?
17. The wise men were from Iraq?
18. Peter preached in Iraq.?

And you have probably seen this one. Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means 'between the two rivers', more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq means 'country with deep roots' . Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible.

No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

Bro. Ramazan (Turkey)

The Benefits of Ecclesial Work

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work" (Eph 4:16.NIV).

In order to run the race, we must try to understand the benefits of ecclesial work.

The Head of the Ecclesia: And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the Ecclesia. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the *head*, of the ecclesia. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the ecclesia, his body, of which he is the Saviour. He is the head of the body, the ecclesia, he is the beginning and the first born from among the dead, so that in every thing he might have the supremacy.

Spiritual Growth: In fruitfulness: Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up with him who is the *head*, that is Christ.

Spiritual Progress: The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon. The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. Therefore be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Spiritual Love: Here, we see that love counts more than any other thing on earth. And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is

faith, expressing itself through love. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith and I pray that, you being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. And to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity, and so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love, whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

The purpose of the Ecclesia

The ecclesia is Christ's Church, not ours. Jesus founded the ecclesia, died for the ecclesia and will one day return for his ecclesia. As the owner of the ecclesia, he has already established the purpose of it and it is not negotiable. Our duty is to discover and try to understand the purpose Christ had for the ecclesia and to implement it. The ecclesial programmes may change with time, but the purpose remains the same. We may be innovative at times in the style of ministry, but we must never alter the substance of it.

The importance of being purpose driven is that nothing precedes purpose. The starting point for everything should be the question; "Why do we exist?" Until we know what our ecclesia exists for, we have no foundation, no motivation and no direction for the ministry. A purpose reduces frustration because it allows us to forget about things that don't really matter. A clear purpose not only defines what we intend to do, but it defines what we do not intend to do. No ecclesia has the time to do everything. The good news is that God doesn't expect us to do everything. Besides, there are only a few things really worth doing in the first place. The secret of effectiveness is to know what really counts, then do what really counts and stop worrying about things and distractions around us.

In my opinion, most ecclesias try to do too much. This is one of the overlooked barriers to building a healthy ecclesia. We wear people out. Too often small ecclesias involve themselves in all kinds of activities and programmes instead of concentrating on the essentials; they dabble in forty different things and miss being good at any of them. Being efficient is not the same as being effective. Peter Drucker says that efficiency is doing things right, effectiveness is doing the right thing at the right time.

Many ecclesias are efficient in that they are organised and maintain a full state of programmes. But while they generate a lot of activity, there is little productivity because energy is wasted on trivial issues. God wants ecclesias to be effective and concentrate on their purpose. By continually reviewing our purposes we can prioritise and strengthen our ecclesia's focus.

A clear purpose attracts co-operation

People want to join an ecclesia that knows where it's going. When an ecclesia clearly communicates it is thus, in action, people are eager to get on board. This is because everyone is looking for something that gives meaning, purpose and direction to life.

When Ezra told the people exactly what God expected them to do the people responded, "Tell us how to proceed in setting things straight, and we will fully co-operate." (Ezra.10:4). If we want our members to get excited about ecclesial activity, support it and generously give to it, we

must vividly explain up front exactly where we are heading, which is the Kingdom of God. *Bro. Igani Eteng (Calabar, Nigeria)*

Jesus: Son of God - Not God the Son

Many a time I have heard people call Jesus 'God', 'God the son', and 'God in the human form'. This, of course, made them conclude that Mary was the 'Mother of God'.

I think this is degrading and dishonouring, it is even blasphemous. At least Jesus had a biological mother as we are told and we believe the Bible is true. Below are some references to prove that Jesus is not God

John 1:34 "and I have seen and borne witness that this is the Son of God". If John 14:20 means that Jesus is God we all are God because he says "I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you".

John 10:33-36 tells us that Jesus was taken to be a blasphemer, not because he called himself God but because he said he was the *Son of God*. If it was thought he should be killed for this reason I really cannot imagine what would have been done to him had He called himself God.

John 5:25-27: The early part of this scripture has Jesus calling himself the Son of God and in the latter part the Son of Man.

Heb.5:5-8: Here we are clearly told that Jesus is the Son of God (He was begotten of God). He offered prayers and supplications *with loud cries and tears*. to the one that was able to *save him from death*. This I shows there is no form of equality, God could not have been crying to himself. Jesus said clearly in scripture My Father is greater than (I John 14:28).

Luke 1:35—"therefore the child to be born of you will be called holy, the **Son of God**".

Gal.3:12-14 Jesus became a curse for us and in no way could God who has purer eyes and cannot behold evil-in-man, which he must punish, become a curse for us, he also could not have been hanged and killed.

Gal. 3:16-17: Christ was referred to as Abraham's offspring, how could God have been Abraham's offspring?

1 John 1:3-4: This tells us about fellowship with the Father and His Son. What then happens to the third person of the trinity?

Romans 15:6: 'that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'; just as he is our God and Father too'.

Eph. 4:5-7 talks about one God and Father not three Gods-in-one, that is the Father, the Son and the Spirit as they say.

Titus 1:4: 'Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ our saviour'.

1 Tim 2: 5-6: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men; the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was born at the proper time". If we do agree that God is not man and that the Bible is a book that He inspired men to

write, then we should also agree that this same book would not refer to Him as man, therefore this passage was talking about Jesus, the Son of God.

There are so many other passages in the Bible that point to this same fact and if we have read our Bible thoroughly and understood it, we would have found out that it does not in any case refer to Jesus as God and Jesus never claimed to be God. We should be very careful and act like the Bereans we should search the Scriptures.

Jesus never referred to himself as God and when the Father and son are talked about, the third trinity being is omitted (the Holy Spirit), not because it does not exist but because it is not a being but God's spirit. *The Power of God.*

Another important fact is that the word trinity is never mentioned in the Bible, so the next time someone mentions it tell him to show you where it is written in the Bible and if he can't he is either deceiving you or does not even know what he is saying. Also God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit cannot be found in the Bible. So the Father owns the Holy Spirit and it is one entity, while the Son, the Word made flesh, is another entity.

Jesus wept, was cursed, was beaten and was killed. All these could not have happened to God because He is not mortal

Gen. 2:24-25 says that a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife and they shall become one flesh. If being one means equality and not being in agreement, then the Bible would not say that the man is the head of the house as Christ is the head of the Church, and so if Jesus said that He and His Father are one, he simply meant that their ways, thoughts and everything about them were the same, that is they were in agreement.

Let us think about these things and see that we worship our God in the right way and meditate on His word day and night so that He will open our eyes to the good news about His coming Kingdom and life eternal Gal. 4:4-5, Phil. 2:5-11, Gal. 1:3-5, Rev. 1:5-6, Acts 9:19-20; 8:36-37.

Sis Julie Omatayo (Ikeja, Nigeria)

Love

Jesus said that the most important commands are to love God and our neighbour (Mt.22:37-39). He also said that we must love him more than anyone else (Mt.10:37), and that love is the test of whether we are truly his disciples (Jo.13:35). He even said that we must love our enemies (Mt.5:44). So if we are to love God, Jesus, all our brothers and sisters and even our enemies, is there anyone at all whom we should not love? But how is it possible to love enemies? Can anyone really love murderers, tyrants or even those who are unkind? Jesus seems to be asking for the impossible when he says; “ *...do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you ... be merciful ... do not judge ... do not condemn ...*” (Lk.6:27-38 N.I.V.).

The Greek language has not only one but three words for 'love', so finding which Jesus uses will help us to understand what he means. One is 'eros', which means sexual love and does not occur in the Bible, so it needn't concern us. 'Phileo' means friendly love, as of a family member, or someone or something that we like; this is used sometimes. The word most often used is

'agape', which means a totally selfless love which desires only good for the person, and doesn't depend at all on any merit of, or fellow-feeling towards them. An example is "God so loved the world ..." (Jo.3:16). The Breaking-of-Bread is called the 'agape' which means 'love-feast' (Jude 12) because it celebrates the greatest love, that of God for us in giving his son to save us.

In John 21 when Jesus said to Peter "... do you truly love me ...?" (v.15), he used 'agapeo' but in his reply Peter used only 'phileo', as though saying 'I am your friend'. The same words were used the second time Jesus asked him; Jesus used 'agapeo' and Peter used 'phileo'. The third time, Jesus himself used 'phileo', 'are you my friend?' Perhaps this is why Peter was hurt when Jesus asked the third time. Before denying his Lord, Peter had claimed to be more loyal than the other disciples (Mt.26:33) and to be ready to go to prison and death with him (Lk.26:33), but now, after his terrible failure, he was humbled and didn't dare claim to love in the 'agapeo' sense.

Is there any one of us who would dare to claim that we have that 'agape' love for Jesus? Possibly ... until we remember that the only way we can show it is by loving others in that way. The ideal situation when we like and have a natural fellow-feeling for all our brothers and sisters is a very rare thing. But 'agape' love demands that we behave to them all as we would to Jesus; "... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt.25:40 N.I.V.). When we understand that 'agape' can be selfless, not depending on our feelings, we can see that it is possible to love people we don't like.

Perhaps Peter was thinking of what Jesus said to him when he wrote that believers must love each other (1Pet.1:22). The Revised English Bible has an interesting translation here, which the Greek can mean:

"Now that you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth until you feel sincere affection towards your fellow-Christians (philadelphia), love one another (agapeo) wholeheartedly with all your strength." If this is correct, it means that when we practise agape love towards each other, that will lead to us getting to like each other better.

One practical suggestion of how to start is always to assume that people have good intentions. If anyone hurts your feelings or does you harm, most likely they didn't intend to do so; think how often you have unintentionally upset someone. Even if they did it intentionally, it may simply be that they don't understand you, or that you don't understand them! It is easier to forgive when we think a person didn't mean to hurt us, and it is better to forgive when they did mean it, otherwise we keep resentment in our hearts, which does us more harm than them.

Paul gave the ideal we have to aim for in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which again is well translated in the R.E.B.

"Love is patient and kind.

Love envies no-one, is never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offence.

Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth.

There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance."

Here we have a picture of the Lord Jesus, the only one who has achieved the ideal. May each of us aim to be like him.

Sister Jean Field (Kendal, U.K.)

Do you need reading glasses?

We understand that some of you in the Mission areas are unable to see properly to read their Bibles. The only way to really find out the condition of your eyes is to have them properly tested by an optician. Sometimes they will prescribe glasses to correct a problem, A test may even identify a disease. Or give you a prescription for suitable glasses to magnify the text.

Having obtained the prescription one then has to shop around for the best price, what is called 'prescription lenses' are best if you can afford them. However, a number of shops sell cheaper glasses for ordinary reading and you will find they are graded, for example, +1.5; +2.5; +3.25. or something similar. You need to visit a shop that sells them, try them on and see what size helps you the most. You need to start at the lower numbers and then gradually work up higher; do not select a pair that are over-strong as they may harm your eyes. Another alternative useful item is to have a hand-held magnifying glass.

It is appreciated that some of our readers are unable to afford to purchase even an inexpensive pair of *reading glasses* or a *magnifying glass*. We are therefore going to *experiment* with a scheme to provide, free of charge, those who are in this situation. WE WILL NEED TO KNOW THE READING GLASS'S SPECIFICATION (as the example given above). Should you prefer, we will send a magnifying glass. We feel this scheme is necessary to help our Brethren and Sisters in the reading of the Scriptures but, as we have said, it is only an EXPERIMENT as we are uncertain of the cost. However, we are delighted to say that our New Zealand Brethren and Sisters have already sent us 50 pairs of glasses and a Sister in England six pairs, for which we thank them on your behalf, so that's a good start! MH

Latvian Sisters' Weekend

There is a very high percentage of Sisters in the membership of our community in E Europe, so a special Sisters' Weekend was arranged for the Sisters of Latvia and Lithuania, and we had an attendance of about 30. There was a lot of interest in this initiative as it's the first time it's been tried here. Sis. Jean Field came over from the UK to give talks about 'New Testament Greek words' and 'The woman and the dragon: studies in Revelation.



Photo: Sis Jean Field giving her talks

We recorded her talks and we hope to put them on the 'net'. Cindy also gave a talk about the implications of Eve and led some discussion groups. These groups had work sheets and generated a lot of discussion that was hard to stop!

One of the interesting features was that Bro Marcus and some Brothers helped prepare the meals. They were peeling carrots whilst the Sisters were giving talks! An interesting reversal of the roles we normally see at Bible Schools! It all worked out very well in the spirit of Christ and we all learnt greater mutual respect for each other. We also invited some women who are

preparing for baptism. We were delighted to report that GUNTA attended and was baptized. She lives in a very pitiful hut with her dog. The winter is very cold this year and she has only a small pension to live on, with no relatives to support her. The years of living on a poor diet through cold winters have taken a deep toll upon her health. She studied *Bible Basics* and her Bible by candlelight. We also enjoyed the company of Lidija, who lives out on the Balozis marshes. She has to walk 12 km from her home to the nearest road - she effectively lives on a swampy island. She has no electricity there but has a good knowledge of the Truth, but not ready for baptism.



Photo: Lively Discussion Groups About Feminism

On the Sunday we had visitors of Brothers from Riga and a joint breaking of bread, where Bro. Duncan exhorted about the relationship between Jesus and Mary and the women at the cross. It was a really memorable weekend and from all of us here we want to thank you for it. We got to know each other so much better and we all went away so strengthened and happy in our faith and resolved to care and pray for each other far more.



Photo: Marcus Preparing the Carrots



Photo: Joint Memorial meeting on the Sunday of the Sisters' Weekend

The Joy of Forgiveness

David said, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."

David is pointing to special people who are acceptable to GOD, and they are those whose sins will be forgiven. In the time of Jesus we are told about two people who at first did not appear to have anything in common with him, but were in such a frame of mind that Jesus could change them. These two came to Jesus and were able to be moulded into the right shape. They listened to Jesus.

The first was Zacchaeus, one of the chief of the publicans (Luke 19). The words 'publicans' and 'sinners' were synonymous, but this man went to great lengths in order to see Jesus. We see

him climbing a sycamore tree to get a glimpse of this man. Jesus saw in this man, Zacchaeus, the right type of material that he was looking for. He did not despise him. He did not walk away from him, but said that he would allow himself to be entertained by him that day. He ignored the hundreds of people who followed him that day to convert just one, the most despised of the Jewish race, a publican, a tax gatherer. And when the people saw it they all murmured saying that he was going to be the guest of a man that was a sinner. Jesus knew exactly what he was doing and he gained the heart of Zacchaeus.

And now we see one of the Pharisees (Luke 7:35) inviting Jesus into his house. Jesus went and sat down to eat. It was not however, the Pharisee that sought forgiveness. “And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.” She knew that she was a sinner and that she was regarded as such by those around her. She had not been invited, yet she entered and humiliated herself in the presence of the self-righteous Simon the Pharisee. Yet in that room she saw only one person. She washed and wiped the feet of that one person, and her humility and love were for him alone. When we read about this incident we can feel the intensity of this emotional meeting with the Son of GOD. We see the disgust of Simon – “If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what manner of woman this was that touched him.” Simon recoiled from the fact that she even touched Jesus. But Jesus, who came to save sinners, knew what was in her heart.

Let us now look at Zacchaeus for a moment. He did not cry, but when Jesus deliberately spoke to him, he made haste to come down and received him joyfully. This was his emotional reaction to the call of Jesus. Jesus did not speak to the crowd, but just to him. Before Jesus had time to speak to Zacchaeus, he said, “Behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” In that crowd that thronged Jesus he saw only one person. That person did not want Jesus for the loaves and the fishes, he wanted the way of salvation and Jesus knew that he was genuine. Jesus knew that both the woman in the Pharisee’s house and Zacchaeus truly did seek forgiveness of their sins and truly were about to start a new life. Jesus ignored all others to help these two sinners. He did not make a big issue of it. To the woman he said, Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.” And to Zacchaeus he said, “This day is salvation come to this house.”

There were hundreds who came to hear Jesus but were not moved in their hearts to acknowledge their sins. There was no deep desire to please GOD. They did not seem to realize the importance of the message of Jesus – “Repent and be baptised.” They did not have the desire to seek Jesus as did that woman and that man Zacchaeus. These two went out of their way to acknowledge their sins before him. They knew that Jesus had the authority to forgive them – to bless them. They submitted to him – humility, honesty, joy and love poured out and the reward was forgiveness; godly righteousness first and then forgiveness.

Sis Savannah Nuwagaba (Mbarara, Uganda)

The Dead Cannot Praise God

Life is short as the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9:4-5. We may wonder why people die and why God allowed death. At first God created man and gave him a commandment, but man broke His command and therefore death came into the world.

Now is the time to praise God because we have life and we are living in His mercy and it is our faith which will bring life. The law is holy and the commandment is holy. We know that the law is spiritual but we are mortal.

So we have an obligation, it's not live after the thinking of the flesh, our human nature, if we do we are going to die eternally, but if, by the spirit, you put to death sinful nature you will live

Bro. Lucky Mbalale (Zomba Malawi)

Be slow to speak, slow to wrath”.

Hasty speech causes wrath. It is always safe to be slow to speak; silence is even powerful, and it seldom does harm. But there is of course “a time to speak”. Wisdom consists in knowing when to speak and when to keep silent.

Makhonge Ecclesia, Kenya



Brothers, Sisters, Sunday School Children and Friends at the Makhonge Ecclesia, Kenya

Happy Birthday to You

Do we need to celebrate our birthdays? If so we should also look into the Bible and consider our friends who were there before us. These friends of ours are the prophets. They were born like ourselves. They had mothers and fathers. They had high expectations in their lives that things could go well. But that was not the way of God. Most of the prophets faced a hard and terrible life. Some wished they had been still born, or that their conception had not taken place. But that was not the way of God. God wanted them to be born and face the reality of life and do His work, He wanted them to live, and in much suffering they thought of their birthday.

To be born and live a happy life is something we all would have wanted. Most of us are born and live in tribulation, Job 5:6-7; “Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.” These problems are of various kinds – most of anxiety. We were told by our Lord Jesus Christ that we should not be anxious, but nature being what it is we fail to follow the advice we do not know what will happen between now and the hours to come. Our Lord Jesus Christ knew very well that a human being is always anxious of life, hence he gave the advice.

We need to be faithful and believe in order for us to be saved and it is a need that we be in the Kingdom of God. We try ourselves to be worthy of the Kingdom. But this comes about because we were born and we are living. But what about our birth day? Do we celebrate when we were born? And by the way, who celebrated on that day? Jer. 20:14; Job 3; Jer.15:10; Job 10:18-22;; Psalm 39:13; Psalm 88:12-18; Isaiah 38:18. By reading these chapters we will decide whether to celebrate or not. Our Lord Jesus Christ told us to remember his death, he considered his death more important than his birth. 1 Cor.11:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Matt.26:26-28.

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

Photos



Above: Bro Lazarus Situma at a Coastal Area Youth Camp in Tanzania.

Below: Sunday School children at the home of Bro Joshua Mushili, Zambia



Above: St Lucia Christadelphian Hall, with Sis Dawn David, Bro Michael and Sis Lorraine. Below: Sis Ruth Hammond, Bro Micahel, Recording Brother and Sis Dawn David.

