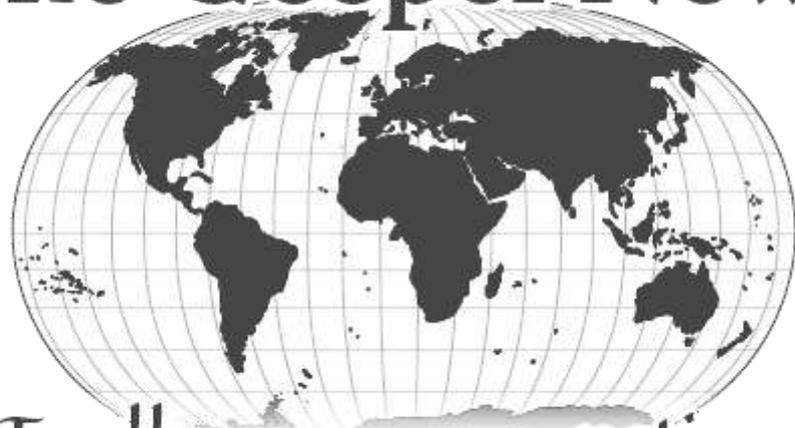


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”



## Editorial: Grace upon Grace

A vital power in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ is *grace*. *Grace* means both a knowledge of all God's love, forgiveness and caring for us that is ours in the Lord Jesus and the power that the knowledge and experience of *grace* gives to our living for him.

The Greek word for *grace* is *charis*, meaning simply the favour of God, granted freely and undeservedly to those who believe in His son. *Charis* is also translated as gracious and graciously to describe the words and actions of God and Jesus. In the synagogue at Nazareth, as Jesus spoke of his fulfilment of the words of Isaiah 61 about God's anointed one preaching good tidings to the poor, healing the broken-hearted, freeing captives, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour, his hearers marvelled at the "*gracious*" words which he spoke (Luke 4). (until he spoke about God's favour to the Gentiles)

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word, *chen*, is translated as favour and *chenan* is a verb meaning *to be gracious*. Thus, Noah "found *grace* in the eyes of the LORD" (Gen. 6:8).

In Job 33, looking forward to the *grace* that is ours in Jesus Christ, Elihu tells Job how God works with a person and how a mediator who shows him God's uprightness will cause God to be *gracious* to him. So he will see God with joy, for God has rendered to him His righteousness and redeemed his life from the grave so that he might see the light.

John writes of Jesus in John 1:14-18 that he was "full of *grace* and truth". Jesus makes the *grace* and truth of God, which filled his being, known to us in his life. We see his *grace* in his care for the lost sheep of his people, in his *gracious* words of spirit and life, and in his healing that expressed so powerfully his Father's purpose to make us clean and straight and strong and free from sin to serve Him.

We see Jesus' truth in his uncompromising words to the religious teachers of Israel - pointing out their hypocrisy, their putting human traditions above God's law and their wrong teaching. To other sinners, who confessed their sins and sought his help, he showed a remarkable spirit of *grace* and forgiveness that was intended to inspire them to sin no more. Yet, he could also be blunt in reproving his disciples, as he was with Peter, saying, "Get behind me, Satan. You are an offence to me." (Mat 16:22-26)

John continues, saying, "And of his fullness we have all received, *grace upon grace*" - an overflowing, pouring out of his *grace* and love as we see expressed many times in the inspired words of the Apostle Paul. This *grace* is not a technical absolution of sins imparted by a duly ordained priest, nor is it a mere emotional feeling stirred up by music and exciting preaching. *Grace* is experienced in our appreciation of God's love for us in Jesus Christ and of his hard won triumph over sin for our sakes that we might be forgiven because of our faith in him. By that faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, the absolute rule of sin over us is broken and we begin to experience the joy and peace of a new relationship with our heavenly Father and His Son.

"Therefore, having been justified (counted righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this *grace* in which we stand, and rejoice in the glory of God. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Romans 5:1-10) So, *grace* describes our new relationship with God through our Lord

Jesus that opens our life to the power of the Lord Jesus' life, love and intercession for us (Romans 8:33-39).

In the preaching of the gospel recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, *grace* plays a very important part. We read in Acts 4:32-33 of the unity of those who believed in the face of threats and trial, of their sharing with each other all that they possessed, and the bold witness of the apostles to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. "And great *grace* was upon them all." Here, the word *grace* includes not only their faith in the Lord of *grace* and truth, but the joy and confidence inspired in them by his *grace* toward them.

Acts 11:19-23 tells how some of those scattered abroad by the persecution, led by Saul of Tarsus, came to Antioch in Syria where they preached the Lord Jesus to Gentiles. "And the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number believed and turned to the Lord." Hearing of this, the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch. "When he came and had seen the *grace* of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord." Evidently, the *grace* of God was not only the essence of the gospel they had believed; it was apparent in the lives of these Gentiles who were now committed to the Lord Jesus.

Acts 14:1-3 describes Paul and Barnabas in Iconium preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and his bearing witness "to the word of his *grace*" by enabling the apostles to do miracles to confirm that very wonderful word.

Paul himself uses that phrase twice in his farewell words to the elders of Ephesus (Acts 20) as he journeyed to Jerusalem expecting imprisonment. Paul reminds them of the example that he had given them in the two-plus years he had lived among them and of the content of his preaching, warning them that chains and tribulations lay ahead of him in Jerusalem as part of his ministry from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the *grace* of God. He warns them about the savage wolves, men speaking perverse things, that would come among them after his departure and urged them to "watch". Then, in v 32, he says, "I commend you to God and to the word of His *grace*, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

This "word of His *grace*", God's *grace*, expressed in the life of the Lord Jesus and coming to us through our faith in him and through our truly being in him, is a word with power. It has the power to build us up spiritually and give us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. For that is the purpose of this "word of His *grace*", the sanctification or consecration of a new creation of people who live no longer for themselves, but for him who for their sakes died and was raised (Galatians 2:20.3:13:).

The Apostle Paul tells Titus to teach older men, older women, young women, young men and servants the noble qualities of mind and behavior which must be learned and practised by disciples of the Lord. He exhorts Titus to show himself in all things a pattern of good works<sup>2</sup> in teaching showing integrity, dignity and sound speech. "For", Paul writes, "the *grace* of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, looking for the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:11-14). The *grace* of God, made known to us so abundantly in His son, is intended by God to profoundly change our minds, our speech and our behaviors. *Grace* is

shown us to train our minds so that we might live godly lives that are focused on the coming of our Lord.

In the 13 New Testament letters that bear his name, the Apostle Paul always says, “*Grace* to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ”. As the apostle of the Lord Jesus, inspired in his writing, Paul communicates *grace* and peace to his readers. His mission, as we noted in Acts 20, was to testify to the *grace* of God. These are not merely routine words of salutation. The apostle uses them because the *grace* and peace of God and of His son are such important elements in disciples being spiritually empowered to live lives that are truly in fellowship with God’s Son (I Cor. 1:9).

We are often critical of those who claim a personal relationship with our Lord, on the basis of a very superficial understanding of the call of Jesus Christ and an induced emotional experience. Yet, the greater depth of understanding of the meaning of his life and sacrifice and of his relationship to God that we have been privileged to receive must surely draw us to him with a fuller personal commitment. Our relationship with our Lord must be very personal, and, being so, will be blessed and empowered with *grace* and peace.

So, dear brothers and sisters, let our thoughts, our words, and our deeds be always expressive of the overflowing *grace* that we have all received “of his fullness.” Blessed with his *grace* and truth, let us, by the open statement of the truth, commend ourselves to every one’s conscience in the sight of God (2 Cor. 4:1-5), “correcting our opponents with gentleness” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

*Br. Bob Green*

## News from Africa

### news from botswana

#### **MAUN**

Many of us are so ignorant of the precious gift called time; we never even appreciate it and take it as just an obvious feature of life. But, tell you what, time is not a human concept, it is of God, we cannot buy more than what God gives us. We cannot know exactly how much time we have, no wonder Moses prayed, “So teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12). It is painful to notice that time is such a precious gift from God and yet unappreciated; we don’t work for it, we just receive it. We wake up in the morning and find that we have been credited with another 24 hours. Some overlook its value and out of immense ignorance equate it with money! What a mismatch! Brethren, let us not be prodigal with time, for it is not money, rather life and opportunity! We know that if we squander our time we are squandering our lives. Time belongs to God, it is not ours, so let us use it wisely (Eph. 5:15-17) according to the will of God, taking into account that it is a finite commodity. If we don’t use some of it today, no balance will be carried forward for tomorrow, so that we get 30 hours or so. ‘Tomorrow’ we will still receive a fixed 24 hours. And let us do things with our time that are worth trading with; I can’t take my precious four hours and trade it with mere sleeping during the day! There’s no ‘worth’ in that! We must always ask God to lead us when we are planning how to use our time in a day, week, month or year. To exclude His direction from our plans is sheer folly,

because He is the Author of time.

*Bro. Gaotingwe Bamotshabile*

### news from burundi

I have been told, Salvation is free, but the Kingdom will cost you everything. Jesus went everywhere preaching, “Repent, for the Kingdom is at hand” (Matt. 4:17). If we read the teaching of Jesus it is very clear, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross” every Sunday morning? No! daily “and follow me” (Luke 9:23). I am now poor and jobless, please can you help me in my travelling in a door-to-door mission. God bless you.

*Bro. Costantin, Mwagalwa.*

### news from cameroon

#### **DSCHANG**

I would like to ask for a Bible in English and other books which will help me. I would also like to attend a meeting on Sundays, but it is a long distance between Fontem and Dschang. I have been praying for the coming of our Lord and also for those who have not yet known the Truth; I have two sisters in this position who I have been praying for.

*Bro. Bernard Mbouna*



Photo: Bro. Bernard Mbouna

#### **MUNYENGE**

It's the rainy season here and as well as rain the weeds are growing so fast and keep us busy clearing them, so that they will not choke the plants. Also, the rain is causing black-pod disease in cocoa pods – cocoa being our main cash crop. In fact, I have to spray my farm every two weeks with fungicide in order to have a good harvest. My wife/Sister Bridget also works on the farm, and our two sons and a daughter are all lively. We of the Munyenge ecclesia are very active in the truth in spite of the persecution from members of the Pentecostal churches and the Roman Catholic church. They try all efforts to thwart our preaching, but we continue, with the help of God. Our Tuesday and Thursday evening Bible classes remain a regular feature, while we have set up another plan for the truth: intending every June and September to organise Bible Schools, these to be combined efforts of Owe and Munyenge ecclesias. Last June it was quite a success, with the baptism of three of our contacts. We now total 16 – 12 Brothers and four Sisters. Another Bible School is being scheduled for Sept. 23-25, this year in Munyenge with Owe ecclesia joining us here. Owe is some 18 miles away from here and has seven Brethren in Christ. Our appeal is for literature and preaching aids. I should be very grateful if you could find me the following books: Teach Yourself Concise Encyclopaedia of the Bible; And, of course, a problem, please can you help: In Matt. 11 v 12 violence seems to be encouraged. However, I understand it does not in any way support violence, as we see Christ restoring the violent action of Peter during his arrest. Also, the apostles never dared venture into

violence; they accepted it as part of their trial of faith. More light would help, please.

*Bro. George Nowuangeali*

### **WOTUTU**

With much love I wish to report our baptisms as follows: Nwengang James and Mondon Nicolas, whose wife gave birth two days before baptism.

*Bro. Kum, George*



Photo: Bro. Kum, George

### **WUM**

I thank Brothers and Sisters for their prayers and help rendered to me throughout my illness; I am now getting better, though I am still on monthly check-ups. Psalm 20:1-2 says, “May the Lord answer you in the day of your trouble. May the Name of the God of Jacob protect you. May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion”, and 120, “In my distress I called to the Lord and he answered me.” In fact, the word of the Lord is so powerful and He is holy, to be praised. I hope I still have much to do in the Lord’s vineyard. I thank Bro. Andrew Walker who assisted me on his visit to Cameroon. I will be happy to receive a copy of, ‘Where There is No Doctor’ and other spiritual material.

*Bro. Kenneth Mbah*



Photo: Bro. Kenneth Mbar

### **MENJI**



Photo: Sunday School of the Menji ecclesia, sent by John Atem Nkeng.

## **news from congo**

### **MATADI**

First of all, I would like to inform you that, I learned the Word of God with Sister Judy Holt from the U.K. by correspondence course in the language Esperanto.

I received both the Bible Basics and the correspondence course in French when two brothers from Cameroon came for the first time In DR Congo in July 2003.

I did photo-copies of the course and began to give it to other persons. The Ecclesia of Kinshasa and Kwilu Ngongo which were already established helped me by sending to me other books In French.

In July 2004, two brothers from Cameroon visited me in Matadi, I had my interview, and two of my contacts had their interviews too. We were two brothers to be baptized. From July 2004 till February 2005, we met in my house once a week. From March 2005, we are meeting in our Ecclesia's room. Currently, I remain the only baptized brother, the brother who was baptized the same day with me, does not come any more. I hold regular meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday with 3 contacts who study with me the word of God. We also receive to our meetings the and guests to whom we offer booklets. Our children also come to our meeting on Sundays. We also give to our visitors photocopies of Bible Basics.

I brought an old 486 computer, it helps us keep files of the literature downloaded on Internet. We feel the need to have a printer and a photocopier. Frankly, we distributed a good number of booklets, especially the guide for the reading of the bible. I have also some contacts apart from Matadi, I request that they progress in the study of the Bible and wish to see them become brothers in Christ in the days to come.

We also plan to use the radio, television and the newspapers to make known the word of God to the general public because some people suspect us of being a magic sect because they do not see us publicly as they do the other communities.

I would like to also start to send the course by correspondence to hundreds of people by Internet. This is why we seek to be supported financially for this work. Concerning safety, there is the war in the East of the Country, but here in the Province of Bas-Congo, in the Western South of the DR Congo, we are calm and in safety. If you want to visit us, there is no problem, you will be well accommodated. Ecclesia of Kinshasa would be given the responsibility to organiz your voyage sending the invitation letter to you. Kinshasa, have several times received the brothers who have visited this country

*Bro Hans Bruno Lutete*

#### news from ghana

##### **SHAMA**

It was good to hear from you how things are doing on. However, due to the sickness of Sis. Cecilia things seem to be somewhat difficult in life, but the Lord will solve everything. I have to trust in the Lord, as what is hard to a man is not hard to the Lord, but we must trust in Him. The present events in the world really foretell the Master's coming to judge the world and set up God's Kingdom on the earth. With all my problems I ought to have time for the Lord's work, which is the most important thing in our lives, so I need your prayers always, as I remember you all in my daily prayers to the Lord. The ecclesia here is keeping on; we meet every Sunday morning for Bible discussions before Breaking Bread, also the Sunday School children have their lessons.

*Bro. Joseph Oppong*

### **Sister Cecilia Oppong:**

After a period of considerable pain, she fell asleep in Christ and will be laid to rest 2nd October (God willing). Our Sister was a succourer of many, the home was always open to everyone and although only a small flat, Bible Schools and fraternals were held there. She was an ardent Sunday School worker for over 40 years where she nurtured a number into the Truth. The photo below, taken back in the 1960s, shows her sitting in the front row with her first Sunday School. In spite of living a hard and difficult life she was extremely generous, giving, in faith, well beyond her means and always the Truth was her first priority. This is indeed a tremendous loss to Bro Joseph, his family and friends. We now all look forward to working together in the Kingdom to help bring all the world under God's command. MH



Photo: Sis Celia in tthe front row with her first Sunday School



Photo: Sis Cecilia and Bro Joseph with their family about 40 years ago

### **news from kenya**

#### **AHERO**

I am on the farm, spending so much time in it (7 hours a day, every day, hoping that perhaps God will remember us this time). It is greener (rainy and muddy all through). I managed to plant millet and maize and cow-peas. Now they are on their 60<sup>th</sup> day, with another 30 days to ripen.

The work of God is always my concern – I'm still on Christian life correspondence course lesson 16. I will be through in two months. Is there a spare '*Where there is no doctor*' because Lawrence went away with the book.

Now I do agree calling every day to ones neighbour, and make him face his God. You know I had always stressed strongly about the neighbour because it will make our Lord really happy and that perhaps will make the outcome of our judgement lighter. Remember him asking you, "What did you do to your neighbour when he fell?"

Christ I know is unique, being born in difficult circumstances. A child to be born now needs a bundle and a half of money and material. Affording mothers will tell you about modern clinics where the attendants are handy and where modern gadgets are found, but for the Lord Jesus that night and Joseph, there was no place except the manger – a place for donkeys and sheep.

*Bro. Nelson Otimeo Anyals*



Photo of Nelson with a friend working under U.N. as a human rights representative.

All our mail from abroad is stacked in the school boxes we use here. The Government, under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for the rental fees, has not yet paid for the boxes and this resulted in their closure in mid-February. We fear that the mail may be returned to senders if the 3-month duration expires. The postal charges have gone up as from March 2005. The new rate for the U.K. is Kshs.75 for letters. This is just equivalent to 1 US dollar, something which is costly for the developing world.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March we were visited by a hurricane known as Nyakoyi, followed by a heavy downpour that left many people homeless, properties of millions destroyed and even claimed some lives. The worst hit districts were Nyando, where I come from, and Suba. I personally was lightly affected, anyway my health is fair with the wet conditions. We look forward to the hour and day of the Master's return so that he may put things right.

I understand "*How To Grow A Balanced Diet*" is now out of stock. I eagerly await the outcome of your initiation with the Netherlands Charity. We at this end experience the drought in full measure and when it starts to rain it is so short that our crops do nothing to stave off hunger in our midst. We therefore welcome anything that can avert the problem. The drought resistant cassava is good anyway but its toxicity had previously turned lethal here in Kenya. For us sorghum and peas are good. Sorghum will find our black cotton soil so productive and hence a high yield.

Many world affairs today are conforming to the requirement of Bible prophecy. Therefore whilst people are fearful and afraid of current developments, those who understand the significance of Bible prophecy look upon the scene with hope, for the signs of the times proclaim the imminence of Christ's return. The Present Day Events Report No. 455 on how Israel counselled the withdrawal of the settlements in Gaza shows their complete ingratitude to God's masterplan of Israeli territorial landmark. Maybe it will succeed but let them prepare for the wrath of God. In short, they will not frame their doings to turn unto their God (Hosea 5:4).

*Bro. Lawrence K'Owiti*

### **BONDO**

I would like to encourage all my brethren and sisters world-wide to care for all people, not only those we are sharing the same faith with, as caring for one another is a very practical way of demonstrating our lives as Christians. Care does not mean that we take total control of a person, but it is in many ways manifested through physical and emotional activities such as love, help, sympathy, empathy, danger, trouble. The same way Jesus himself cared much for us to the extent of dying for us. So why can't we do the same for others because as Christians we should follow Jesus' footsteps.

Here on this side of the world we, as brothers and sisters, have not been in a position to adequately teach the saving truth of the gospel in some areas because of shortage of funds. So on behalf of our ecclesia, Sisters' group, Sunday School, here are some areas for which we are requesting more help:-

- (a) Bible school support
- (b) Orphanage support
- (c) Bibles e.g. NIV, RSV, King James editions
- (d) Sunday School teaching materials
- (e) Medical support

Is it possible for us to also have “Where There Is No Doctor” and “How To Grow A Balanced Diet”?

*Bro. Vincent Odhiambo.*

### **BULIMBO**

Thanks a lot for what you sent me recently, they are of vital importance as pertaining to my salvation and the truth that I have found from the *Gospel News*. You promised to send us the Bible, so that we can be spreading the gospel to the outside world, we have not yet received it. Secondly, Bro. Sadique Bukhebi Joumer says he has not yet received the Kiswahili *Bible Basics*.

*Bro. Emmanuel Joumer*

Comment – the books are either in the post or lost.

### **BUNGOMA**

I am a new reader of the Bible truth, being assisted by Bro. Eric Wamalwa and Bro. George Wabwile, baptised believers of the gospel, sharing the true faith. I have heard of a book entitled *Bible Basics*, the content of which have greatly interested me. I would like to introduce myself to you so that I may learn more as I continue searching for more scripture. I also need some books to give me more information about the Bible. Therefore I am asking you to kindly send me any books that are available.

*Bro. Anasetus Khaemba*



Photo: Bro. Anasetus Khaemba

Much greetings in the Hope of Israel. The lessons you sent have enabled our ecclesia to grow entirely in godliness so, brother, I would wish that you continue sending more to me. The ‘Bible Reader’s Calendar’ is a good idea, in fact we have found it more useful to us and it is our desire to have it supplied yearly. Contemporary Christians believe that the Kingdom of God will be set permanently in heaven. This has made us disagree with them and put us in a position of teaching them the truth that the Kingdom of God will be set up on this planet earth and not in heaven, see Matt.6:9. The matter of truth after revealed to them will win a number of them to believe the gospel, but most of them would reject it and by so doing the scripture is fulfilled where it says “the unbelievers will be condemned.”

*Bro. George Maina Wabwile*



Second line left Bro. Emmanuel Wantala with some Sunday School children.



Sis Matrine Maina and Bro. George Maina Wabwile with their young children Jacob Wanjala and Baraka Simiyn

I am very interested in the books which you have sent Bro. George Maina and Bro. Eric Wamalwa. Please send me *Bible Basics*; I will intensify my studies and teach my friends when you send this.

*Bro. Emmanuel E. Kundu*

Receive my greetings in the Lord Jesus. I am grateful to be able to write to you informing you about my exodus from Pentecostal mission. Moreover I am a newly converted brother fellowshipping with Bro. George Maina and Bro. Eric Wamalwa. The Pentecostal popular notions have greatly diverted the views of the present generation away from the true Scripture. The brothers in Christ mentioned above actually prove the right channel towards the Kingdom of God. I would request you to supply me with the book *Bible Basics* and any other copy available. I am sure, with your support, I will progress in godliness. God bless you abundantly as we fight against obstructions towards the Kingdom of God.

*Bro. Wycliffe W. Wasike*



Photo: Bro. Wasike

I was pleased to learn about the position of brothers and sisters over there. I could not imagine such a large number. The high level of poverty in Kenya has greatly affected Kenyan ecclesias. I have heard some are forced to run illegal businesses like brewing alcohol, commonly known as changla and bonsaa, and selling them to fetch some cash for sustaining their families. The book on "*How to Grow a Balanced Diet*" can help much if the information is applied correctly. I have set up an experiment on horticulture and some cereal crops. My intention is to pass the information to other people. Africans can learn better from the practical and therefore I am thinking of setting up a field school for the purpose of teaching others using the above book. Your proposal and efforts to help others learn to spread English is profitable since most of the people in Africa do not know how to teach English and therefore miss much because they

cannot read the literature you have been dispersing. May God facilitate this work.

*Bro. Eric Wamalwa*

I always receive the Magazine, may the Lord increase your wisdom. I appreciate your daily prayers for my lifetime at Chwele Hall as I become stronger in faith (Romans 10:9-13). Please brother! how can I receive a Bible concordance and an English King James Bible with references per verse for my studies?

*Bro. Geoffrey Wanyama*

Thanks a lot for everything, I have not received *Introducing Bible Basics*, but they will be of much benefit to me.

Malnutrition is hitting our population especially those with children. The book *How to Grow a Balanced Diet* will assist our members in Christ to have every essential food on the farms for healthy living and thus avoid diseases, so please send it. I've also not yet received the *Eureka* set sent me some time earlier. *The Bible Reading Calendars* are essential for our members and very convenient. The other request I'm putting before you is the sending of the *Present Day Events* leaflets you sent in your earlier mails to me, they keep us updated on what transpires in the world. Because of drought which affects Kenya and most African countries, the population will starve if the Lord Jesus' coming doesn't occur very soon. This requires plant breeders to produce resistant crops such as cassava, shorghum, peas etc. Relative to these I refer you to ICPE Kenya, KARI Kenya seed company for more information for suitability of one variety or more as they change with time and new ones are bred to replace the defaced ones.

*Bro. Chrisantus W. Wasike*

### **CHWELE**

One of the articles in *Glad Tidings* No. 1447 had a cover picture saying "Nothing stays the same". Well David somehow altered the cover picture and imposed on it the photo of Bro Daniel

Walhambu to make it a real Kenyan edition – demonstrating "nothing stays the same"!

*Bro. David Wanjala*

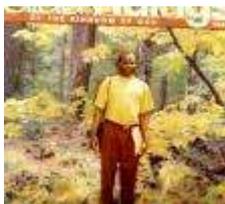


Photo: The cover of Glad Tidings with the changes as mentioned..

### **ELDORET**

I do thank you for sending me the *Bible Reader's Calendar* 2005. Please send me *Bible Basics* Study Manual. I'm sorry to let you know of the latest development in my family. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005, our dear Sister, who is my wife, passed away on that chilly morning. I have been telling you about her sickness which started in early January 1999. It has been too expensive in our life, especially when I lost my job when our company collapsed. It has been a terrible life with sickness and my children had to stop schooling.

*Bro. Jacob Okoth*

### **KABABU**

Many brethren, sisters and correspondence contacts claim that they are in lonely places, for this reason we wish to identify ourselves with those who fall into this category in South Nyanza area. You are welcome to contact us and heal yourselves wherever you are:

1. Kabubu, Box 1040, Suna – 40400
2. Kiagware, Box 303, Ogembo
3. Kericho, Box 1591, Kericho – 20200
4. Nyangweso, Box 76, Nyangweso 40311
5. Nyandenga, Box 52, Mbita
6. Oilumbo, Box 12, Pala-Sarb
7. Ndisi, Box 306, Ndhiwa – 40320
8. Oruba, Box 1040, Suna – 40400

So please you are welcome to contact us. Our meeting services start at 9.00.a.m.- 11.00.a.m. on Sundays. Also we have Bible study classes on weekdays. Welcome personally and we will be very happy to see you, if it is possible.

*Bro. Samuel Masawa*

### **KINANGOP**

I am a new convert having received baptism on 24<sup>th</sup> April. I felt very joyful beginning a new life in Christ, joining other Christadelphians. My tutor has been Bro. Edwin Skinner from UK. I pray God to bless him in this life and reward him when Jesus comes. I cannot write everything here on paper but rather I say thanks to God for him. I thank God for all His mighty works in me and most of all every breath for every moment. Great is the faithfulness of the Lord who is my Father and Saviour, in whom I put my trust. I thank the Christadelphians all over the world, for indeed I have come to prove this as the real faith. As a matter of fact I was a Catholic, faithful all my life, before baptism into Christ, to all their teachings; I was through to the level of going to the seminary to train for the Catholic priesthood, having done philosophy and theology. But the enlightenment of the Bible and the gospel that I have found through Christadelphians is very wonderful and gracious and I have come to see this is why the good Lord has preserved me and passed me through many hardships of this life. Now I feel prepared for even more challenges in this new life in Christ, but I don't fear, for the Lord is with me. One big problem I am facing now is that I am married with four children and my wife is converted to a certain Pentecostal church, therefore she has been very much against me studying the material and lessons of Christadelphians for almost four years since I started. The problem is to make her understand and give in to learn about Bible truths. This is not easy, and I am calling for help and prayers from all brothers and sisters, for I cannot turn back, recalling the word of God in Deut 13:1-11 and in particular verses 1-3 and verse 6. So I find in all means I have to convince everyone, including my wife, children and parents about the Bible truths. This needs a lot of courage, wisdom and understanding, recalling the mind and advice of Jesus that we be wise and cunning as a serpent.

*Bro. Peter Njuguna*

### **KISUMU**

It has taken me a long time to write to you, this has been due to some common disturbances,

but for now I'm O.K. hoping likewise you are. I so appreciated the book from you, '*Where There is No Doctor*' and I do thank you. I am hoping to receive the coming issues of *Gospel News*.  
*Bro. Richard Oduma*

### **KITALE**

The signs of the times within and without the brotherhood clearly testify to the imminence of the Lord's coming. The Kingdom is at hand of that there is no doubt. There is no time to be carefree or dilatory in the development of faith or to be entrapped by things that do not really matter. Even ecclesial activities, being overly occupied in organising and arranging, can deflect attention from the prime purpose of life - developing the character of God and reflecting divine virtues. This is the time for urgent and wise preparation. The coming of the Lord will be a most rewarding, but an absolutely startling moment that we can but dimly imagine. I consider that the sowing in corruption referred to in 1 Cor. 15:42 deals with the incident of death and the placing into the grave. It is our desire to keep the writings of our Christadelphian fellowship to the brotherhood. The world is in a frightful state, politically and morally. The question of intrinsic evil in human nature has surely reached its summit; it is only one of many situations that seem to be insoluble. We await the only solution possible, the return of our Saviour and Redeemer to change this ungodly world into a reflection of the Creator's hand.

*Bro. Martin W. Chemiati*

### **KOBUJOI**

I have been very pleased with the *Bible Reading Calendar* produced by the CAT. it would be nice if you could produce one for next year.

*Bro. Geoffrey Chichir*

### **LOITOKTOK**

How happy I am for the *Gospel News* which keeps me well informed of what is happening around the world. I received the book "*Where There Is No Doctor*" and it is now used by a small town known as Enterara in the semi arid areas of Kenya. You can just imagine how nice it is to see people in and out of my house seeking what to do with illness. I have got two Bible students, one who can read and write and another who does not know Kiswahili or English language. Thank you very much for the parcel that you sent. I am requesting some notes on how to grow a balanced diet and the best method of farming. I find it more useful to advise people on modern methods of farming than giving people money.

We are living in the last days just before the return of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This is a time when warnings are common words to us. We are living in a world of warnings, terrorist attacks, AIDS, epidemics, droughts and so forth. People are taking extra precautions to avoid terrorist attacks but the repeated word of God in Matthew, Mark and Luke have gone unnoticed. As we continue our journey towards the Kingdom of God, seeing people being deceived and deceiving themselves are common. We are now to stand on our guard for this day will come unexpectedly, just like the thief coming when you least expect him, and our Saviour Jesus Christ will come to restore order in this troubled world. Just as Isaiah 11:6 puts it, "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together and a little child will lead them." As we continue with our journey this should be the signpost in front of us, struggling to be in this peaceful Kingdom of God with Jesus as the King, expecting Jesus Christ to appear at any time. So, brother and sister, let us take extra care not to be deceived, neither deceive ourselves but stand firm until the end comes.

*Bro. Peter Thuo Kariuki*



Photo: Bro. Peter and Sister Judy in isolation

### **MALONDO**

Loving greetings to all beloved brothers and sisters world-wide. We enjoyed the visit from Sis Beatrice Tenys who came over 30km from Kisulunu. After reading five chapters of that day, Bro. Moses gave a word of exhortation on the subject of moving from Jericho to Jerusalem or Jerusalem to Jericho. His main intention was to warn all of us to repent and confess our sin before God, and to love one another. After sharing our Lord's table Bro. John Simuyo extended a warm welcome to all members to meet regularly at our homes, building one another up in the bonds of the truth.

We are very sorrowful to announce the falling asleep in Christ on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005 of our beloved Sis Elizabeth, the lovely mother to Bro. Obonyo of Mzeria ecclesia. She faithfully upheld the truth for many years in that part of the vineyard. Our Sister now rests in the hope of eternal life at the coming of the Lord. Several brothers and sisters from our ecclesia made a trip to Wanga, over 50Km to where her funeral service was held.

*Bro. Gilbert Walela*



Photo: Bro. Gilbert Walela right and his friend Sirengo who is interested in the truth.

### **MUMORONI**

What is a Christian? Many people would answer that it is a name found in the Bible for the Bible is a Christian book, which is true. But simply taking a name of some Bible character does not change one's heart. A name is important but it is an outward thing. Some parents give their children Biblical names when they are born. Don't trust your name for serving the Lord. There is only one Name under heaven whereby we can be saved and that is the Name of Jesus as we read in Acts 4:12.

The Bible is truly the word of God written by holy men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Even so, just believing the Bible does not save us if we do not obey what it says. It says that we must believe on Jesus Christ and we shall be saved (Acts 16:31). The salvation comes from the person of Jesus Christ whom the Bible tells us about. We must believe on him, and what he taught. The Pharisees of Jesus' time were proud of the law and of their knowledge of it, but still they refused to believe in Jesus and crucified him. So one can even know the Bible well, but if we do not accept Jesus and understand Jesus as the Saviour, we cannot be a true Christ follower.

Education is good in many ways, it opens the window of the mind but it cannot touch the heart. Many people still walk in darkness although educated, e.g. Nicodemus was an educated man. In John 3:3-10 we see that he was a teacher, indeed a member of the Sanhedrin, but Jesus

emphasized this issue saying that unless one is born anew he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Paul who was also an educated man said (1 Cor. 2:14) that the natural man, that is one who has not been born again, cannot receive nor understand the things of the spirit, because they are foolishness to him.

*Bro. George Ndlegu*



Photo: Bro. George Ndlegu at his sugar farm

### **NAKURU**

Heavenly greetings to all brethren and sisters, it is good to be reading of their spiritual fightings in order to be part of the promised Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ for which we are all waiting. I pray we will continue reading from our brethren and continue holding on to what we have received and pray for our Lord Jesus Christ to come back soon. The Tsunami disaster in Asia is a sign that his coming back is approaching, otherwise it is a lot of sadness to see the havoc done and ours is to pray for all those affected.

*Bro. and Sister Thomas Yongo*

### **NANGO**

On rabbit keeping which you mentioned I am looking forward on ways and means of keeping them since they can offer delicious protein meals to my family. I have talked to a secondary school nearby which keeps them and they say they can sell some for me if I so wish for four dollars that is about 300 K.shillings at the current exchange rate. The housing unit, especially the wall around, I can make using local timber available but the roofing needs iron sheets and nails and some wire mesh to keep them from rain and from predators like dogs and cats and these are to be bought from hardware stores. This is a venture for the future which I hope to tackle.

I attended A.G.M. and Bible conference in Nairobi and was happy to meet many brothers and sisters from all over Kenya and U.K. as well. The U.K. team was led by Bro. Allan Sutton and we finished off by having the emblems. This was a true show of one fellowship and one body of Christ and of the Kingdom which Christ is the head. We must do this with understanding as the hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over, the day is almost here, so let us behave decently as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy, rather clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of sinful nature (Romans 13:11-14).

*Bro. Raphael Aimo*

### **NYERI**

Loving greetings to you all brethren through Jesus Christ. Thanks for *Gospel News* with love of Jesus from your dear brother Alex and family here in Nyeri. Sorry I have delayed to write to you. Now we are teaching some students so that next time they can be baptised. Also the number has added up to six students.

*Bro. Alex K. Mwaniki*

### **SARE**

Thank you for the books you sent me, I got them well. I have distributed these to brethren and sisters. I also sent three to brethren and sisters at Kabubu, the remainder to Drumbo. Total ecclesias in South Nyanza are eight. Those people who did not know English are now using these Kiswahili books.

*Bro. John Kine*

### **SINDO**

Since I started reading *Gospel News* in May/June 1999 I have admired and appreciated it. These efforts fulfil the scripture to go and preach the gospel message to all human beings in the world. Nothing will stop us doing the Lord's business and to be living witnesses for the truth. We thank our God the Father for creating us. We thank our God the Father for sending us a Saviour, Jesus Christ. We thank our God for the hope of everlasting life, and for His mercy and lovingkindness. We thank Him for the life given to us as free with nothing to pay, it is a gift. Our God has given us salvation through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to whom all things point. We have enough evidence to believe by reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Heb. 1:1-3, God spoke through the prophets but in the last days through His Son, Jesus Christ, to whom He has given power to give us life after death. We must not be like the 10 lepers healed, only one thanking our Lord Jesus Christ, Luke 17:11-19. David had to give thanks to the God of Israel for delivering him from his enemies: Ps. 50:23; Ps. 105:1; Ps. 106:1; 1.Chron. 16:7-36. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians 5:20, we should give glory to God every day through Jesus Christ. We should as brothers and sisters in Christ give thanks to our Creator.

*Bro. John Owalo Onani*

### **TONGAREN**

In the middle of October Bro. David Green is coming to Kenya for the Bible School, so when I meet him I will give him the copy of the remaining disc of the Bukusu translation of *Bible Basics*, for easier printing. I also accept that, due to other complications computer typing in Kenya is very expensive and has made us lose too much. For this moment I have accepted all the first prints be done in U.K. then be sent for corrections and returned for second prints. On the *Bible Basics* disc which I have, I did the corrections first before doing its recordings.

Tongaren ecclesia is expecting to be bought a plot for Sunday worship. This was accepted at the last AGM conference. For this we thank God for His blessings. I also praise God for the project of translating our Christadelphian books into Bukusu language. People have marvelled at the translation and some have pressed me not to give up. Some people like the language but have rejected our doctrines. They have complained very much about our Bible truths, which we are translating into our local language, this is because they do not read the Bible themselves, they are being read to by their pastors. The Catholic follower, after reading our doctrine in Bukusu language, came out and condemned me that I have started destroying people from their truths. I was told not to produce such books for it will destroy people from their beliefs

*Bro. Isaac Kapa*

Nowadays Vatican is known as the holy City, but through Bible investigation we have seen that Jerusalem was prophesied about four thousand years ago. At first it was mentioned in the time of Abraham when Melchizedek was the King of Salem. Jerusalem then appeared on the pages of history in relation to God with Abraham as his servant. From Abraham developed a nation called Israel, with Jerusalem its capital city. We are told in the Bible that Jerusalem will be the centre of all nations of the world (Ezek 5:5). Jerusalem will be the great city of the coming

Kingdom and the throne of the coming King will be established in Jerusalem (Matt. 5:34-5). The Lord shall be King over all the earth (Zech. 14:9,16). Vatican, the holy city of Catholics, has deceived many by saying that they ascend into heaven and stay with God. This is a big confusion. The Vatican can offer no blessings and it will vanish from the face of the earth (Rev. 18:21). The basic doctrines of the Catholics have no relation to the expositions of Biblical promises and prophecies. The time of Christ's return is drawing very near so those who are not baptised into Christ must choose between the two cities – which one will you follow? Now is the time to learn the truth concerning the gospel of the Kingdom and be baptised into the name of Jesus Christ; but remember the gospel was central to the Kingdom of God which will be established on earth, not in heaven.

*Bro. Isaac Kapa Sikolia*



Photo: Sister Getquin Sikolia who was recently baptised

### **WEBUYE**

Nice to hear from you this morning. It's again a good time for me here in Kenya to communicate with you again this day for I am happy with your encouragement and testimony to me because you have done wonders in my eyes for the material you have been sending since I was baptised in 1994. Therefore continue to service me until our Lord comes back to establish God's Kingdom. At this moment would you please try to help me with the following if available – three Swahili *Bible Basics*, *Introducing Bible Basics* and any other literature for which I will be very thankful.

*Bro. Joseph M. Wanjala*

It is some time since we communicated but this does not signify that we here are inactive in the Lord's service. With the help of your two course books *Introducing Bible Basics* and *Bible Basics Study Manual*, we have witnessed five baptisms in our ecclesial meeting alone, two others under our instruction have been baptised in other ecclesial meetings and three are still under instruction class (about to finalize their studies). This gives us strength and joy as we experience the truth bearing fruit. Our ecclesial members, who are now scattered throughout Kenya due to job placements, are constantly phoning us about new interested friends who would like to study the truth. We have run short of the study materials and would request your assistance in that regard. We have tried to direct a few to you and hope they have written.

*Bro. Shawn Tyler*

### **news from malawi**

#### **BUA**

I really thank you for what you do for me, both naturally and spiritually. I truly believe that, in you, God has sent me someone to care for my life.

*Sis. Bertha Khonje*

**DOMASI**

Many thanks for sending me 10 Bible Basics, which help me in my preaching. I am in isolation and if you can find an old Bible (KJ) I shall be grateful. Many thanks, too, for your words of encouragement and for your prayers for us in our difficulties.

*Bro. R. Kawonga*

**GONA**

Thank you for the Bible Basics you sent me. I decided to do a course here on home job opportunities, but it is very difficult here compared to your country. When you have a certain career or skill then you have opportunities. On the shortage of Bibles, it is a big problem and I am asking you once again to assist, but if it is difficult, try to send one English Bible and two or three (if possible) in Chichewa. Brother, can you supply some magazines in order that I can grow spiritually in these last days. I would like your views on the question of growing and smoking tobacco and making and drinking beer.

*Bro. Maxwell M. Table*

Comment: I neither smoke nor drink beer and would recommend that to others as a way of life, but it is a matter of personal choice. Smoking is generally reckoned to be bad for one's health and bad for those inhaling the smoke from smokers; it is also very expensive. There are many methods one can use to stop smoking. The vast majority of Christadelphians do not smoke, but a few, for various reasons, may do so, and it is not for us to either approve or condemn. One can argue that growing tobacco is no worse than selling it to other people if one works in a shop which sells it. What use one's crop is put to is not one's responsibility as nicotine does have some medicinal qualities, e.g. being used in the treatment of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's diseases and epilepsy, it is also valuable as an insecticide. If the argument is, 'Don't grow tobacco because it contains nicotine', nicotine is also found in tomatoes, potatoes, green peppers and the leaves of cocoa.

As for drinking, it would seem the scriptural injunction is wise, as we would expect, "use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (1st Timothy 5:23). Jesus did not condemn the drinking of wine at the wedding at Cana, indeed he turned the water into wine. It is over-indulgence that is condemned. Alas, alcoholism is a major problem these days and Duncan's booklet, 'Living With Alcoholism' has proved very helpful with some useful information. MH



Photo: At Mukurimba Ecclesia

**KASIYA**

Let me take this opportunity of thanking you for Gospel News; I beg you to continue sending it to me. I have been a Christadelphian since 1980.

*Bro. Stenford Chipfumbi*

**LIWONDE**

Thank you for always sending me Gospel News and thank all those who help you with it. Could you kindly send me a Revised English Bible, as I find it helpful.

*Bro. G.M. Chisanga*

**MTENTHELA**

Thank you very much for the book, 'Where There is no Doctor'. I have already started organising meetings of my neighbours to study the book and discuss local health problems - prevention and paying attention to the guidelines and precautions. Coming world physical changes (earthquakes) etc. are signs of the near coming of the Lord Jesus. Thank you very much for your information. It is only when the judgments of God are in the earth (world-wide) that the inhabitants will learn righteousness and the effect of this will be peace (Isa. 32).

*Bro. Henderson Sosola*

**MUONA**

I would inform you that Gospel News reaches me safely and I would like to ask you to send me books so that I may be strengthened in my Christian life. I have started the ecclesia here (at Matimati), so evangelizing materials are much needed. It would also be helpful if I had a bicycle for visiting students and brothers and sisters and for hospital visits. There is a famine here in Malawi, most especially in our region. Anyone who can assist us, please do so, adding your prayers for us. Be informed that in the Matimati ecclesia I am also serving people with disabilities, e.g. blind and disabled

*Bro. N. Njerwa*

**MWALASI-MACHINGA**

Could you send me Bibles and other books for teaching. I thank God for His powerful call. I have been reading Gospel News for many years. Since I started to worship God I have understood the joy and peace of true Christianity and am glad that I was baptised. Brethren and Sisters here are keen to spread the gospel as Jesus instructed. I am thankful for Gospel News as it has revealed to me something new, as I was very confused before, but I have now found the Bible much more profitable. This gives me the hope of inheriting the Kingdom of God on earth. I could not turn down the Hope I have of Jesus' second coming and am waiting for him. It is difficult for me to go to Zomba because it is far away from Machinga.

*Bro. John Muthumpwa*

**MZIMBA**

I am happy and profiting in my spiritual life. Please send me the book, 'Where There is No Doctor'. Gospel News helps me because there are many reports and news items which are encouraging in our spiritual life, and it acts as a mirror where we can see what our brothers and sisters are doing. This news can make a brother or sister know where they are in their spiritual life. Thank brothers and sisters who take part in sponsoring we brothers and sisters. Back in March we had a Bible school in Mzimba North conducted by Bro. Arne Roberts and other brothers and we thank them for their willingness in coming here. We met brothers and sisters from many places. In our ecclesia we are not many brothers and sisters; although few, we all enjoyed the Bible school.

*Bro. Humphrey Banda*

Please be informed that we really enjoy reading Gospel News, it provides us with the sort of material that is not only excellent, but also what is required for our lives. That Gospel News is not ceasing publication is exactly what we want to hear. Praise be to the Lord! I would like to register my heartfelt appreciation for the assistance you gladly send to me and to the Christian community at large.

*Bro. James Nyoni*

### **NGABU**

I am a Malawian aged 35 years, with a wife and two children. My wife, Grace, and I are very proud to be among the readers of Gospel News; it really has changed our life. I came from the Central Region of Malawi, a remote village, where the gospel news is not common due to these problems (a) missionaries have established churches in towns (b) no testimonies about gospel news (c) people are not educated enough because of shortages of schools (d) lack of transportation (e) lack of communications etc. We therefore plead with you to come and visit us here mainly at my homeland area with the purpose of preaching the word of God to my race, or you can send your fellow friends who are willing to spread the gospel news to Africa and to assess the situation here. Many people want to know the word of God, but because there are no preachers it is difficult for them to understand it on their own. Our family is ready to welcome any Sister or Brother wishing to preach the word of God here and we also promise to answer all letters from anyone.

*Bro. and Sis. Mac Micky Mbawe*



Photo: Bro. and Sis. Mac Micky Mbawe

### **NKHATA-BAY**

Brother, the wine you sent me on 6th April 1999 has run out, so I am requesting you to assist me with more. Many people now believe that Christadelphians do teach the Truth. One of my students is now doing lessons 1-40 and in his comments he has said he did not know (1) why Peter was called a Satan nor (2) the teaching on the prophecy of the dry bones and other teachings. Also, Revs. of CCAP church and of African International Church (AIC) are asking me to give them copies of Bible Basics; if you can, please send them to me.

*Bro. Joel Singini*

### **NANGULUNGWI**

I want to let you know that on 27th May '05 we opened a new ecclesia at Nangulungwi and we had a Bible School from May 27th –29th. This meeting was attended by 98 people from various ecclesias, may God be with them. After our meeting, five people were baptised, one Brother and four Sisters. Of course we are very happy to receive them; may God bless us all.

*Bro. G. Michael*

### **NSANJE**

I am very happy to have the booklets you sent to me; I believe these will help me in my ministry. I appreciate the envelopes, which will help me to write to you freely.

Nsanje has four members. We have two other ecclesias around this area, but to travel is expensive. Concerning the drought in Africa, many people are suffering from it. The crops you have listed are the best, being drought-resistant, also groundnuts. While writing, I must say just how pleased I am with the Bible Reading Calendar and my desire is to have it yearly. Indeed, our redemption is near. The Bible says when we see the troubles we must make ourselves ready to meet Jesus.

*Bro. M.P. Mngunden*

### **PHALOMBE**

Long years ago the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt and the Pharaoh treated them harshly. They just wanted deliverance. God was much concerned with His people and heard their groanings. He called Moses to lead the people to Israel. Although at first Moses opposed the Lord's word, he was strengthened and given Divine powers to carry out his task. During their wilderness journey they faced many hardships; many died and the group wished at one time to go back to Egypt. Why was the Lord taking them into this land? We learn from this that Moses bowed down and prayed to the Lord. Brothers and Sisters, what does this tell us? We are on our way to the Promised land (the coming Kingdom of God). In our wilderness journey we, like the Israelites, face serious problems; we suffer hunger, poverty, drought etc. This is also a time of temptation; God is testing us in order to know whether we will be obedient to Him. How many of us are still serving the Lord? Are we serving the Lord or idols? May God bless us all.

*Bro. S.W. Wanyekheyi*

I thank our Heavenly Father for the support you give me by sending Gospel News and the Bible. I am a regular reader of the Magazine and I am encouraging you never to grow tired of the great job you are doing; it is indeed the Lord's work and no one will reward you but God Himself; the Bible says, "Be not weary in doing good"; "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise"; "He will not forget your work and your love". I always say to myself that God's ways are not our ways; He has arranged everything beforehand.

*Bro. Thom Bicycle*



Photo: Bro. Thom Bicycle

### **SUKASANJE**

If you could add extra copies of Gospel News and send to me I will deliver to Brothers and Sisters in Mozambique/Mabwara, but most people do not know English. So, please, can you assist us to write the Gospel News in Chichewa? Additional to that, if you can start this, don't forget the pictures as well, as done in the English copies.

*Bro. John Mwaliwa*

### **THYOLO**

Thank you for sending me Bible Basics which I found very useful. Our church is about 8m long and 5m wide with iron sheets. We have about 36 members. I will be happy to hear more about what you said concerning drought-resistant plants. Please, we need more Bible Reading Calendars; it's nice to know that we are all reading the same things daily.

*Bro. S. Lombe*

### **news from mauritius**

The ecclesia in Mauritius situated at Dr Jector, Les Trefles, Rose Hill was very glad to receive visits from the following Brothers and Sisters and also encouragement; they have helped us a lot spiritually: (1) Bro. Michael and Sis. Vanessa Floyd from S. Africa from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup> (2)

Bro. Steve and Sis. Wendy Weston from England, from June 7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> (3) Bro. Paul Tanner from England, from August 7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. All the Brothers gave us much exhortation and encouragement and they visited many Brothers and Sisters in all parts of the Island. May God bless all their works.

*Bro. Harold Lafrance*

## news from nigeria

### **CALABAR**

I must firstly thank you very much for your Christian brotherly care in helping me to grow. May the Almighty God add more days for you and your family to do His work and will. Kindly continue to send me various books.

*Bro. Igani U. Eteng*



Photo: Thyolo meeting



Photo: The three baptised and now members of the Ikwueke ecclesia: Bro. Silas Ukachukwu, Sis. Grace Enyiogu and Sis. Florence Umesi.

### **IKWUEKE**

I have received the book, 'Where There is No Doctor'; I have also received the parcel sent by you, which you had earlier informed me about. I found the book, 'Where There is No Doctor' interesting because I am one of the Village Health workers in my village and trained by the Government. Most interesting of all is how the gospel is being preached to all corners of the earth. We here pray for all who make this success possible. We still need your help with literature (Bibles). We are trying in our new ecclesia (Ikwueke); we had three immersions in the month of March this year.

*Bro. F. Umesi*

One Brother and two Sisters have been baptised by Bro. J.O. Uwasomba from Okwe ecclesia. All three were added to Ikwueke ecclesia.

*Bro. F. Enyiogu*

## news from south africa

### **BENONI**

I would like to thank God for the wonderful job He is doing in us. Thank you, too, for the work you are doing. I am sincerely grateful for having distributed all the Bible Basics and other booklets. I have distributed them to High Schools where they were received with joy. Others have included Bible Basics in the school libraries. There are still 14 High Schools in the area next to where I stay which have not received any; they would also like some copies. The book 'Where There is

No Doctor' has already saved my nephew. It is doing wonders helping the neighbourhood. I request reading glasses +2.5; I have to adjust things to about arm's length in order to read. Please help. Is there anyone who could help me with an English course as I would like to improve my English.

*Bro Francis Chauke*

### **KEMPTON PARK**

It is encouraging to see how Yahweh's word is spreading to so many remote places, especially the last report from Pakistan. A few years ago there was no one there and now there are so many new Brothers and Sisters. So I want to thank all of you for this work you are doing. We have got really good news from Kempton Park for you to share: our ecclesia is experiencing, by God's grace, a spiritual boom. This year we have had seven baptisms and this makes our hearts filled with joy and gratitude to our God for such loving kindness. First of all it was TRUDY, daughter of our Sis. Paddy, then our Polish friend, JERZY and his wife, KRZYSTYNA and their daughter ANETA WLODAREZYK; they are the fruits of the ecclesia's efforts to preach to the Polish community here in South Africa. I hope this is the beginning of a Polish ecclesia. Then my son, MIESZKO CWIECEK, was baptised, to my incredible delight. Then our Zambian friend, JOHN MULENGA went through the waters of baptism, and the wife of our Brother Peter Muliwa. All of us were uplifted at this harvest and encouraged to serve our God even more. I was quite moved by our new Brother Jerzy Wlodarezyk's desire to find the Truth; he used to spend 16 hours a day studying the scriptures to make sure of his calling. He even wrote himself a book about Satan – this before his baptism. He spent his own money to print it and is already using it in his preaching efforts. This is quite unusual for a new convert. I would like to recommend this book to you. When thinking of how good it is to be in an ecclesia and count myself blessed to belong to such a wonderful place of worship, I feel sorry for so many living in isolation; my heart bleeds in despair; what can we do to serve our Brothers better and sincerely?

*Bro. Wacek Cwiecek*

### **news from swaziland**

Having been baptised late in 2002, I am an individual doing Christadelphian missionary work in my developing country, Swaziland. It is very unfortunate that other Brothers who were baptised into the name of Jesus under Christadelphian teachings have backslid. At my home town (Nhlangano) my wife, (Sister Lily) and I have put up a permanent Christadelphian hall. We have a promising Sunday School and loyal Bible students, altogether numbering 40 people (children, youth and adults). We are in the process of registering a Swaziland mission which will work towards spreading the truth all over Swaziland. We hold mid-week Bible studies, Sunday meetings and regular Bible seminars and have loyal attendees.

*Bro. Fanuel Sithole*



Photos: Above; Swaziland visitors attending the Bible seminar: Below: Nhlangano Sunday School children.



## news from tanzania

### **KASULU**

I was very pleased to have a copy of 'Where There is No Doctor', which I have found very helpful. Thank you a lot. It is the best for helping us understand how to keep healthy. Can you send me another similar written in French or an English/French dictionary. Thank you, too, for Gospel News and a copy of the booklet, 'Demons'. Also thank our Linkman for aids he gave us during his visit in December last year. We do not have enough medicines at the Camp, but sometimes our visiting Brothers bring some, but they are not enough.

*Bro. Habonimana, Isaac*



Photo: Bro. Habonimana

### **KIGOMA**

We highly appreciate your favour in sending us the scriptural books, may He bless you in your constant duties of awakening Sisters and Brothers through His word. We very much hope that we will in a short while handle more and new booklets and pamphlets. The parcel contained 10 English Bible Basics though we always cry for the Kiswahili ones, as we are not fluent in English. These are also useful as they can be used instead of Holy Bibles, which we lack.

*Bro. Jerome Bukambo*

Comment: In no way, Jerome, is Bible Basics to be used instead of the Bible. We are making an appeal for Bibles, which will be in English, whereas you need them in Kiswahili. The cost of these is high and we hope some of our readers will be able to help financially in providing for Bibles both in Kiswahili and other foreign languages. MH



Photo: Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mgassa Bukambo

### **MBEYA**

Please send us a copy of the book, 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet'; we all depend on agricultural farming and that book will help us much. May God multiply mercy and grace to you all who are working in His vineyard.

*Bro. James Mwangomo*

### **NYARUGUSU**

We are confirmed well in our service to promulgate the soon coming of the Son of God and his reign on earth.

*Bro. Mboko Asumani*

We are the youth of Nyarugusu ecclesia. We miss the friendship that teaches us the correspondence course and Magazines like Gospel News and Glad Tidings. Those getting these are in Lugufu ecclesia, not here, so we hope we shall also get Gospel News like other brothers and sisters. We are asking that every youth in our ecclesia gets their own teacher in correspondence who will discuss Bible topics with them; we are six in number who need this. Please write to the ecclesia at P.O. Box 331, Kasulu, Kigoma, Tanzania. Lastly I would like to obtain a Bible in English.

*Bro. Rhamazam, Lewis*

### **UVINZA**

Thank you very much for sending me the book, 'Where There is No Doctor'; I was very pleased to receive it because I have received the book of my profession. I am sending my article, 'Why View Marriage as Sacred?' for Gospel News; it is one part of my topic given at the time of our Seminar which we held in our ecclesia a few months back.

We are glad to inform you that the parcel containing ten Kiswahili Bible Basics has arrived safely. The whole ecclesia at Lugufu thank you very much for these, as they speak and write the Kiswahili language fluently. We hope they will be spiritually fed through them. We do praise God our Father for His tender mercy in sending the rising Sun from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the path of peace.

*Bro. Amnobe Iyungu*

### **news from uganda**

#### **IGANGA**



Photo: Ofwono Amos and his friend Onjango, Samuel.

#### **KABALE**

Here in Kabale we are fine, doing God's work, though we meet difficulties here and there, but with God all becomes possible. Jesus was born with our nature, but because of his obedience and dedication to his Father, he offered himself on the cross for the redemption of those who were 'lost', including me. So I appeal to all brothers and sisters that whatever is done, let Christ be the Head, because the reward is great as long as we do the Almighty's will.

*Bro. Attikiriza Gnock*

#### **KABERAMAIDO**

We always thank God for you all in spreading the word of God world-wide. May God bless you abundantly for sending us *Gospel News*. We are still living in the Camp waiting for the

Government to finish up the few rebels (LRIA) remaining in the bush/villages. The situation is cooling down; it is not as in the past, so Bro. John Mathias and Bro. Paul Boyd from the UK met us at the Bible School in Mt. Elgon in March this year. They hired for us three acres (for each family) within the Camp area for growing beans, maize, cassava cutting stem. It has rained now and we are busy growing so we are expecting harvest by September this year. Repentance is a sincere sorrow for sin that leads a person to God to do His will. David expressed true repentance when he said, 'I thought on my ways, and turned my feet to your testimonies' (Ps. 119:59). We need to turn our thoughts to the Saviour who loved us enough to die for us. Jesus warned of the consequences of dying with our sins unforgiven.

*Bro. Opio Bosco*

### **KAMPALA**

It is lovely to hear from you, more so in receiving *Gospel News*. I give thanks to God for the work you are doing in the mission field. I am sure you white Brothers do not look down on we black African Brothers, for God has something better for us all, that is why we share the same cup with our white Brothers, being one in Christ. We are your Brothers whom you have been helping with the same type of love displayed only by our Elder Brother, Jesus; his love has never ceased, despite mankind's continued wickedness. Pardon my true words I have used in this letter. I am still with you as a Brother, as Jesus is still the 'Elder' Brother of us world-wide Christadelphians. God gave you to me, and so I will never give you up, you have been my helper. I had an accident on November 28<sup>th</sup> 1998 and almost every year as I grow I still feel the pain. I went to the doctor who told me that I needed to go for a scan to find out the real problem, but I have not been able to do that.

*Bro. Paddy Sambu*

### **SUME**

The Brethren and Sisters of Sume ecclesia in Mt. Elgon area express their sympathy to Brother George Otube of Palisa in the falling asleep of his beloved wife. Many thanks to God who enabled and guided us, the Brethren and Sisters of Mt. Elgon, during the Bible School held here in March this year. I thank all Brethren and Sisters from the UK and elsewhere, and friends, who managed to come long distances to learn the word of God. We also thank Brethren Paul Boyd, Manktelow, Godwin Mugasi and Bernard Osendo for the word of God preached to us. 1 Tim. 6:9-10, people who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. The tireless Christian listened carefully to Bro. Godwin Mugasi's elaboration of the word. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. Money is empty, it cannot bring true happiness (Ecc. 5:10). We should not be like this. We should be like the apostle Paul who says in v.6, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God". Man's heart is the 'wealth' that God wants. At the last day, our Lord will reward all who are waiting with love for him to appear (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

*Bro George Kangati*



Photo: Bro. Godwin Mugasi (of Mbarara Ecclesia) and Bro. Kule Remegio (of Kasese Ecclesia).

## news from zaire

### **MASISI**

I am grateful to God for allowing us to receive the message of the gospel via Bro. Eli Bwira and Stephano who came from Goma to see us. I went on a Sunday to Goma, where I saw a Brother from England and was baptised. There are good contacts in my area and I thank our Saviour for the salvation He has given us.

*Bro. Mutoo Samuel*



Photo: Bro Samuel Mutoo Preaching

## news from zambia

### **CHAMBISHI**

Here, the rest of my family is quite fine, except for myself. I have been down in bed with malaria; I took Fansida, but it reacted badly, crushing all parts of my body. I thought it was the end. It is cold this time of year. I am planning to write about my life from childhood and how I came to know God.

*Bro. Willies Simbowe*

### **KABWE**

May you allow me to introduce myself to you: my name is Agrippa Phiri, aged 33 years, married with three children. I was arrested and sentenced to 15 years and have now been in prison for two years and eight months. I am a 'born again' person and was baptised while in prison and am still very young in faith. I am in need of spiritual help so that I may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). I request you to keep on praying for me so that I may stand strong and I am praying for you, too.

The Bible says that a prayer of a righteous person has a powerful effect (James 5:16). My main purpose in writing is that the Brothers and Sisters within the church who have a willing heart to accept me as a Brother in Christ will encourage me and help me physically and spiritually (Heb. 13:1-3).

*Bro. Agrippa Phiri*

### **KASAMA**

Thank you very much for the books you arranged to send to me, especially the beautiful book, 'Elpis Israel', which is helping me and others to a greater spiritual understanding in our walk towards the Kingdom of God. I would very much like to attend the Africraft training centre at Chipata so that I can learn to make crafts and earn a living. Some ecclesias have received the book, 'How to Grow a Balanced Diet', but why have not we received a copy to help us with our food production? We have many students and the big problem is communicating with them.

We could do with a computer and printer to assist with this.

*Bro. Joshua Mushili*

Photos Top: Bible students, taken when a visit was made by Bro. David Nicholls (in 2004) with Bro. Muntete. Bottom: a group at Kasama



Above: Kasama Sunday School.

### ***KAWAMBWA***

I would like you to send me another 10 *Bible Basics* in Bemba and two in English. Please kindly assist me. We were married for two years without a child and people were tempting me to divorce or to go to an African ‘doctor’ to find out the cause. But I and my Madam, Purity, put faith in God. I quote the lesson from Hannah who lived for many years without children. She prayed to God that He would give her a child who would be God’s servant and her prayer was answered (1 Sam. 1 and 2:1-10). I had faith that we would have a child and I quote the teaching of our Master when he said, “Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened...” (Matt. 7:7-8). We had faith (Heb. 11:1) and God answered our prayers and my loving wife gave birth to a boy child and I named him Titus Mwansa Thociacky. I prayed and did not doubt (James 1:2-10).

*Bro. Titus Mwansa*

### ***KITWE***

I have been away for five weeks and spent a week in Congo visiting relatives. Before leaving I took this photo of Mufulira ecclesia. The country’s economy has deteriorated and people live in fear. Although they call themselves ‘Christian’ a large number of ‘witch doctors’ are there causing rampant idolatry; as a result many people believe in their practices. Many people are dying of various diseases and malnutrition, especially among children. They have cassava as their staple food and do not have a balanced diet. They have little access to medical treatment, which is very expensive, so the ‘witch doctors’ take the opportunity to confuse and exploit them. Congo is in a state of emergency and so I was unable to take any pictures to avoid being arrested. I also visited Sakania near the Zambian border and spoke to some people about God and they showed interest in our beliefs. I need a copy of the permit, like the Brethren use in Lubumbashi, so that I can present it to the Congolese Authorities in order to preach the gospel without hindrance. When I realize the confusion in which other people live, I count myself to be really blessed by our Heavenly Father.

*Bro Robert Miwele*



Above: Mufulira ecclesia.

Below idols worshipped in the jungle dedicated to protective spirits.



Left Sis Bwalya Mwenge & Deborah.



I have noted your message that you have sent parcels for Bro. Alex Mutate and me. For your information, because of distance we decided to break into three groups, but one committee, so we are really all Kitwe ecclesia. I have made some mission trips to various places and at one of the meetings brethren and sisters have asked me to study the book of Revelation, which I try to provoke interest in, but many brethren and sisters find it very hard to understand. If any one can send me books on the subject I shall be grateful. I am just recovering from TB and am under medication, to which I am responding very well.

*Bro. Nelson Bwalya*



Photo: Bro Nelson explaining the book of Revelation.

We are saddened with the news that our Sis Joice Dhlakama fell asleep in Christ 20<sup>th</sup> October. Joice, was baptised December 2004. We pray that we shall see her again at the return of Jesus to raise the dead and put right all the problems of the world. She is the daughter of our Bro Moses Dhlakama.

## **LUSAKA**

Thank you so much for your letter and the material about Bible prophecy in '*Present Day*

*Events'*, also letting me know where I can write for Sunday School materials. My desire, God willing, is to teach the Truth both to young and old alike. I was attacked by thieves, so I have a deep cut on my head and on my right hand. I ask for your prayers and you all are in mine, too. Could you also send me a second-hand *Bible*.

*Bro. Paul Chembe*

The sin that dwells in our flesh produces an abundance of evil desires that lead us to disobey God. In so doing, the evil desire gives a picture of sin as sweet to the taste and good to the eyes, but eventually it leads to death, which is bitter. In the Garden of Eden, Eve saw the forbidden fruit pleasing in her eyes and good for food. It was good and sweet for Adam and Eve to eat that fruit, but they had disobeyed the command of God. We all no doubt know that sin deceives and we will be condemned at the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ if unrepented of (James 1:14-16)

Today, we are living in a world where people have despised God's love and love money more than Him and are busy chasing after their own pleasures, which will be brought to a halt when Christ intervenes. They have totally ignored God's existence, though many people believe that He is there, but do not pay much heed to the truth of His word (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Beloved Brothers and Sisters, if we have the desire to follow Jesus Christ, our minds and hearts should be full of the gospel and understand it, and full of love for him and his Father; then our discipleship will be worthy of his Kingdom. The seed of the word of God will have influence on us as we strive to resist sin and help to build our Christian life with the right motive. Even though it is hard to defeat sin, we should plant this seed of the truth in ourselves and water it by reading the Bible every day for it to yield an eternal sweet life. May Jesus Christ come soon. (Rev. 7:16-17).

*Bro. Jaxon Kalumba*



Photo: Bro. Jaxon Kalumba in T-shirt and Bro. Teddy.

I am very grateful and most thankful for the book, '*Where There is No Doctor*'; it is a great help to me and my family and all our neighbourhood around this farming locality.

*Bro. Fred Kayata*

## news from zimbabwe

### **BANKET**

Thank you for sending me the Gospel News, they arrived well and I am now happy because I know all the news worldwide.. Here in Zimbabwe rains are now in action making it more suitable for farmers to grow whatever they wish, no thought of drought; of course drought might still come, but to a lesser extent than the last two years. I have enclosed another article and a photo of my friend Pindurai Banda. We were baptised two years ago at Rest Haven in Harare at the Conference after receiving Bro. Tim Genders from South Africa, Bro. Mark and Sis. Paula Buckler and Bro. David and Sis. Eddie Swain, also with Bro. Steve. This was an interesting and enjoyable

conference.

*Bro. Guard Momba*

The change of heart by which we become children of God is spoken of in the Bible as a new birth, it is compared to the germination of the good seed by the husbandman. In like manner those who are just converted to Christ are as newborn babies and have to grow up (1 Peter 2:2 ; Eph. 4:15) to the stature of the man and woman in Christ Jesus, or like the good seed sown in the field, they are to grow up and bring forth fruit. Isaiah says that they shall be called “trees of righteousness, the plants of the Lord, that he might be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3). So from natural life, illustrations are drawn to help us understand the mysterious truths of spiritual life. Not all the wisdom and skill of man can produce life in the smallest object in nature. It is only through the life that God Himself has imparted that either plant or animal can live. So it is only through the life from God that spiritual life is begotten in the heart. Unless a man is born from above (John 3:3) he cannot become a partaker of the life which Christ came to give. Do you ask, How am I to abide in Christ in the same way as I received him at first? As we have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him. Do you ask yourself, Why do I believe in Jesus? To me he is the Divine Saviour. And why do I believe in the Bible? I found it to be the voice of God to my soul. We have the witness in ourselves that the Bible is true, that Christ is the Son of God.

*Bro. Fibion Ngozi*



Photo: left Bro. Guard Momba with Bro. Pindurai Banda

I would like to thank you for your letters and the handbook ‘How to Grow a Blanced Diet’. I started my gardening project in 2003, am blessed because where I live is a perennial river called Doondo which flows across the farmland. My garden is situated along the riverbank (about 200m from my house), and is 100m x 50m squared. There are a few trees of guavas, banana, paw paw and sugar cane. I grow cabbages, rape, tomatoes, onions, butternut and a few beds of potatoes. I don’t have any engine or water pump, I use cans to water the garden. This is from where I get my living, as well as helping Brethren and Sisters in our ecclesia.

We are living in very disturbing times. In every part of the world there are wars or disturbances. With such a threat hanging over the human race it is not surprising that fear is spreading like a malignancy in every strata of society. If we have a positive faith in the living God we will not allow fear to control us. In spite of the facts that are obvious to every one, behind the apparent unrest that is seen in this troubled world, there are spiritual forces at work for the salvation of the human race.

Elisha’s servant looked out over battlements of Dothan and could only see the army of Syria arrayed against Israel and was terribly afraid. After Elisha had prayed for him, he saw the army of God waiting to protect His children. Only the awareness of God’s living presence, with the resultant spiritual perception, will enable us to stand firm amid the fear that is abroad in the world today. I would be most grateful if I could have Shona Bible Basics to use in the rural areas where vernacular is mainly used.

*Bro. David Yelulani*

## **BULAWAYO**

I am writing this letter to my young brothers and sisters. Do you know that you are the foundations of the fellowship? Look to Daniel, he was merely 18 years when he first witnessed the truth of God. Joshua and Jeremiah they were fully hooked with the truth-at-youth. My young brothers in Africa, shall we be punished by God like those of the world? How many are being killed by AIDS? Look at Numbers ch. 14, God said that the youth would enter the promised land, so we are promised to enter God's Kingdom if we do His will. I want to warn my brothers about marriage. The Bible says, marry from your own people meaning those with the same faith as you.

I am using an NIV version. This version is easy to understand but gives problems with some of the basics of the Bible of our faith. My heart is longing to see young people in Africa have faith like those in Europe. In Britain for example, they have youth gatherings. The thing that is pulling young brothers and sisters down is that when they marry outside the faith things start to change. In the Bible we read of Samson, he sinned because of the wife which he married. Things can only adjust if the young get time to meet and have youth activities. When we read Faith Alive we get news from Britain or America. Let us have goodness and truth in our young brothers and sisters in Africa.

*Bro. Dzingai Sumburera*

## **CHEGUTU**

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

*Bro. Tofara Gibson*

I have enjoyed the article "Signs of the Times" and it helped me when I gave a lecture about the signs at one of our Bible studies and a lot of people enjoyed it, our current situation is a very good example. Crops have died as there is no rain and we are in yet another drought. As I write we have started to queue for maize meal, it is really hard out here.

*Bro Richard Phiri*

## **CHINHOYI**

John 1:14-18 "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." How do you see God's glory in Christ? God's glory can be seen in many ways. One of the best ways to see it is to spend time with Him. Praising God should be a significant part of your personal time with Him. As you think of ways to tell God how wonderful you think He is, you see His glory. That is exciting! Look for God's glory all the time you spend alone with Him.

I was very excited when I received a big envelope and found six study tapes. I would like to tell you that the studies are helping me to grow spiritually

*Bro. Emmanuel Akwaa Kondowe*

## **CHISHUMBA**

It is my undoubted hope that this letter finds you in the best of health. I am all right down here with the exception of the long-foretold earthly turmoils which are only a herald of the Lord's coming. I'm thrilled just watching how things are happening. It makes me believe all the more in the inspired Word of God because I am really witnessing some of the prophecies coming to pass. Take heart, my dear Brother, we are almost there. Thank you so very much for sending me the book 'Where there is no Doctor'. It is sure lovely of you to think of me the way you do. May the Lord bless you all the more. If it's not too much asking, I would also be grateful if you could send me, "How To Grow A Balanced Diet." Times are tough my dear Brother, especially in this small southern African piece of land, but I like it because it really makes me bold and glorify God.

*Bro. Thompson Changata*



Photo: from left to right: Bro. Zao Isah, Bro. Emmanuel Kondowe, Bro. Anthony Manswa, Bro. Shadreck, Bro. Julius Pondo, Bro. Chakumanda Kondwe and Bro. Innocent, taken after their baptism, on 1st August 1998.

## **CHISAPE**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). There can be moments in life that are barren and full of uncertainty, your thoughts become confused, with the result that your life loses its sense of direction and your confidence in yourself starts to dwindle until it becomes almost non-existent. It is inevitable that when this happens you become unsure of God, your faith weakens and life starts to lose its purpose and meaning. A sure way to build up a confidence in life, that will enable you to live free from fear of inadequacy and inferiority, is to be vividly aware that God is your all-sufficiency.

Because God's presence is real to you, you can face the future with joy, peace and confidence. Nahum 1:7. "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." As a master farmer I am always interested in farming, so I found the book, 'How To Grow A Balanced Diet' very useful to me, especially to know about nutritious foods. Thank you very much indeed. God bless you.

*Sis. Joyce Seremwe*



Photo – Sis. Joyce Seremwe

I leapt with joy when I received eight Bible Basics books and one "Where There Is no Doctor" book. This is wonderful love, thank you. Acknowledging that the process of getting these books to us is very expensive, we are going to distribute them wisely. First they will be registered by the ecclesial secretary in the library book, then we will give to those whom we see to have an appetite for the word of God and always asking questions about it, but not to someone who

requests the book and locks it in a box.

*Bro. Stanford Kuuzha*

### **CHISHUMBA**

What had happened to Saul on the road to Damascus? Had the long journey or the heat of the midday sun perhaps debilitated him? Determined to find natural explanations, modern sceptics offer scenarios that include delirium, hallucination, a drastic psychological crisis provoked by the qualms of Saul's tormented conscience, a nervous breakdown and an assumed predisposition to epilepsy. The fact was that Jesus Christ appeared to Saul in that blinding light, convincing him that he was the Son of God. Some pictures depicting this episode show Saul falling from a horse. Though it is possible, the Bible simply says that he "fell to the ground" (Acts 22:6-11). Whatever physical fall Saul experienced was not nearly so great as the fall from the pride of his position. He now had to recognize that what Jesus' followers were preaching was true. The only course open to Saul was to join them. From a militant foe of Jesus' message, Saul became one of its staunchest proponents. After regaining his sight and being baptised Saul kept on acquiring power and was confounding the Jews that dwelt in Damascus as he proved logically that this is the Christ (Acts 9:22).

*Bro. Davison Mupariwa*

God is loving, He is peaceful and merciful, He is the Creator of everything our eyes can see. However, He destroys people when they are full of deception, greed, idolatry, selfishness etc.

The Israelites received much loving care from God, yet they turned from Him to worship idols and so were punished, but whenever they repented and turned back to God He forgave them, and so it is with us; if we wholeheartedly turn to God He will save us.

*Bro Steven Tedza*

### **KADOMA**

Thanks very much for 'How To Grow A Balanced Diet'. This will help me to grow. The Faith Alive, Glad Tidings, and Gospel News, help me to confess my sins, because I know I am a sinner. I want God to change my life, I want to give my life to Jesus. The Bible is the most important book. Talking about the situation in the earth, we know not the day or the hour when Jesus will come again to the world. Jesus told us to be ready all the time. It is true the world is full of troubles but the Bible has good news. The best way is to flee from the bad things in the world. The return of Jesus Christ is near.

*Sis. Alice Mlambo*

### **KARIBA**

To me, I am the very least of all the saints, His grace was given to me to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and to help all to see what is the plan of God who created all things. It is the good news about God's Son, Jesus the Christ, our Lord, who came as a human baby, was born of king David's royal family line and, because of his righteous life, although crucified, was raised from the dead and given the Divine nature of God Himself. "Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied, humbled himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:5-7).

*Bro. Joshua Pakali*



Photo – Bro. Joshua Pakali

With sadness, but in the hope of the resurrection, we record the falling asleep of Bro Revi Chamboko on 20th July at his rural home in Karoi, following a distressing illness. He was a member of Kariba ecclesia since its infant stages and has been very active in the ecclesial work. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

On June 19 on the weekend of our AGM we were pleased to witness the baptism of Sister Sekai Mawodzeka, wife of Bro Fanuel Mawodzeka who live in isolation in Guruve. We are encouraged that in these last days the Lord is still calling out a people for Himself and we pray that God's word may guide our new Sister in the right path.

Many thanks go to Bro David Swain and Bro John Butler from UK who were with us on the weekend of the AGM for their efforts and work in helping Brethren and Sisters in Zimbabwe.

*Bro Godfrey Mungazi*

#### **LUPANE**

Paul said, fear not what is happening, it is God's will, you must go forward preaching the gospel of God to your fellow brothers and sisters and pray day and night so that God will give you power. Thank you for sending me Bible Basics. I thank you for your love and faith, for giving us light in our area, Lupane.

*Bro. Balewa Nywenga*

The gift of 'Where There Is No Doctor' shows us that we are not alone in this dreadful world. Please help us with the book entitled 'How To Grow A Balanced diet'. I read your letter about the signs of the times. Let us pray day and night and spread the gospel of God to our fellowship Brothers and Sisters so that they change their lives and follow our God's laws, because the time is near for the Son of God to come and set up his Father's future Kingdom. In our country, Zimbabwe, there are many kinds of diseases, people are dying day and night, hunger and robbery. It is true the time has come, there is nothing we can do because it was spoken of.

*Bro. David Ngwenya*

#### **MASVINGO RURAL**

I would really like to thank the Almighty Lord as He has led my life through history. Many people are dying because of hunger, crimes, violence, committing suicide, but by his grace I am alive to preach the gospel to all nations as our Lord said before his departure. Finally Brethren, pray for me to be of sound doctrine, as I am far from other Brethren and find it difficult to break bread with them as I am at college. Brethren and Sisters world-wide, preach the gospel without ceasing, till he come. (Luke 19:10; Heb. 2:11; 2 Pet. 3:15).

*Bro Simon Mudavose*

#### **MUTARE**

Bro. Moses Dhlakama visited me and we did our Bible reading from Deut. 16, Ecc. 8 and Acts 7. Deut. 16:1-20 tells us about how the Children of Israel were to keep the Passover feast to remind them of the time they were delivered out of Egypt. God gave them laws to follow during their way from Egypt to Canaan.

Ecc. 8:1-17 says we must keep God's commands and fear Him by doing what we know is good. God always knows our ways but we don't know His ways.

Acts 7; Stephen's speech. He told people about God's power to believers in the Old Testament; from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses who led them out of slavery to Canaan, a place which flowed with milk and honey. But they ignored this history and stoned Stephen to death. Stephen prayed to God before his death and said, "God forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

*Bro. Stanford Masika*

### **RIMBI**

I would like to thank you in the Name of God for I have received the book "Where There Is No doctor". I live in a remote area where transport is very scarce and the place is still poor in terms of development, so if I have these books they will upgrade my standard. I would also be very happy to have the book "How To Grow A Balanced Diet". These books will help my family as well as the community.

*Bro. Isaac Guzete*

### **ZAKA**

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus. How is life over there? Here in Zaka I am very happy. I thank you for the book you sent me "Where There Is No Doctor", it is very useful and easy to understand. I am getting more knowledge of identifying various illnesses.

*Bro. Faustino Svuure*

### **ZUMBA**

I am always worried about the number of people who attend the bar for beer drinking and worldly joy, compared to the number of people who attend the church for salvation; surely a few people will be saved and many will see decay. What worries me most is when a believer turns to the wide road for worldly joy and decay. This worries me because it is very hard, especially in this village of mine, to convert a person to truth, but I am seeing it is easier for a person to be converted to the world, especially beer drinking. Here we are OK and we try to follow the steps of Jesus and, as we know, the first step is baptism. We are walking with hands together so as to pick up those who may stumble on the way. Let me take this opportunity of thanking Bro. Obert Wiki for all his help towards our plans for making our isolated ecclesia a light in this area. Also, thanks to Brothers and Sisters for their prayers and, above all, I thank God that I have found His way and that He is keeping me strong; at just 21 years I have a lot to do for Him.

*Bro. Moses Ajiweka*



Photo Bro. Moses Ajiweka

### **ZVISHAVANE**

Many thanks for the wonderful work being done to preach the word of God tirelessly through 'Gospel News'.

*Bro. Sibangawi Maka*

## News from Europe / Eurasia

### news from belarus

#### **BARANOVICHI**

I would so like Jesus Christ to return to the earth right now. I have a very hard time with my health, although the medicines you got for me have been a great help. The doctors say there is nothing more they can do for me; there are so many victims of radiation here in our area and all are told the same. We look for herbal remedies. I recently went to meet with the Brothers in Minsk and we had a nice time. We are hoping to be able to go to the Bible School. I am studying Beyond Bible Basics and doing the questions there.

*Sis. Larisa*

I am really excited because I am writing to a man in prison who never asks for money or anything, but I feel he has truly come to the truth after fanatically searching for it and studying our literature. I am so much encouraged. I am still in touch with Pavel, a very serious man who is in prison at Novosady. It is such a pleasure to write with him. I pray much for all your good work for the Lord.

*Bro. Leonid*

#### **IVATSEVICHI**

When I was moved to another prison I lost all my books, and now I find the worst thing is, I don't have a Bible Companion, so I feel I can't read the chapters with you each day to have fellowship, so please send me another one.

*Bro. Aleksandr*

We are very happy to be able to call you 'Brother', this is a new experience. Our home very much needs repairing, and we fear the coming of winter. We are reading the Bible every day.

*Bro. Sasha*

#### **SENO**

My brother and I are, as you know, invalids and housebound. We are reading the Bible much and hoping and praying for a better day in the Kingdom of God. We would like to be able to do more for our mother, especially as the house needs repair and we may even be thrown out of it. We have much time to pray but we would so like to be able to do more.

*Bro. Valerij*

#### **TERESHKI**

Here the summer has been hot, but we have been blessed with good harvest which we are now preserving so we can eat through the winter. We recently held a small gathering of the Brothers in Minsk which was very good.

*Bro. Vladimir*

#### **VYAZMICHI**

We want you to know that we are really with you in our prayers and we always long for your visits. We continue preaching to people here, and recently I went to Minsk to meet with the Brothers who came there and learnt more about the Bible.

*Sis. Nina*

### news from bosnia

*We are delighted to announce the baptisms of MARIO and ADMIR in Sarajevo. May they hold to the hope of the Gospel until the end.*

#### **SARAJEVO**

Despite all problems we stay strong in faith and see you as our lovely Brothers and our foundation for so many things; we have no fear any more. Thanks to you and the care you have given to us we are much stronger.

*Bro. Ivica*

### news from georgia

#### **TBILISI**

Here in Tbilisi we are fine and would very much welcome to see Duncan and Cindy soon. God be with you all.

*Bro. Agakhi*

### news from iran

Thank you, Brother, for the baptism. I take the risk to keep the pictures with me of us together afterwards. They mean everything to me. Pray for us here please.

*Bro. A.*

### news from iraq

I am OK here despite all problems, my prayers are with you. It was a pleasure to help with translations.

*Bro. Sirwan*

### news from israel

#### **BAT YAM**

I am hoping to be able to make another visit to Ukraine where there are some people in the Crimea very interested in the true Gospel. All here send their greetings as we wait for Messiah's coming.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### news from italy

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of ASMAIT in Rome. May she hold to the hope of the Gospel until the end.*

I was so very happy for your visit, it was an historic moment. And I am glad for the baptism of our Sister, and thank you for the clothes.

*Bro. Naizghi*

### news from jordan

We are all well here. Despite my isolation I have been thinking about the unity of the church, and I have sent an article about it.

*Bro. Bassam*

### news from kazakhstan

#### **KAZAN**

I am grateful that the Lord preserved me from my accident. I am strong and well by His love. It was a very happy day for us recently when we baptised Lidija; she was so eager for baptism after very much study with you.

*Sis. Ludmila*

We were visited recently by Brothers from England and there was a meeting held here at a hotel. We greatly missed the presence of Bro. Duncan and look forward to being with him at the winter Bible School.

*Bro. Viktor*

#### **KOKSHETAU**

We are trying hard, so that all the great effort to establish our ecclesia here will not be in vain. We admire the great missionary work being done in other areas and we deeply respect it. We are trying to develop more singing and music in our meetings. All here send their greetings.

*Sis. Elvira*

### news from latvia

We are delighted to announce the baptism of ERIK and pray that he will endure to the end and enter the Kingdom with us.

#### **BALVI**

Thank you very much for the Bible Weekend, it was very nice and I learnt a lot and grew in my faith.

*Bro. Guntars*

#### **JURMALA**

I am reading each day with you by the Companion, they are a comfort to me as I am facing a very hard situation. I am working for very small money, and I have only a shed to live in at the moment. Please pray for me as I do for you. I am still teaching some people here about the Truth and I am grateful for the copies of Bible Basics which I received for this purpose. My prayers are

with all those affected by the recent terrorist acts and other catastrophes.

*Bro Mikhail*

### **TUKUMS**

Please pray for me as yet again I fell, this time whilst trying to board a bus and again I broke something. I have a small job cleaning, but the pay is very low.

*Sis. Vaira*

### **VILANI**

Things for us here aren't good because of the way people are getting poorer whilst others become very wealthy. Our only hope is for the coming of Jesus Christ. I am oppressed by many problems in my old age, for example my boiler is not working, and here hot water has been cut off to our block so I have to boil it all myself. What can I say, do not grow old like I have done. I am all the more grateful for the Hope I have and which I wish I could share more with others.

*Bro. Fyodyor*



*Marcus, newly baptised Sister and Gwladys in Latvia*

### **news from lithuania**

I would very much like to come up to the Bible weekend in Latvia, I miss you there very much.

*Bro Albinas*

### **news from pakistan**

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Blessings and greetings!

I wish you very happy Birthday of All Pakistan Christadelphian Church in Pakistan. Same day on June 11, 2002. the servants of God, Sister Liz and Brother Duncan Heaster sow the seed in the soil of Pakistan. Then they carried on at different times to water this crop and sometimes labourers like Sister Liz, Brother Steven and Brother John Stibbs took care and prepare this crop of APCC. Now it's bearing fruits and also the seeds growing more crops. We are thankful to the Lord for giving us these wonderful brothers and sisters like who helped us in every way they could to carry on and spread the Christadelphian teaching all around Pakistan. Today we are having a special fellowship program with Brothers and Sisters to celebrate this day. We shall pray, share the word of God and have some fun and food. We shall also remember our benefactors in our prayers who made it possible that we could grow. In last National Council meeting I suggested to all the regions to celebrate June 11 a day of happiness and joy to mark as the foundation stone was laid on that day.

Once again Lord Bless you all. With much love and peace,

*Ash*

## news from russia

We are delighted to announce the baptism of LIDIJA (Kazan) and pray that she will endure to the end and enter the Kingdom with us.

### **ARMAVIR**

We often think of all the trouble Brother Duncan went to for Vitaly's baptism and, despite all problems and the evil situation we are surrounded with here, think with joy of the things of the Kingdom and thank you for the Hope you have given us. We continue breaking bread together.  
*Sis. Galine and Bro. Vitaly*

### **EFREMOV**

I am frustrated by the lack of response to my preaching. I distributed many *Bible Basics* leaflets and manually wrote my address on them but I had no lasting contacts from this. I don't seem to have the gift to preach like I saw in our dear and respected Sis. Ludmila Kuritsyna, so please pray for me.

*Bro. Oleg*

### **KAZAN**

Sis. Chernyakhovets is really doing a good job with the *Morning Star* journal. It is good for me to see that those baptized are remaining faithful and not being influenced away from the truth. I am frustrated at the lack of response here, I even get depressed about it.

*Sis. Ludmila K*

*[We are sorry to report that our sister was knocked down by a car and spent some time in hospital shortly after writing this. We understand she is healing].*

### **KHANTY-MANSIJSK**

We are very happy to say that our young daughter has started reading the Bible. Because we are so isolated here the cost of everything is very high because of all the transport required. It is very hard for us to survive. Please pray for us.

*Bro. Sergej*

### **KORKINO**

We are planning a visit to Uzbekistan to see the Brothers and Sisters and do some preaching, please pray for us.

*Bro. Alexei*

### **KRASNODAR**

I am really pleased that Bro Duncan baptized my daughter Natasha. She is so happy and says she feels she is getting closer to God daily. She has such joy!

*Sis. Olga*

### **OKTYABRSKIJ**

We recently had a visit from the Brothers, it was very nice. We plan on going to the Moscow Bible School and would love it if we could meet you there.

*Sis. Larisa*

### **RZHEV**

I recently distributed 1000 leaflets, I am so eager to give my life to spreading the Gospel of truth,

but I am lacking in the financial ability to do so as I would like.

*Bro. Sasha*

I am pleased to inform you of more who want to study the Bible lessons here. It was encouraging to read of the first baptism in Iraq. I feel very limited in what I can do here because of total lack of funds.

*Bro. Aleksandr*

### **SARATOV**

I am healing after my illness, and was able to go to the Bible School in Kokshetau, and then I went on to Taynsha where I decorated the grave of my late husband. We think so much about you, it is such a joy to get your letters, and we are always praying for God's blessings upon your constant and dangerous journeys for the Brothers.

*Sis Raisa*

### **SHCHYOKINO**

I am very depressed and anxious, because I wrote three letters to you, and also to Ukraine to Sis Ludmila Chernyakhovets, but no replies were received. Now I receive letters from you, asking why I've not written! So now it is clear, that our post is being controlled. I am very frustrated, as you are my beloved family, and it feels as if we cannot now easily be in communication. I truly pray for you all each day and the postal problem and lack of contact from this is very hard for me.

*Bro. Boris*

### **TALITSA**

We love you and are with you. We are concerned for our Brother Andrej in Izhevsk, it is so hard to be the only Brother in an entire city. We so await any visit from Duncan & Cindy!

*Bro. Aleksandr and the sisters*

### **TERESHKI**

Here the summer has been hot, but we have been blessed with good harvest which we are now preserving so we can eat through the winter. We recently held a small gathering of the Brothers in Minsk which was very good.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### **TOMSK**

I recently went to the south of Russia with the Brothers, all was good and we baptized one woman.

*Bro. Rinat*

### **TULSKAYA Obl**

My dream is always to be able to get to the Bible Schools because, for me, my faith is my life, it is all I have. I am so very grateful that you lovingly remember me and bother to write to me.

*Sis. Ekaterina*

### **TYMSK**

Here things are somewhat strange with nature, animals being born very large or deformed, and the plants also the same. We think it is a sign Jesus will soon come as we don't understand in our village what is going on. We here are all very much looking forward to the next visit. We are preparing now for the winter. When the river freezes and vehicles can drive over it, we are more

connected to the rest of the world. We pray for you all.

*Bro. Ivan and family*

#### news from serbia

##### **SUBOTICA**

I appreciate receiving *Gospel News* , thank you very much.

*Bro. Zoltan*

We now have received from the printers the colour version of *What Is The Gospel?* and I have sent some to Bro. Marcus for him to see. We are working with the money given from CCCE to place more adverts.

*Bro. William*

#### news from spain

I hope that you've been OK. I'm fine too, forgive me for not writing. God is good always and I should say that He loves me. Also pray for my dear sister, she is suffering a lot, also in hospital. My brother is still in the prison, please pray for all this. Pray too for me, I really need your prayers that God may give me courage in all that is happening. Thanks for everything.

*Sis. Gela*

I really appreciate your support spiritually. I have had to move house recently but that is now completed thanks to God.

*Sis. Lena*

#### news from turkey

My friend has come here from Syria, and he is interested to be baptized. I am teaching him. I am very happy for the true doctrine and baptism you gave.

*Bro. Hasan*

I am hoping to baptize my friend Mehmet next week. I have made another 500 photocopies of my leaflet to give to people. I am being sent to Greece next month with my work and I am hoping to preach to people there. Pray for our victory there too.

*Bro. Scotty*

I am writing this email from Iran. I have come here to see a Russian Sister who is married to an Iranian.

## News from the Americas

### news from canada

Our Iranian Brethren continue strong in the faith. We continue to give thanks for the miraculous deliverance from persecution and death which the Lord wrought for them. They write: I just want to say Hi after long time it is almost one year I am in Canada safe and secure and I should say that I didn't forget your kindness and hard working for us. Thanks very much and God be with you and your family. With lots of love

*Mahmoud*

I'm sorry that I haven't written to you in so long. We have been so very busy because we had to move from Mississauga to North York in order to go to school and they are giving our old apartment to Mona and Babak whom we hope will soon arrive. I'm always thinking about you and Cindy and I know that you wanted to go to Iraq and I hope that your trip went well, and if you've been, please let me know how it was because I was very worried about you. If I take a long time to reply please forgive me because we are still in the process of moving.

*Elmira and Armita*

I'm fine but so tired, I work six days a week and besides the job I go to school like 5 days a week, so simply I leave my home at 8:30 am and get back home at 1:30 am (the next day)! But God gives me energy for all of this. Believe it or not I've been thinking about you a lot, but I just didn't have time to write you. Today Bro Peter Winsoiski was talking about you and he suggested to all of the people who were in the church to read your book (Bible Basics), in the meanwhile he appreciated your efforts too.

*Nima*

### news from jamaica

#### **PT. ANTONIO**

I will begin with a verse from Joel ch. 2: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound the alarm in my holy mountain, let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is near at hand. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains, a great people and a strong, there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations." I read the book of debate, but some parts do not make sense to me. Someone do please lighten my darkness. I think too much big words are used; as for me, I can't pronounce them (smile); do they have meaning? Paul says it's better to use five words with understanding, more than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue "Brethren, be not children in understanding, howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men (1 Cor. 14:20: ch12). About spiritual gifts, v. 6 tells us of diversities of operation, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. There is so much in the whole chapter, it would take a whole book. V 13, "For by one spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one spirit." Then it goes on to tell us about the body, the foot, the ear, the eye, which all make up the body and one can't work without the other. "Now God hath set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased Him. If they were all one member, where were the body? Now are they many members, yet one body". In vs. 28-31 God hath set some in the

Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments.” Then it goes on to say, “Are all apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles? Have all the same gift of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet the best gifts, and yet show I unto you a more excellent way”. Chapter 13 tells us what we should have. In v. 8 it says charity (love) never faileth, but whether there be prophecies they shall fail, whether there be tongues they shall cease, whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. But when that which is perfect is come then that which is in part shall be done away”, and notice it says “shall be” done away, and we know that with God all things are possible , so all we have to do is apply His words to our hearts, do the best we can, even to those who see us wrongfully, and wait for the return of His Son, Jesus Christ, to claim his own. What a weeping and wailing on that day! So we have to take heed how we stand, that we don’t fall on that day. God bless and keep us all in His care.

*Sis. Mellie James*



Photo: Three of the four Sisters at Pt. Antonio: Mellie in the white hat, Sis. Enid Hall and Sis. Louise Nunic sitting

### **ST ANN**

Thanks for the Gospel News and the book, Where There is No Doctor which I find very informative; we will put into practice what is applicable to us. In regard to news from Jamaica, the work continues; we have a Bible School, at least three annually, Easter, Summer and December. As a community, our numbers are decreasing as the aged ones among us fall asleep. We do have a campaign in August, this year we hope to be in the north of the Island, at my home ecclesia, Free Hill, to be exact. In some ecclesias like Port Antonio, Argyle Mountain and Kingston most members are elderly. At Argyle Mountain the interest has fallen for some time, especially among the young who have had problems of one kind or another, but thanks to God for the faithful who remain. Presently the work is being revived with the Sunday School consisting of 12-14 children, ranging from 6-14 years. A new modern toilet system has recently been installed and things are looking up for the future. Three adults have expressed their desire to become a part of the body of Christ; we are patiently watching how true their words are. I have committed myself to studying with them. Thanks again, and may God continue to bless our efforts as we journey to the Kingdom.

*Bro. Martin Shiley*

### **ST THOMAS**

I attend the ecclesia at White Horses in the parish of St. Thomas. I would like a copy of the book, ‘How To Grow a Balanced Diet’. May our Lord bless and keep you. Please pray for the Brothers and Sisters in Jamaica and keep up the good work. Please write as soon as you can.

*Sis. Joan Samuels*

When I arrived at the mission Hall for the service (this is some time ago now), Bro. George Rock handed me a copy of *Gospel News*. I noticed he was reading something on the last page, then he told me to read this news from St Lucia. Then I noticed my picture of the piton and a very small reading from Bro. Michael Joseph. I am not proud about that. What I am proud about is what God can do in people's lives all over the world. You know something? We should be more busy with our Heavenly Father's business. We are too busy with our own business and leave our Father way behind, and that is not good. So my cry to all Christadelphian Brothers and Sisters is, Let us be more busy in our Father's business. What did Jesus say to his parents? (Luke 2:49). Let us try our very best to say the same thing to this world so they can see the change in us. We will soon be in the Kingdom, so let us busy ourselves with our Father's work.



*Photo: Bro. Michael Joseph (centre) with some friends.*

## ews from Asia

### news from philippines

#### **MINDANAO**

After spending many months in a shanty here, my wife and I last weekend transferred to a new place. We share a room in an apartment rented by a family who shows kindness to us. We rent the space we occupy. I thanked God that my wife and the baby can finally have a good rest during night time, not like in the place we had before. We had baptisms yesterday, five people were baptized into Christ, and I thanked the Lord for that. The Brethren here are earnestly praying for your coming. Thanks and God bless!

*Bro Alfredo*

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#### **Arthritis Relief**

In an area known as the Zambia Copper Belt, there is said to be a very low incidence of arthritis amongst the people who work in the copper mines. It is thought that the presence of copper is a contributory factor in this phenomenon. Many believe that wearing a copper bracelet has kept them free, or relieved the pain from arthritis. It is always hard to prove such things and what works for one person doesn't work for another. However, the Spring 2005 issue of *Arthrocare News* quotes from an article in the *British Medical Journal* which says that research indicates that copper bracelets have been proved to reduce pain in osteoarthritis.

There can be no substitute for the genuine Zambian copper and some of our brethren there have made some copper bracelets. They are packed in display boxes of six and cost £15 per box inclusive of postage and could make gifts for friends. Whilst our brethren need to sell them for a living, they know what it is like to be poor, and are happy for us to send a free bracelet to any who cannot afford to buy one. Orders should be placed with the Christadelphian Advancement Trust, 49 The Woodfields, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 OHJ, England.

## **Disappointment and Suffering**

We do not know why God allows us to suffer, like the suffering of the prodigal son's father, or a child/adult lost to the faith. Job questioned God about suffering and did not get a satisfactory answer until he accepted that God decided what path the world would take, that His ways are unfathomable, that He is in charge and that we must accept our place: "I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee...therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not" (Job 42).

The only thing that we can do is to walk with Him through our suffering and underneath His sheltering canopy. Then when we wait on Him, He will renew our strength, and we shall fly like eagles, and run, and walk, and not be faint (Isaiah 40:31). So often these parents have a constant habit of praying and waiting, and have done the best they can in parenting all through. And now those heavy laden, lay down that problem with God, as He suggests they do, for He stills their trembling hearts, and they find rest in Him (Mat 11:28-30).

One can imagine wrapping a problem in beautiful paper, taking that parcel up a ladder to God, and passing that problem over to Him, climbing down, leaving it with Him. We did that with a very ill child and He answered our prayers and our problem, as He thought best. The mental picture helps. But it takes lots of practice and to stop "worrying oneself sick". At first you might only get a few minutes before that problem jumps back in your mind, "driving you witless" again. The lady of Shunem is a fine example of the process, "do not worry, give the problem to (the man of) God" (2 Kings 4). To all those who objected to her confidence, when she was so "vexed" with worry, she said, "It shall be well", "it shall be well". When she came near to the man of God, she said "it is well". She gave up her son to the man of God, and "it was well" for that lady and her family, for her son was restored to them.

However, unlike that Shunem lady (and the prodigal son), even after that closeness with the Lord, and the pray-and-wait, we can be disappointed with His decision. In our grief over a 'lost' child we question and question that: "Why have I been burdened with this terrible burden?" "Why is my heart broken, in pieces, and outside my body dragging along?" "I will never recover". "Is that what life is to be for me now?" "Why is life just going on for everybody else, as if nothing has happened?" Logic is overtaken by emotion and we become self-centred and we say, 'No one else has suffered like me'. And when praying becomes too hard, and "looking up" is all we can do, God still understands, and even that, too, it seems, even that, is enough. So we say, sit/walk/be where you can see Him. "Go forward with Him, and look up, look up". Eventually God's amazing love guides our steps and our minds back to places that we thought we could not ever go again. He heals our wounds with His balm better than we thought possible, and then the emotional mind catches up with the logical steps in life, and things begin to make more sense again.

We just do not know why suffering and disappointment happen, and anyone who has "lost" a child experiences that, except that we know that God is watching and will help. We do know it is how we manage the grief and suffering that is important to God, and that He watches and holds us, and lifts our arms up, and gradually we surmount the terrible burden, and "it is well" again, like the Shunem lady said. One of the sustaining thoughts to our faith in the grief over a 'lost' child, is that God knows best, and that after time, His time (which might be long, even after our deaths), He may see fit to bring back that 'lost' child. We may not be there, as was that relieved father of the prodigal, to welcome him home. The lesson in the prodigal son is (and we give the advice too), Never give up hope, while there is life.

*Sis Bev Russell (Hurstville, Australia)*

### **Brothers to Stay Together in Unity**

God wants His people to stay together in harmony, to love one another and work as a team. It is quite encouraging and admirable to be with brethren in the ecclesias.

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity!” (Psalms 133:1). God is pleased with our unity. We should be helpful to others for we share the same faith, but if we do not help them then we are like unbelievers (1 Tim 5:8). Brotherly love is encouraged to strengthen the bonds of unity among the believers. Love binds us together, so we ought to be peacemakers in order to be true children of God (Mat 5:9). True believers should always avoid the bitterness that causes trouble, because that defiles his people (Heb 12:15-16).

One who hates his brother is a murderer, and one who kills, eternal life does not abide in him (1 John 3:15-16). We, at times, have problems with our brothers and sisters; do we really feel happy when we see them? How do we go about fostering healthy relationships?

Abraham had a problem with his nephew Lot and his shepherds. But he told Lot to avoid quarrelling because they were relatives (Gen 13:8). What a wonderful example for us to emulate! We should have the same mind and the same judgement among us (1 Corinthians 1:10). To have different minds means that we are divided, and if the house is divided, then it will fall. Bitterness, wrath and anger, clamour and slander are to be put away from us, with all malice. We must be kind to one another, and forgiving as God in Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:31, 32).

Let us forgive one another, which is a key to eternal life. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins and it is only through this that we are counted worthy before the eyes of the Lord. Let us learn to forgive so that we are forgiven.

*Bro David Wanjala (Chwele, Kenya)*

### **Can We Be His Disciples?**

Think of what the Hebrew word “Cain” means - for he is alluded to by the Lord as the epitome of the “devil”, the “murderer from the beginning”, the archetypical sinner (Jn. 8:44 - perhaps

because Adam and Eve's sin was forgiven, whereas Cain was the first impenitent sinner). "Cain is defined on the basis of a double Hebrew etymology, as 'possession' (from *qana* = acquire) and 'envy' (from *qana* = be envious)" (1). Personal possession is almost – almost - inextricably linked with envy, and led to the lies and murder for which Cain was noted by the Lord. To have a strong sense of our personal 'possessions' will lead us into the same sins. Indeed, it's the epitome of 'the devil'. The concept of 'private property' is indeed a myth. For we die, and leave it all behind. The Mosaic law sought to teach this because, "The land is mine"; what appeared to be a 'sale' of property wasn't really a sale at all, quite simply because the land was God's (Lev. 25:13,23). And likewise our 'generosity', as David observed, isn't really that at all, for we only give God back what He has given us. In fact, when you think about it, the only 'thing' that Biblically a person can say is 'theirs' is their partner or family, even though these are also given of God. And so it's sadly understandable that a materialistic, wealthy society always becomes one that has a low estimate of the family unit and the exclusive sanctity of marriage.

Having said that, it is so hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom - as hard as for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle - the Lord comments that 'what is impossible with man, is possible with God' (Mk. 10:27). In first century Palestinian Judaism, this saying was a kind of figure of speech for describing a miracle. If any rich person gets into the Kingdom - it will be a miracle. That's what the Lord is saying. And He says it to us today. Generosity alone, of course, won't bring us into the Kingdom. It's not as if we can buy our way in. But there are major implications that our attitude to wealth is, in fact, a crucial indicator of whether or not we will be there. God richly gives things to *all of us*, Paul says; and by our being "liberal and generous [we] thus lay up for [ourselves] a good foundation for the future, so that [we] may take hold of the life which is life indeed" (1 Tim. 6:17-19). "The life which is life indeed" is not the lower middle class striving-for-security life of slowly saving and occasionally splashing out on something, building, building up, watching the interest slowly grow, worrying about inflation and the possible need for a new boiler or roof... Much as those things are all part of our human experience in this age, they're not "the life which is life indeed". That life begins now, in a counter-instinctive going against the grain of being generous. Making friends of the unrighteous mammon results in the man who had otherwise been somewhat weak in his stewardship being accepted in the end by the Master: "I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye shall fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations" (Lk. 16:9). "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Prov. 11:4). Riches kept in hand will not help us through the day of judgment. But righteousness - which in the Hebraic parallel in this verse refers to the correct use of riches - will deliver us from eternal death. And perhaps Prov. 13:8 also speaks of how our attitude to wealth is a crucial factor in our eternal destiny: "The ransom of a man's life are his riches". Just prior to that we read in Prov. 13:7: "There is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches". This verse is actually part quoted in 2 Cor. 8:9 and Phil. 2:7, about how on the cross, the Lord Jesus made himself poor, of no reputation, and now has been so highly exalted. Our living out of the Lord's cross is shown in our making of ourselves poor. That is surely the unmistakable teaching of this allusion.

Wealth is increasing in this world. Even a number who were previously without doubt 'poor' do in fact have enough over these days to buy a few of those extra luxuries with which the Western world is so obsessed. And many in the West end up receiving legacies from relatives, when they have already got themselves nicely established in life. They are strapped [in God's eyes] with extra cash. So are we to just hope on the Father doing a miracle to save us? Do we realize the grave importance of what the Lord is warning us of here? It seems to me that the Father has given us a way of escape. The enormous explosion of the Gospel in these last days has brought

forth a huge harvest of converts amongst the genuinely and desperately poor of this world. The blind and lame, as it were, have been herded into the feast, after so many others have rejected the call. And thanks to the communication revolution, our world-wide family can relatively easily respond to those needs. Is this not a wonderful, Divine way of escape for the 'richer' segment of the brotherhood? An escape, no less, from condemnation...?

But we are not to give for fear of condemnation. The spontaneity of giving is of course exemplified by the 'love communism' of the very early church. They just counted all that they had as "common". What they did was not organized, not compelled by a strict set of rules about giving [as e.g. in the contemporary Essene community, or as in the tithing churches of today]. It was a voluntary, sincere abandon of love and generosity and resignation of self. The early Christians "joyfully accepted the plundering of [their] property" by the state (Heb. 10:34). There was a *joy* felt amongst them because of their loss. This is a totally counter-instinctive feeling - to be *joyful* because you lost or gave away 'possessions'. The Philippians likewise gave out of a deep *joy* at giving away; the abundance of their joy resulted in their liberality (2 Cor. 8:2). And let's not think that the early church were necessarily all dirt poor. The Christians of Heb. 10:34 had property which was plundered - and still they gave support to the poor saints in Palestine (Heb. 6:10). A case could be made that Luke's account in his Gospel and in the Acts actually emphasizes how wealthy and middle class people came to the Lord - e.g. Joanna wife of Chuza, Cornelius the Centurion; Dionysius; Sergius Paulus, governor of Cyprus. Perhaps a reason for this was that he dedicated his works to the "noble" [Gk. 'well born', 'wealthy'] Theophilus (Luke 1:3). Luke, it seems to me, was writing to Theophilus because he wanted to convert him. And so he gives other examples of wealthy people who had also converted. He was urging the middle class to allow the radical call of Christ to reach to them.

Especially in our generation, we hold wealth - any wealth - in the full knowledge that our Lord could return at any moment. James 5:3 brings out the paradox - of hoarding up wealth for the last days! The Greek for 'hoarding up' means 'to reserve'. And this is just what our flesh tells us to do - reserve 'our' wealth for a rainy day, for long term security. It's as if James foresaw that in our last days this would be a particular temptation. In the context of writing about the approaching end of the age, Paul commented that because "the form of this world is passing away", therefore those who buy anything should "be as though they had no goods, and those who deal with this world as though they had no dealings with it" (1 Cor. 7:30). Of course, this was taught millennia ago by the Mosaic law of Jubilee - that whatever land was bought was not really theirs, because the land was and is God's. And again, we are not to be "anxious", because "the Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:5). And there is nothing like managing our 'wealth', however small it may be, to make us "anxious". Paul's not saying we shouldn't buy, sell or 'deal with this world'. He's saying we should do so *as if* we're not really doing so, as if it is all an act, a sleepwalk, something we do but our heart isn't in it.

I have at various times studied why the early church went wrong. How did the high idealism of Acts fritter away into the apostasy and hollow emptiness of 'mere Christianity'? One of the reasons seems to me to be associated with their attitude to wealth. The band of poor men who followed the Lord around Galilee were replaced by wealthy bishops and pontiffs. Even as early as AD 144, the Roman church gave Marcion 200,000 sesterces (Roman coins) when he left the church. This was a huge sum, enough with which to buy ships (2). Instead of meeting in homes, churches were built and lands acquired. Money and legacies were hoarded rather than spent. And, even worse, the *attitude* of the church leaders became obsessed with money. The writings of their leaders came to focus upon it quite wrongly. The so-called 'Acts of Peter' [written during

the second century] keep stressing how converted people supposedly gave all their money to Peter or to the church, encouraging readers to do likewise. According to this uninspired book, when the wealthy woman Chryse was converted, she supposedly gave 10,000 gold denarii to Peter in gratitude. This nonsense is quite sickening; it reflects nothing more than a greedy desire by church leaders to build up large capital. Such obsession with money on an organizational level will lead us astray too. Generous we must be, but directly to the poor and those in need.

So, should we literally 'sell all we have and give to the poor', as the Lord bids us, finally breaking out of the mire of middle class mediocrity by real, radical, concrete action, in obedience to our Lord? Nobody could really criticize anyone who did. For His words - from the lips of the Man who at times had not where to lay His head - hardly sound as though they were meant to be figurative. In my opinion, no amount of gymnastics with the text or exegetical tricks can legitimately rob those words of their obvious meanings. For those of us who can't fully rise up to them, I have to say [and I hope, desperately, this isn't mere sophistry] that there is a teaching that we should have *an attitude* to wealth that says: 'This doesn't exist... I don't *really* personally possess this'. In the early church, "no one *said* that any of the things which he possessed was his own" (Acts 4:32). I wonder - and maybe I'm clutching at straws and justifying us all - if the emphasis is upon the word "said". Their *attitude* was that they didn't personally possess anything. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, to buy and sell and deal in this world, as if we didn't really buy anything or gain a thing, as if it's all somehow performed by us as in a disconnected dream. And this is surely what the Lord was teaching us in Lk. 14:33: "Whoever of you does not *renounce* all that he has cannot be my disciple". Renouncing is something we do in our hearts and deepest feelings and attitudes. Have we truly *renounced* it all? Even if there are still bank balances and pension plans and property deeds and cars and treasured possessions... made out in our name, have we in our hearts, *renounced* them? They aren't *really* mine, I have no personal long-term security from them, because they're *not mine*, I'm just holding in stewardship what God gave me. And not DH but the Lord Himself drives the point home - if we have any *other* attitude to these wretched things, these *almost*-nooses around our necks, then we are *not* His disciples. It's one of the scariest thoughts for 21st century Christadelphia.

#### Notes

(1) Martin Hengel, *Property And Riches In The Early Church* (London: S.C.M., 1974) p.1.

(2) Adolf von Harnack, *Marcion* (Berlin, 1921) p. 24.

*Bro Duncan Heaster (Walton, UK & Riga, Latvia)*

#### **Jesus Helps the Needy**

Jesus Christ is the right person to follow in our lives as far as the truth is concerned. When he came into the world as the Son of God, he made the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the lame to walk the dumb to talk as well as raising the dead (Matt 11:2-6).

I share the faith of the Christadelphians since my baptism at the Buea-Tole ecclesia in 1998. I now belong to Buea-Wotutu ecclesia which I joined in 2003; there are 13 members. The love of our UK visiting brethren is much appreciated in Cameroon, but is yearly visiting, much as we appreciate it, right? The money saved could be used towards hospitals and schools.

We have a local problem at our ecclesia in Buea-Wotutu with our Sunday service. The neighbours play noisy radios, children cry and the landlord holds a family meeting so it is difficult to hold an effective meeting. With limited resources, should other areas in the world get a turn, and Cameroon manage with a visit every three or four years? I pray that my suggestion does not upset people, I am only trying to help everybody in love.

*Comment:* It is not easy to get a balance between spending money on visits and the further development of the Truth. I hear that in Cameroon when UK visitors arrive the attendances are very much higher, this indicates that the visits are very useful, indeed would the Truth have been established without the visits? MH

*Bro George Kum (Wotutu, Cameroon)*

### **Bush Camp, Fringilla, Zambia**

We thank God for His love in bringing us together as one with our Brothers and Sisters at the Bush Camp from July 19th-August 2nd. We enjoyed the company of Brothers and Sisters from the UK: Bro. Michael Owen, Bro. David and Sis. Linda Nicholls, Bro. Ben and Sis. Sara Brook and Sis. Katherine Simpson.



Left: Sis. Sara Brook, Bro. Ben Brook and Sis. Catherine Simpson

First study: Jethro and Family. Moses was an Egyptian prince from a Hebrew background (Acts 7:22-29). Though he was highly favoured and enjoyed the privileges of being Pharaoh's adopted grandson, he did not forget that he was a Hebrew, a descendant of Abraham and heir of Yahweh's promise to inherit the land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey. He had in mind that the pleasures of Egypt would pass away, but Yahweh's promise would endure for ever (Heb. 11:24-27).

When Moses was 40 years old he decided to visit his brethren. He saw an Egyptian ill-treating a Hebrew and he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he found two Hebrews fighting and tried to reconcile them, but the one in the wrong answered Moses with menacing words. Moses was terrorized and fled to Midian, where he eventually married Zipporah Jethro's (Ruel's) daughter (Ex. 2:11-21).

In Exodus ch.18 we read of Jethro visiting Moses and seeing him seated from morning till evening judging the people's disputes. Jethro then advised Moses to share his leadership with other Godfearing people, which he did. Due to this relationship of Moses and Jethro the Kenite, the descendants of Jethro became members of the Israelite congregation. Moses' good character motivated Jethro's family to unite with God's people. We should reflect God's character to people around, as Moses did (Num. 10:29-33; 1 Sam. 15:56; 1 Chron. 2:55; 2 Kings 10:15).

Second study: Joshua. This showed how Moses instructed his servant Joshua to rely upon God in all circumstances and to do His will (Deut. 25:17-19). Moses instructed Joshua and all the

congregation to remember how the Amalekites attacked them from behind, taking advantage of their weakness (Ex. 17:8,15-16). The Amalekites represent God's enemies, which God wants destroyed completely. We should always remember that God's people do not take advantage of weak people as the Amalekites did.

Israel endured hardship on their way to the Promised land and this happens to those of us who are spiritual Israel on our way to the Kingdom. We should help each other and strengthen our weak brethren (Heb. 12:11-12). We should avoid criticising our brethren and sisters and not follow Miriam and Aaron's example (Num. 12:1-15). We should leave some matters to God.

Third study: Korah, Dathan and Abiram. This began with the rebellion of the elders which Moses appointed over the people. Korah, Dathan and Abiram initiated this rebellion and with them were 250 community leaders. They envied Moses and wanted to replace God's worship with that of idol worship. But Moses shewed his humble attitude (Num. 16:1-5) and sought God's guidance, as we always should, standing away from bad company (v. 26).

Moses' love for his fellow brethren is shewn when God wanted to destroy all the community; he prayed for them and God heard his prayer (Num. 16:21-23). As God's flock we have to stand aside whenever bad leaders entice us to rebel against God. This characteristic is shewn by Korah's sons who stood aside when Moses told the assembly to step aside. Even though their leader, Korah, died, they went on living, for God provided Phinehas who became their leader. They entered the promised land and became gatekeepers of God's temple under the banner of Phinehas (1 Chron. 9:19-20).



Bro. Michael Owen speaking to the audience

Fourth study: Daughters of Zelophehad. Numbers 27:1- begins with Zelophehad's family tree. They were five and came to Moses to claim their inheritance among their fellow brethren in their clan. Here we learn how faith influenced Joseph their ancestor, which he passed on to his descendants in that they wanted to get their inheritance among their clan. God promised them husbands within their clan. Because of their faith God cared for them.

We should do the same. Joseph reminded them before his death saying that God would help them to come out of Egypt, the house of bondage, to the land of Promise. The faith of Joseph influenced the five daughters of Zelophehad through their lives (Gen. 50:22-25). In like manner we should be wise (as the five wise virgins –Zelophehad's daughters) - so that when the bridegroom returns to take his bride, we will have part in the rejoicing and share his glory.



Bro & Sis. Watson (Solwezi ecclesia) and, right, Bro. Herbert Tigerepasi (Matero ecclesia)

*Bro R Miwele (Kitwe, Zambia)*

## **Exhortation: Be of Good Cheer**

Reading: Mark 6:45-52

There is a phrase that occurs seven times in the New Testament, namely, “Be of good cheer” or “Be of good courage”. It is used for people in trouble. Jesus loves you! He comes to you saying: “Be of good cheer (or courage); it is I, be not afraid”.

Life is full of storms of uncertainty, disappointments and sorrows. Never before have there been so many people who are depressed or just feel ‘down’. Is this your problem? Do you feel that no one loves you and that you just don’t count for anything? If this describes you, ‘cheer up’ because Jesus knows your problems and why you have them.

Once when Jesus’ disciples were in a ship on the Sea of Galilee, a violent storm arose. Jesus, a short time before, had provided food for more than 5,000 people from a boy’s lunch of five loaves and two fish. He did this miracle to show the people that he was the Jew’s Messiah and the Saviour of the whole world. After this meal he told the disciples to get into a ship and cross the sea to the town of Bethsaida while he sent the people away.

When the people were gone, he went to a mountain to pray. It was late in the night when Jesus finished praying. As he looked across the water, he saw the disciples fighting for their lives in the storm. After the disciples had been on the water for about eight hours, Jesus went to them. Even though the water was tossing high with waves, Jesus walked without difficulty. It was around three o’clock in the morning when he came close to them and would have walked past them.

As he continued walking, they saw him and screamed out in fear. Jesus went to them saying, “Be of good cheer; it is I: be not afraid”. When he got into the ship the wind and storm ceased. The disciples were so startled at what was happening, they didn’t know what to do. The Bible says they had forgotten the miracle of Jesus feeding the huge crowd and their hearts were dull at this time toward Jesus and his teachings.

Our lives, in many ways, may be like a sea voyage. There are many waves, dangers, disappointments and depressions. These, and other troubles, may sweep over us as waves mount over a small ship. If we take Jesus on board it will be a very different experience than trying to cross life’s sea alone. Without him, we will make shipwreck of your lives; with him, our voyage may only seem rough but he will calm the storms. If we allow him to stay in our lives and obey his orders, he will bring us to the end of our voyage, to his haven of safety.

Jesus knew long ago that our lives would have times of distress. He said to his followers and says to us: “In the world ye shall have tribulation (trouble and sorrow): but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). If we are not Christians, this assurance does not apply. In order for his delivering power to be effective in our lives, we must allow him to enter our lives and take control. Remember, the stormy sea became calm once Jesus entered the ship.

The life of the sinner is shown in Isaiah 57:20, 21 “The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked”. Maybe we have gone astray and want the peace in our lives that only Jesus can give. Let us ask him now. Come back to him and ask him to enter our hearts. To do this we must pray the sinner’s prayer: “God, be merciful to me a sinner”. The tax collector knew this prayer (Luke 18:13). God will come to our lives with calmness more real than the calm of the sea. The

apostle Paul speaks of this peace in Philippians 4:7: “The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”.

As Christians, we may have times of storm and unrest. This may be caused by the cooling of our relationship with Jesus. He wants us to be hot in our relationship with him. In speaking to the church of the Laodiceans in the book of Revelation, he said: “I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (spit) thee out of my mouth” (Rev 3:15, 16).

If this condition makes Jesus sick, it is no wonder that a man feels as though he is in a storm when this condition exists. It may be that Jesus allows times of testing. He brings circumstances into our lives to show us our direct dependence on him for everything. He may have caused the storm on the sea to test the faith of his disciples. Jesus watched them during the storm, perhaps waiting for them to call on him for help. Why does Jesus allow such times of testing to come on those he loves? He knows that even as Christians we have a tendency toward sin and selfishness. Even at our best we cannot live a righteous life in our own strength.

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah said in a prayer: “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). We can surely see from this scripture that we must receive our guidance and strength from God. The apostle James says: “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8). Jesus has done so much for us by showing us how to live a life pleasing to God. He died on the cross to give his blood as an offering to God for our sins. He has done all he can without running against our free will. So, when he comes to our life with tests, don’t let us do as the disciples did, cry out in fear, thinking he has come to harm us. Be sure we are in the right relationship with him when the waves of testing come so that we can grow in our faith and closer in our walk with him. For the disciples, the storm in their hearts was more frightening than the storm on the sea. As Christians we should not let outward conditions affect the peace in our hearts. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee” (Isa 26:3).

Another reason Jesus allows testing times is to teach us faith so that we can help other Christians in their testing times. The Bible says that God, “comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Cor 1:41). When testing comes, the Bible has many promises of God’s care. God allowed difficult times in king David’s life. Sometimes when David sinned, God worked in his life to bring him to see where he stood with Him. Often it seems David allowed his troubles to get him ‘down’. He wrote in the Psalms of his struggle: “Why standest thou afar off, O Lord? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1). “How long wilt thou forget me, ...how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?” (Psalm 13:1). “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ( Psalm 22:1).

But then David speaks of the greatness of God being with him and delivering him: “In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple and my cry did enter into his ears” (2 Samuel 22:7) He also wrote, “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous (Ps 34:15). Now read Psalm 23 to find more of the care God provides. Remember, Jesus said, “Be of good cheer”. This means “Be cheerful”. Are our troubles too much for us to handle? If they are, we can be sure Jesus can help. He said, “ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me: for I am

meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Mat 11:28-30).

When troubles come, “Be of good cheer”. They need not lead to despair. Jesus is more real to us even than our troubles. Remember, he walks on the waves to deliver us. They will pass but he will stay with us. But we are so often absorbed with our own affairs, trying our best to steer straight, anxiously watching the events around us, and allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed.

We may be so taken up with the things around us that we have no time to look across life’s waters to see who is coming through the storm to help us. We must keep our eyes and total attention on the only one who can help us. God said to people who turned from Him: “In returning and rest ye shall be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15).

Are we always aware of Jesus’ presence with us? Is he really our best friend? A favourite hymn of many is:

“What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear,  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear!  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer”.

If our troubles are great, we must call on Jesus, he will answer and help us. We may want to go to a Christian friend for help. He may have had victory over similar experiences in his life. Let us tell him our problem and then pray together and gain encouragement from Jesus’ words, “Be of good cheer; it is I. Be not afraid”. In Matthew 9:1-13, a lesson was left for us all. Whatever our weaknesses, whatever the sins we commit, we could not have a more understanding God, and a more fervent Saviour and mediator.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”(1 John 1:9). That paralyzed man, forgiven his sins, was able to jump for joy. The realization of the marvel of forgiveness we received should cause us to end each day happy in the knowledge that we have been so privileged. (Matt 14:23).presents the Lord as a solitary figure, in a lonely place, under a full moon, conversing with God. Alone one can experience a greater frankness and earnestness, it may be that prayer is more effectual as the mind is not encumbered or distracted.

“Be of good cheer”. How can we respond to it unless we read and live this word each day? How can God listen to us if we seldom bow in prayer? How can He answer if there is no plea from us? God is more than aware of all that we do. So if there is a solid faith now, with no wavering on the way to Zion, if we live our lives to the glory of God and to the praise of His dear Son, He will be pleased with us. As we come to the emblems of the Lord’s sacrifice, we think of that surge of joy for us all, as we are welcomed by our Lord, “Be of good cheer”; and the kingdom will be ours.

*Bro Thomas Radido (Mombasa, Kenya)*

**The Day and the Hour Not Known**

Brothers and sisters, let us keep watch, for no one knows the day or hour our Lord Jesus will come. If we are not prepared, we will be like the foolish of the ten virgins who carried lamps without oil and went to meet the bridegroom. When the bridegroom was coming, the foolish asked oil from the wise, but the wise replied that there may not be enough for both of them. While the foolish were going to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived and those who were ready (the wise) went in with him to the wedding banquet and the door was shut. When they came back they said, "Sir! Sir! open the door for us, but he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you'".

That's how it is going to be when the Son of Man comes. So, brethren and sisters, let us not look back. Whatever we do or say should come from our Lord Jesus Christ. We should keep our lamps burning like saints waiting for their Master, so that when he comes and knocks, we can immediately open the door. Also, let us keep ourselves in God's love as we wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the time of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. Brethren and sisters, let us watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be *fully* rewarded

*Bro Emmanuel Kondowe (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)*

### **Fulfilling Our Vows**

When we were without God in this world and foreigners (aliens) to the commonwealth of Israel, God in His mercy, sent His beloved son, Jesus, who redeemed us from the curse of sin (Eph2:12; Romans 5:8). And God is not willing for any to perish but for everyone to come to repentance. So, as we all know, our sins can only be forgiven through acknowledging the work and sacrificial death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For whoever calls on the name of the Lord will never be disappointed. We came to be spiritual Israel when we put on the name of Jesus through baptism, thereby putting off our old selves and becoming new creatures in the Lord (2 Cor. 5:17). It means at that time we vowed to God that we would serve Him and obey Him in all He required of us. But sadly we do fail to fulfil our vow by not doing the will of God.

Remember what happened to the Israelites in the wilderness when they failed to fulfil their vow. Yet reading through (Ex. 19:7,8) we are told that Israel agreed to do all that God commanded them, but then later on they rebelled against Him by turning away from Him (Ex. 32:8). In (Numbers 14:21-23) we see how that all those who had seen the good acts of God were not allowed to enter the land of Canaan. Equally, if we fail to remain faithful to God and His promises, we will be left out of the Kingdom of God, which He has promised to those who love Him.

All that happened to Israel happened as examples (1 Cor. 10:6) to us that we should not set our hearts on evil things as they did. If we do not circumcise our hearts and remain faithful to our Heavenly Father, then He will reward us according to our works (Rom. 2:6). What we sow is what we shall reap (Gal. 6:8). Let us all fix our eyes on the future Kingdom of God. We need to make sure that we adhere to the things of God. The order of these present things is passing away (1 John 2:17), therefore we need to repent of our failings and remain faithful as we wait eagerly and patiently for the restitution of all things.

*Bro. Paul Chembe (Lusaka, Zambia)*

### **Study Week in Solo Indonesia.**

The Study Week had been held in Solo Indonesia during the holiday of the students on the 6th - 10th of July 2005, it was attended by the brethren and sisters from Australia, Singapore, Japan and Hongkong. The last day 10th was held on the slope of Mountain Lawu (village Tawangmangu) that is about 42 km from Solo. The topic of the Study Week was "The Early Days (Acts 1 – 7)" it invited many questions to discuss, really very interesting. Bro John Gilmore who had written this topic said that it was very important to discuss because many churches think that the gift of Holy Spirit is still happening nowadays, so this Study Week was the right time to let us know that the gift of Holy Spirit is no more. The next Study Week will be held in July 2006, so the brethren and sisters who read the *Gospel News* could attend this to encourage the brethren and sisters in Indonesia.

Bro John Bounaparte from Singapore was very happy and enjoyed the Study Week and he has promised to come the next Study Week with his family.

*Bro Sigit G Sugiarto*

### **Paul Learned the Secret of Contentment**

The apostle Paul explained in his letter to the Philippians, "I know indeed how to be low on provisions, I know indeed how to have an abundance. In everything and in all circumstances I have learned the secret of both how to have abundance and how to suffer want" (4:12). Paul sounds so confident, so optimistic it would be easy to assume that his life was rosy when he wrote these words, but not so. He was in prison in Rome – Philippians 1:12-14.

Given that sobering fact, this passage speaks powerfully on the issue of contentment not only with material possessions but with circumstances as well. Extremes of wealth or hardship can test our priorities. Paul spoke of spiritual resources that enabled him to be content regardless of material circumstances: "For all things I have strength by virtue of God who imparts power to me" (Philippians 4:13). Rather than looking to his possessions, many or few, or to his circumstances, good or bad, Paul looked to God to satisfy his needs. The result was contentment. Paul's example was especially important to Timothy. The apostle urged the young man to pursue a life-style that put godly devotion and a close relationship with God before wealth.

*Bro Moses Dhlakama (Rimbi, Zimbabwe)*

## Being a Refugee

We have Jacob being away from home (a refugee) in Haran, as some of you Brothers and Sisters are away from your own countries. As we read in Gen.27:41-45, Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of a *blessing* his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then will I slay my brother Jacob.” You are away, Brothers and Sisters, because of your *belief* in the Son of God, as the Esau of today they have held a grudge against your *belief and faith in Jesus*.

When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, “Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. Now then, my son, do what I say; flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran, stay with him for a while until your brother’s fury subsides. When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I’ll send word for you to come back from there: why should I lose both of you in one day?”

In Gen. 28:3-4 we read, “May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your number until you become a community of people; may he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien (refugee), the land God gave to Abraham.” But, Brothers and Sisters, no one has sent you in the way Jacob was sent and blessed by his father, you have just run away from your homeland because of your belief and faith in the Son of God; Jacob went away because of a blessing.

Verse 20, “Then Jacob made a vow saying, If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear, so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the Lord will be my God. And this stone that I have set up as a pillar, will be God’s house, and of all that you give me will I give a tenth.” And I know that you are saying similar words in your way in an unknown land.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I know wherever you are going you don’t know who will welcome you – like Jacob, as we see in Gen. 29:13-14, “As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he hurried to meet him. He embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his home, and there Jacob told him all those things, then Laban said to him, “You are my own flesh and blood.” To you Brothers and Sisters who are on the run to unknown lands, who is welcoming you and saying, “You are my own flesh and blood”? I know the Lord God is always with you.

In Gen. 29: 15-20, Laban said to Jacob, “Just because you are *a relative* of mine should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your *wages* should be”. The wages of Jacob was Laban’s daughter. Wherever you are today what are your *wages*? Gen 32:9-11. Then Jacob prayed, “O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, Go back to your country and relatives, and I will make you prosper; I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only a staff when I crossed the Jordan, but now I have become two groups. Save me, I pray, from the hands of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me and also the mothers with their children” If the Lord God saved Jacob from the hand of his brother Esau is He not going to save you in the same way? In Gen. ch.33 we see how the Lord’s hands work: Jacob looked up and there was Esau, “And Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him: and they

wept.” (vs 1-4). Brothers and Sisters, one day those who are looking for your life to kill you, the same Lord whose hands saved Jacob will do the same to you.

Verses 10 and 11, “No, please, said Jacob, If I have found favour in your eyes accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God now that you have received me favourably. Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it. One day you will go back to your own countries and you will say the same words as Jacob said to his brother and will give a gift to your own people who are hunting you and your gift will be the goodness of our Lord Jesus the Son of God.

*Bro. Harris Mulongesha (Ndola, Zambia)*

### **Let your light shine**

One of the points brought out in an encouraging exhortation recently, was King Josiah's outstanding faith in attempting a spiritual revival in a society darkened by sin and gross corruption from the throne to the dunghill. Then there was Jeremiah's persistence for many years, in continuing to preach despite the fierce opposition with which he was confronted. These were daunting tasks in situations which seemed so hopeless.

I got to thinking that they were like those tiny night lights in a large dark area. The darker the area, it is amazing how the more these lights become visible. Jesus was not a recognized personality in the dark world of his day, yet look at the impact he has made in this world of sin. His light still shines brightly, enlightening the path leading to the Kingdom. Likewise his disciples who were scattered because of persecution, were able to spread the gospel. I think of Moses, scorned by the powerful Pharaoh, but whose feeble light invaded the darkness of the kingdom of Egypt, becoming brighter as he advanced with God's commission.

In various parts of the world the light of the gospel, although disregarded by the dark world, still shines, revealing God's purpose to those who are seeking. When we are tempted to give up because of apparent lack of interest in our proclamation of God's Word, it is strengthening to remember that the light we bear is not our own feeble human light, but the light of God that shone in the darkness even from the beginning, bringing light and life. The light we bear - the word of God reflected in our character and uttered by us - is just as powerful and penetrating and effective and will accomplish God's will if we do not give in to our own negativity, but maintain the courage to keep shining.

*Sis. Esther Worrell (Canada)*

## **Your Life is a Posted Letter**

It was the way I received an empty envelope that made me realize the value of a letter - the envelope was well stamped and addressed but there was nothing inside.

We all write letters, and we pop the letter into an envelope and post it. The recipient receives and opens the envelope, takes the letter out and throws the envelope into the dustbin, as its purpose has been completed, but the inner message is carefully gone through.

This is what our lives are like, a *letter* sent to God, enclosed in an envelope – the body. To this body we add our own stamp, our decoration and we give it all the necessary care and attention. To get our bodies right we may travel far and near, achieving much (or little) in the social, economic, educational and cultural trends of this world. We tend to forget the only thing of value in us is the inner contents and not the outward show of the envelope of our bodies, which in the end are dropped into the dustbin (the grave). The letter which contains our inward heart and character is carefully considered by the *Almighty God*.

Our life may not be as empty as we think. We might have been engaged in all types of events that make life apparently full and promising. Sometimes, we may have dismissed an invitation of a friend with the words, ‘I’m too busy, I cannot come, so please have me excused’. But in God’s estimation we were busy doing nothing. What are we so busy doing about the Truth? Suddenly at Jesus coming there will be no opportunity of retracing our steps. Like the postage stamp on the envelope it’s only valued for one way. Like the foolish virgins one may beg for mercy but it will be *too late*.

So let us beware and consider these things. Why don’t we give our hearts and minds to Christ who says “... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). Why not acknowledge him as our Lord and Saviour before your inner soul – *the letter* – gets to his hands. What profit does it give us to decorate the envelope (our bodies) with all care, and find out at the end of life’s journey that the letter (your inner soul) is what the receiver values “... for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Gen 3:19). So, let us confess to Jesus the worthlessness of our past life and accept him as the right owner of our life-long letter of dedication to him.

*Bro Gaurd Momba (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## **Sarajevo (Bosnia) Chicken Project**

June 2005

We have been receiving reports of the seriousness of the situation some of our brethren in Bosnia are in. The country remains divided into three, Serb, Croat and Bosnian, with three presidents, and the factions held apart by UN forces still in place despite active conflict having ceased. Wages are often not paid, and corruption is endemic. One brother lives in great poverty in a house once owned by Serbs. The Serbs fled leaving the house empty. Our brother's family home was destroyed, and therefore he's now living in the deserted house. He works in the mine, in terrible conditions, and even then is often not paid his wages due to corruption. The suggestion has been made that we support the brethren in starting a chicken breeding project. They would get, say, 100 chicks and feed them according to a well tried programme for 55 days and then re-sell them. This suggestion has been carefully looked into. Needs for fencing and

electric light and re-selling have been considered. Two British brethren recently visited Sarajevo and held a study weekend, enthusiastically attended by all the brethren baptized in Bosnia. Our brethren's conclusion was that the chicken project is viable and worth doing. In addition, the detailed plans for the project were submitted to two brethren in Australia, one a vet, the other a businessman. After a lot of discussion with the brethren in Bosnia the Australian brethren, too, conclude the project is viable and has been well thought out.



*A Bosnian Brother with the chickens he is raising*

July 2005 We have been most encouraged by your support of the appeal for our needy brethren in Bosnia and their plan to raise chickens. Duncan and Cindy having spent some time down there with the project, we are now going to report to you in some detail about everything. We feel this is a really worthwhile project - giving brethren a fishing rod rather than a fish - a path to self-support, and it may be feasible to run this project elsewhere.

So, thanks to the initiative of brethren in Australia, a document was produced explaining in detail how to raise chickens, from buying them as day-old chicks, through an intensive program of feeding, until they can be sold or slaughtered at 45 days. It was explained how hygiene was essential, how to feed them, the requirements for warmth and lighting and other conditions. Our thanks go out to brethren Joel Pickering and Peter Finnan for their massive assistance.

We're proud of our brethren for conscientiously following all the guidelines. Br. Mustafa constructed a shed as stipulated, insulating the wood with cardboard and then plastic sheeting. He then ran some power cables to it, and installed the electric bulbs, only a few cm. above the heads of the chicks. The bulbs are on 24 hours, providing both light and heat to the chicks.

We had to buy 'grader' feed for the chicks, which they eat for the first 20 days, and then a more advanced feed for the final 25 days. With the feed; and the home made feeding drums. Under this regime, the chicks grow at an amazing rate. Mustafa and Zehra [his wife] made some feeding drums, but they still have to re-fill them every two hours. So Zehra is going down to the chickens every two hours, and cleaning out the place twice a day. This is a major thing for her to do, being pregnant, and as the chicks are located 5-10 minutes walk up the mountain from their home. They are simply so appreciative. They have very little to give by way of appreciation, and so they gave us a cup which had been in their family for generations and had been passed on to them. It was really very touching, to see how much they valued the effort made. The very fact they are making such round-the-clock effort with the chicks indicates, too, how much it all means to them and how seriously they are taking it all.

PROGRESS REPORT At the present moment, the chicks have been growing for 15 days, and are now weighing around 100 grams. Only 3 chicks of 100 have died, which is apparently a very good ratio. Every two hours Zehra or Mustafa check for sick or dead chicks, to get them out before they contaminate the others- chicks are very prone to disease. Of course they are eagerly looking forward to day 45 when they can sell the chickens.

August 2005: We are delighted to report that the chickens have now grown, with very few deaths, have been killed and sold. Our brethren are feeling their way at every stage of the

project, and it was a bigger job than they realized to convert 2 kilogram chickens into meat ready for sale. They had to be killed, have their feathers plucked and unsaleable parts removed, then washed and sold. The final killing of the chickens was a rather messy business - the brethren described it in appropriate Bosnian terms as 'the genocide of the chickens'. However the job was done and now all the chickens have been sold, some in bulk, others in ones and twos to local people.

Latest news is that the brethren are ploughing the money back into buying more day-old chicks, to repeat the project one more time this year before the snow comes and it will be too cold. There are other groups of brethren & sisters in other countries who could run such a project now it's been pioneered. Any donations to enable this can be sent to Carelinks, FAO Brother John Thatcher, PO Box 152, Menai Central NSW 2234 AUSTRALIA



*Selling the chickens*

#### *Summary from various Carelink Reports*

### **Key to Answered Prayer**

There are some precious secret words of inspiration to encourage us to stand firm and strong in the Lord Jesus Christ, which we want to share. (Mat 6:7-15). The few words of the Lord's prayer span the spectrum of God's purpose and concern for humanity. They sweep from the majesty of God in heaven to the earthly details of daily need. Upholding the highest ideals while recognizing the realistic obstacles of human temptation and failure, the Lord's prayer searches us, inspires us and empowers us.

Jesus gave us the Lord's prayer not only as a specific text to be recited, but as a model for our own prayers. God is not manipulated by rote exercises or mechanical prayers, and the Lord's prayer gives us a basic pattern that will deepen and enrich all of our prayers.

"Our Father in heaven" (Mat 6:9). Prayer begins with our adoption and acceptance as God's children. The Creator loves us and desires to answer the requests of His children.

"Hallowed be your Name" The third commandment speaks against misusing God's Name (Exodus 20:7); it refers to more than just using His Name as an expletive. It includes associating God's Name with anything that demeans, devalues or dishonours Him. We sometimes do this not only with our lips but with our lives.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (verse 10). This is our highest goal, that for which we should pray and strive. God's agenda must set our agenda.

“Give us our daily bread” (verse 11). Jesus assures us that if God’s Kingdom is our primary concern, He will provide for our needs from day to day: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mat 6:33).

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (verse 12). The grace of God shown to us must show through us to others. If we hold grudges, our hands and hearts are not free to receive God’s mercy.

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (verse 13). God is the great guardian of our lives. He is more powerful than anything that can come against us. He will not allow us to experience anything beyond our ability to bear: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Cor 10:13). These few words of the Lord’s prayer provide us with a comprehensive pattern for prayer that can help us thoughtfully bring our requests before God.

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him” (Mat 6:5-8).

Public prayer has been distorted and abused. Some individuals use majestic, religious jargon that often impresses people, but doesn’t impress God. Others think that the key to receiving an answer to prayer is repetition, using the same words and phrases over and over. Such an attitude reduces prayer to the level of a chant or mantra, which assumes that prayer has more to do with technique than with the heart. True heart to heart communication with God, whether private or public, is rewarded and will have a profound effect on our spiritual growth.

In Mat 6:9-13 Jesus gave his disciples a model prayer to follow. This prayer, however, is more than just a model for our lives. We must acknowledge and praise God’s supremacy and desire that His Kingdom enter our world. Looking to God for our daily provision, we must ask for forgiveness of our sins while forgiving those who have wronged us. God also wants us to ask for protection from the evil temptations that we face each day. Let us seek to serve God by both praying these things and living them out in our daily lives.

True forgiveness is an essential part of our obedience to God (Mat 6:12-14). We often experience difficulty in releasing our inward anger and bitterness toward those who have mistreated us. Yet asking God to forgive our shortcomings and sins is hypocritical unless we are willing to forgive others: “forbearing one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Col 3:13). We forfeit forgiveness from God by denying forgiveness to others. Such an attitude is selfish and self-destructive.

Jesus made it clear that living for personal gain only leads to great anxiety (Mat 6:19-34). Materialism and anxiety are two enemies to spiritual growth, working together to lead us away from a balanced life. We need to realize that the essence of life is not found in the possession of things, nor worrying about the future. We must trust God to take care of us. God promises to provide for our needs, for He loves us and gives His children good gifts (Luke

11:13). “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13).

Putting it into practice What limits have you put on God that weaken your faith and hinder your prayer? How does your way of life honour God’s Name? What situations are currently dishonouring it? In what ways is God working through you now? Choose one activity that dominates your time and interest, and pray instead, for a period of time. Ask God to make your prayer a time of spiritual renewal. May good health and God’s blessing rest firmly upon us all as we wait patiently for the coming of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. May we all be found in the Kingdom.

*Bro Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)*

### **Why Study the Book of Revelation**

This book was given to us if we are his servants. Those things were not known to Jesus during the time he was flesh and blood. But when he was glorified, God revealed them to Jesus, so that we can know what the future holds for us.

Read Mat 28:18; 11;27; Rev 1:1-4. If we think carefully on these verses we learn that it is not everyone who can understand this book. Three things are needed: to study, to search and to understand. That is why the Lord has given us minds to think and ponder. Otherwise if we become lazy we will get nothing from this book. We should strive according to the rules of the scriptures.

Please note: the book of Revelation is for those who devote themselves to reading scripturally and have become servants of God. Remember that during 29 to 70 AD the gospel was preached to the whole Roman Empire and ecclesias were formed. This is why John was told to write to seven churches. Having spent so many years in the things of God, some were able to understand the book of Revelation. Rewards were promised to those who overcame the flesh. “Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy” (Revelation 1:3).

So what do you think?

1. Do you find difficulty in having an interest in studying this book?
2. If so, why?
3. Are you concluding that you are not one of his servants?

My suggestion is that you read the daily readings every day. If the Lord tarries, you may find that scripture interprets scripture. The book of Revelation needs to be interpreted with the whole of scripture in order to understand the symbols and signs.

*Bro Nelson Bwalya (Kitwe, Zambia)*

## **The Unity of the Church**

I never remember a word in the Bible telling us as Christians to be more than one church. No, we must be one church as we are one body. What I do not understand, is where did we get all the 'churches' from - it's clear that I mean the kind of doctrines the false churches teach, when Jesus our Lord told Peter about the church, that He would build it on the foundation of the doctrine he gave to Peter and all the apostles (Matt.16: 18). You see brothers, the Lord mentioned one church not many. And He gave us one doctrine not many, He taught us one way not many. To be one church was His demand. If we are children of God the Father, and Jesus is the head of the body, then we should be one body with different members, we should think and act like him.

So, where did we get those teachings that in one way or another drive people from the truth Jesus taught us? Another question is, Why do we have so many thoughts that do not belong to our Lord Jesus? We have one God the Father. Let us try to remember this, that any doctrines that are not matched with Jesus' teachings are from the flesh. My prayer today is to be united in Jesus and his word, not go after what others say. His word is alive, never changes and is for ever, so let us abide in him. God bless all brothers and sisters everywhere.

*Bro. Bassam (Jordan)*

## **"I am the resurrection and the life"**

Jesus paid a great price for us to have a great hope, He paid the price by His blood, and so we should want to eagerly believe in this hope and live as people who have it. Because he was resurrected, we also will be. However, we can have a part in the new life which He received after resurrection, right now. People have many vague hopes for their future, but our hope is one only the resurrection. Peter says that through the resurrection of Jesus, we are born again to a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3).

Through the resurrection of Christ, God showed all of humanity that there is hope of new life, there is a better way to live. But Christ was resurrected because of the life that He had lived; it was not possible for the grave to hold Him. So Jesus showed us the path, the process, that through death we should come to life. But the process is not exactly the same, because we didn't live the life He lived, and so we ourselves aren't worthy of such resurrection. We only can have it through faith in God's grace, through baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection, through realizing that we need Him to be our Saviour. But all the same, 1 Cor. 15:23 says that Christ is the firstfruits, and just as surely as He was resurrected, so we too will be. So, if we believe in His resurrection, we should just as surely believe that we too will be raised. But we can only justifiably have this certainty if we have repented, if we have realized that we ourselves are not worthy of it, and that we so need identification with His resurrection in order to share in it ourselves.

If we do this, then we can take comfort from John 11:25, which says that whoever believes in Jesus even if he dies, he will live again, and never die. So we surely do believe in Jesus, that He was perfect whereas we are not, that He is open to our having a part in Him, and we have shown this by being baptized. Therefore we can look forward positively to being in the Kingdom of God,

the eternal life which will follow our resurrection, seeing that we believe that we will stand justified before God - just as Jesus Christ stood justified before Him - because we are in Christ.

*Bro. Gennady (Poltava, Ukraine)*

### **World Population**

According to the United Nations the global population in 1950 was 2,519,470,000 and it is now 6,464,750,000. That is an average annual compound increase of 1.73%. Let us assume the growth rate from Adam and Eve was the same, that's compound interest at 1.73% on 2 for 6000 years. Who will give me an answer and the possible reason for the difference between the answer and the current world population? MH

### **Education is Important for Children**

All Christians need to advance in Bible knowledge if they are to please God (Philippians 1:9-11; 1 Thes 4:1). Diligent use of the scriptures and Bible-based study aids can promote spiritual progress. Since God has provided His written word, He expects His worshippers to be as literate as possible. Reading the Bible with understanding makes it easier to apply its counsel. Of course, we may have to read portions of it more than once to absorb points and be able to meditate on the (Psalms 119:104; 1435; Proverbs 4:7).

Each year, God's people receive hundreds of pages of helpful written material prepared under the direction of the faithful and discreet servant (Mat 24:45-47). Such literature deals with family life, customs, religion and many other subjects. Most important, it contains scriptural counsel on spiritual matters. If your children are not able to read, they will be deprived of much vital information.

Learning the history of mankind is important because it helps to understand why there is need for God's Kingdom. A basic knowledge of geography is also desirable. The Bible speaks of many places, such as Israel, Egypt, and Greece. Is your child able to locate them on a world map? Can they find their own country?

Education is not for employment only: many people feel that the main purpose of education is to earn money. Yet some educated people are unemployed or do not earn enough to meet basic needs. Some parents may therefore think that it is not beneficial to send a child to school. But schooling does more than prepare someone to make money; it equips children for life in general (Ecclesiastes 7:12). If persons can speak, read and write the official language of the country in which they live, dealing with medical personnel, civic authorities or bank employees becomes easier, even routine, rather than frightening.

*Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## Letter from Kenya Coastal Area

I want to thank all who are involved in the production of *Gospel News* which I receive regularly. Really '*Gospel News*' is a good magazine on my side. I was happy to hear that it is continuing. It unites all faithful readers by the testimonies, information and activities from all corners of the world.

Also I was happy and much excited with the book 'Women in the Church'

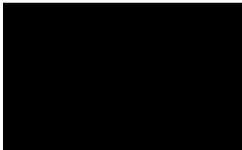
Let me say a little about the book: It teaches what the apostle Paul has to say about women in the church. One of my friends read it and found that it was true. It is very wrong to ordain women to lead a church.

It was the end of March and the beginning of April that Bro Alan led a team from the UK to Mwandeo Ecclesia where all the coastal ecclesias met for three days for Bible study. We had many different lessons but the one that particularly stimulated everybody was about Ephesians 6:13-17.



Lastly, on 1 April we witnessed 14 baptisms from 3 ecclesias: Mwandeo, Mafisini (Land of Hyenas) and Mombasa. In the picture you see our new Sister Parmella Radido, wife of Bro Thomas Radido of Mombasa (back row, first from right) and Mary Mutunga of Mwandeo (front row, first from right), who decided to follow in the faith of her parents after counselling. After the baptisms, we all went back to the meeting hall and broke bread and drank wine with the newborn members in Christ.

May we all pray for their new lives, walking towards the kingdom. Amen.



*Bro Alan teaching from Ephesians 6:13-17 with the aid of a model*



*Fourteen new born Brethren and Sisters April 2005*



*Singing to the Lord. L-R Bro Daniel, Sis Ann, Bro Alan, Sis Sarah, Bro Andrew and his wife and Bro Zakayo Mutunga*

*Bro Edward Kunina (Mombasa)*

## For Us Today

People today who claim to be following the Bible must also work out in detail how to love God and how to love their neighbours. If our nation is organized in such a way that the wealth is enjoyed by a few while most of the people are poor, we are not loving our neighbours. If our churches are only giving their members the chance to enjoy music and meet friends, we are not loving God.

The books of the law in the Old Testament show us that every detail of our lives – in our homes, in our economics, in our eating, in our praying, in our politics and in our social life – must express our love for God and for other people.

We cannot do this in exactly the same way as people did in Old Testament days, but we must do it in a twenty-first-century way today. Is it that we refuse to read the Old Testament laws because we do not let our love for God and other people affect everything we do? Is it that we want to keep God out of our money or our sex life or our politics or our studies? The Bible laws show that we cannot do that. Read Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7; see how Jesus deepens Old Testament laws. See how he stresses what is “in the heart” – our attitudes, intentions and motives.

*Bro Willies Simobwe (Chambishi, Zambia)*

## The Letter to the Hebrews

The writer to the Hebrews does not identify himself, although his reference in 1:1 to “*our forefathers*” is an indication that he was a Jew, or Hebrew, like those to whom he was writing. The writer is usually thought to have been Paul who calls himself “*Hebrew of the Hebrews*” (Philippians 3:5), but Apollos born in Alexandria and Barnabas a Levite have also been suggested, both were also Jews (Acts 18:24; 4:6).

Knowing who wrote the letter is not nearly as important for us as the teaching it contains. At the end (13:22) the writer describes what he has written as a “*short letter*” containing “*my word of exhortation*.” What is his “*exhortation*” or encouragement? We must remember that the original readers of this letter had been born Jews and all their lives had very carefully followed the Law of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy) and regularly read the books of the Old Testament. Even after they believed in Jesus Christ and were baptised, many continued to follow the regulations of the Law (Acts 21:20-25). Some demanded that Gentiles must be circumcised (Acts 15:1; Galatians 6:12). This letter to Jewish Christians was written to explain very clearly how Jesus Christ was superior to all aspects of the Law of Moses in which they had previously trusted. As Paul told the Jews in Antioch. “*Through him (Jesus) everyone who believes is justified (made righteous) from everything you could not be justified from by the Law of Moses*” (Acts 13:39).

Firstly (chapter 1) Jesus is “*superior*” (better - KJV) to the angels and he has been given a “*better*” name (1:4). Believers in Jesus have been given a *better* hope and *better* covenant (7:19,20-22) than was provided through the priesthood of Aaron. The tabernacle built in the wilderness was a copy of a heavenly vision given to Moses on Mount Sinai (8:5), this tabernacle was cleansed by the blood of animals, but the entry into the true dwelling place of God must be purified by the *better* sacrifice of Jesus (9:23-26). As a result of his sacrifice the faithful can look

forward to a *better* country, and a *better* resurrection (to eternal life) (11:16,35). The death of Jesus speaks of *better* things than the blood of Abel (12:24), even though by faith he still speaks to us long after his death (11:4).

It is a blessing for us to understand how our Lord Jesus fulfilled so much of what God had previously required the Jews to do in the time of the Old Testament. It is also a blessing that Jesus has "*redeemed us from the curse of the Law*" (Galatians 3:10-14) that we might receive *the adoption as sons of God* (Galatians 4:4,5). *But throughout the letter to the Hebrews the writer uses his explanations about the superiority of Jesus as a basis for encouragement and warning.* After he has explained in chapter 1 that Jesus is greater than the angels he warns us in 2:1-4 that, since the Israelites who rejected the message given to Moses by angels were punished, we will receive greater punishment if we reject the message received from Jesus who is greater than the angels. In 3:7-18 we are told about the disobedience of Israel after they came out of Egypt and that God said "*They shall never enter my rest*". We are exhorted in 4:1,2 to be careful not to miss the "*rest*" (kingdom) that God has promised, by being disobedient like the Israelites. "*Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience*" (4:11). Several times we read the word "*therefore*" (4:14;6:1;10:19;12:1,2,28) meaning that we must learn from what we have just been told in the letter and do something positive:

*"Let us hold firm to the faith we profess" (4:14)*

*"Leave the elementary teachings" (6:1)*

*"Draw near to God" (10:22)*

*"Fix our eyes on Jesus" (12:2)*

*"Be thankful and worship God acceptably" (12:28)*

*"Do not give up meeting together" (10:25)*

Although this letter to the Jews was written firstly to show them that the Law of Moses was past, there is a lot to teach us about holding fast to the faith, the understanding that Jesus has for our weaknesses, the examples of faith in the past; the reason for our trials and difficulties and the certainty of our hope. It also contains frequent warnings against departing from the faith through unbelief - warnings that we must take seriously for ourselves. The writer ends with a request to God (13:20,21) to which we can all say "Amen".

*Sis Savannah Nuwagaba (Mbarara, Uganda)*

### **Pay More Careful Attention**

By faith some faced jeers and flogging while others were chained and put in prison. They were persecuted. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute and ill-treated – the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground, in the dens and caves of the earth (Hebrews 11:35).

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head, many are my enemies without cause (Psalms 69:1-21).

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from the body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ (Romans 7:24,25:8:1), belonging to Christ and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance, Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst, the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15,16).

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Cor 15:3,4, 23).

In all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestinated to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, called, justified and glorified (Romans 8:28,29-30).

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away (Hebrews 2:1).

It is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous (Romans 2:13).

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God and Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever more. Amen (Jude 24,25).

*Bro Joshua Pakali (Kariba, Zimbabwe)*

## **The Wages of Sin**

Every work day, we report for work so as to earn money. Principally we have to work before we earn. Absence from work meets with either a deduction in leave days or indeed a reduction in wages. The amount of wages is about comparable with any other firm offering a similar job.. Whether a salary is commensurate with work demanded is another matter, but the cardinal point is that a salary is earned and is never paid for nothing. So it is with the wages of SIN as spelt out in Romans 6:23,"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus". We earn death for committing sin and sometimes hang on to it without repenting of it. God is a just God and His Law demands justice. But, friends, the death of Jesus has opened up a way whereby we can have salvation as a free gift, or put another way, unmerited grace. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift (2 Cor 9:15).

Friends, would you kiss a knife that had slashed the head off your loved one? Would you make such an object a subject of adoration? I hear a No answer but, tell you what, - that's precisely what we do by committing sin and cherishing it. It nailed your Saviour to the cross. He settled the most significant transaction of time and eternity for you. *Think on these words.*

*Bro. Xavier Musonda (Lusaka, Zambia)*

## **An Appeal to all Christadelphians**

As we near the return of our Lord Jesus Christ there is need for all of us to be mindful of others, especially in matters pertaining to the Kingdom. Recently we have been aroused by the words in Rev 19:7,8 which tell us that we shall soon be clothed in clean, white garments because the time has come for that. If we are waiting eagerly and preparing ourselves for that, we need not waste our time on worldly pleasures – no more time remains for that. Abraham beseeched God for Lot to be saved when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed (Genesis 18). Although the story is well known, I wish to draw attention to the way Abraham besought God (vv 23, 27, 30-32). Five times Abraham prayed God that God might save the righteous while destroying the wicked. It was to rescue Lot that Abraham was so persistent; remember that Lot had separated from Abraham and had chosen to live in wicked Sodom.

But my concern is with Abraham; how sure was he that Lot had not changed his way of life after they parted? Because Abraham was doubly sure that Lot had remained faithful to God; they had learned together how to fear God. Abraham could not imagine Lot being counted together with the wicked Sodomites, though he lived there.

Now, my appeal, brethren and sisters, let us stick to the precepts of our Master and have confidence in one another, bearing in mind that we have the same faith. Let our actions prove to the angels that, like Lot, we are unlike the Sodomites (Genesis 19:1-3). Let every individual Christadelphian represent Christadelphians world-wide, so that in the hour of our visitation we will be found worthy of the salvation we have so long waited for.

*Bro David Ngari Aphaxad (Kenya)*

## **Helps For The Daily Readings**

From time to time in *Gospel News* we have produced some notes on the daily readings. However, they have not been as comprehensive as we would have liked owing to the limitations of space. In addition to comments upon the readings we like the idea of asking questions and if necessary, helping readers to find the answers for themselves, this approach is also ideal for use when doing the readings with others.

Brother Stanley Blackstone (Worthing UK) has edited and typed up a comprehensive set of notes for the three daily readings covering the first quarter of the year. This is an experiment and would like to receive your comments and any thoughts you may have on this idea.. They are available free of charge to the mission areas. They are available from brother Stanley Blackstone, Flat 10, "Cheswood Lee" 48, Chesswood Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN11 2AG, England, or the Christadelphian Advancement Trust.

## **The Blind Man of Jericho (Mark 10:46-52)**

It is not strange to see multitudes of people following where a popular man goes. Indeed, Jesus was known by many people as a great teacher, miracle-man and healer. And as he went out of Jericho, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. What our friend did is even true of the blind men we see today. We can find them at their usual places along highways and at the doors of supermarket stores begging for alms. But is it alms that would satisfy their vital need? I'm sure not.

In Acts 3, Peter and John saw a lame man at the gate of the temple asking for alms Peter was quick to see the dire need of the man, but he said, "Silver and gold have I none ... in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (v6). The man did really walk. So we see that his dire need was to walk.

Now back to Bartimaeus. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth coming along, "He began to cry out, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me". But many people saw that the blind man was unfit to speak with the great man who was passing along and so they charged him that he should hold his peace: "But he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me". As for Bartimaeus, this was truly his only chance to plead for mercy from the man who was able to heal him. That is why he did not care about those people who were trying to obstruct his efforts for mercy from Jesus.

We can imagine how horrible is the burden of being sightless. And Bartimaeus himself knew that very well, that is why he was deaf to hear those who were trying to bar him from achieving his desired goal. Hence his persistent cry did really help him for he was heard. They said, "Be of good comfort, rise, he calleth thee. And he casting away his garment, rose and came to Jesus". Look! He was so happy that he didn't even care for his garment. Now face to face with the great physician, he was met with the question, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" His reply was straight to the point, "Lord, that I might receive my sight". Indeed, sight is vital to anyone. The blind man was where Jesus found him because he was sightless. But upon receiving his sight he had a task at hand, and that was to follow Jesus. There are two types of blindness, physical and spiritual. As for the blind man of Jericho, it was physical blindness. By his faith he gained his sight. It is the same with spiritual blindness. One has to have faith in God, His word and in Jesus Christ if we are to be cured of our spiritual blindness. We must look at Jesus with your spiritual sight. Faith is very important, without it "no one can please God" (Heb 11:6).

*Bro Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)*

### **Why View Marriage as Sacred**

Most people today would most likely claim that they believe in the sanctity of marriage. Why, then, do so many unions end in divorce? For some, marriage is little more than a romantic promise and a legal agreement. But promises can be broken. People who view marriage this way find it quite easy to give up on their marriage when things go wrong. How does God view the marriage arrangement? The answer is found in Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge". The word "honourable" carries the thought of something that is precious and highly esteemed. When we value something we take care that we preserve it and do not want to lose it, even accidentally,

and the same should be true of the marriage arrangement. Christians are to view marriage as honourable, as something precious that they want to protect. Obviously God arranged marriage as something sacred between a husband and wife. How can we show that we share His view on marriage?

Love and respect. The marriage arrangement requires that husband and wife honour each other, “Be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another” (Rom. 12:10). The apostle Paul wrote to first century Christians, “Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Eph. 5:33). Granted, at times a spouse may not act in the most honourable or respectful manner; still, Christians must show such love and respect. Paul wrote again to the Colossians, “...forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things, put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness” (Col. 3:13-14).

The married couple who view their union as sacred take time to fulfil each other’s physical and emotional needs. The Bible says, “Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence, and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband, and the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife” (1 Cor. 7:3-4).

*Bro. Amnobe Iyungu (Kigoma, Tanzania)*

### **Wool Needed**



Sisters in Latvia unpacking 29kg of wool we managed to deliver to them for the hand-made loomed items they endeavour to sell to supplement their income, as mentioned in the last issue of *Gospel News*. We thank all those who responded. If any in the UK have wool they do not need, it would be most appreciated. Two Ecclesias have been collecting wool for these Sisters; they can use all they can get. Please send to Gwladys Heaster, 49 The Woodfields, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 OHJ, England.

### **Bible Translations**

There are 6,900 languages of which there are still 2,700 into which the Bible has not been translated. A massive effort is underway to complete the translation of the Bible into every language of the world within the next 20 years. Many of these languages are understood by only a few people, others by considerable numbers, mainly in Central and North Africa, China and

Tibet. It was 1,000 years before the Bible was first translated into English by John Wycliffe. The Catholic Church were so incensed that the Bible should be available to the common people that, 44 years after Wycliffe's death, they dug up his bones and publicly burned them. It has taken seven years to translate *Bible Basics* into fifty languages and so we are a long way behind preaching to all the world, our initial ambition is 100 main languages and that would mean, if they could get a copy, over 90% of the worlds population could read or hear about our beliefs.

### Changing the Clock?

An article in the *International Herald Tribune* (30.6.05) reports that in 1905 Einstein predicted that because of the rotation speed of earth, clocks would run slower at the equator than the poles. However, it is now known that the earth bulges slightly at the equator, exactly compensating for this effect. "It's a deep coincidence", said the astro-physicist who explained this *coincidence*; can he really not see *Design* when it stares him in the face?

### Point to ponder

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

*Mark Twain*

### Scenes from Uganda



Top left: happy moments - Bro John Ouma (Jinja) and Bro Godwin Mugasi (Mbarara). Top Right Bro Emma (Kampala) waving his hands, Bro Emmanuel Kibuuka (Jinja) sleeping and Bro Godwin Mugasi (Mbarara) seated, during the Bushenyi Bible School.

Bottom left: Bro Ahabwe (Bushenyi) being interviewed for baptism. Bottom Right: Bro Enock Ahikirza (Kabule) at the Mbarara Christadelphian Library.





Top left: baptism of Bro Johnny Muhandi – the immersion was done in a baptismal bag at an hotel. Bottom left, Bro Kevin Rawlings briefing Bro Kule and Bro Cox after their baptisms. Top right: baptism of Bro Denis Ainembabazi. Bottom right: baptism of Bro Sunday Moses.

## **Fear**

There is fear of man, animals, war, people say they fear God but on the other hand they are fearing man. Today people world-wide fear the so-called pastors, priests, bishops and many men in man-made posts; they think that when they fear these people they fear God. But this is not what the Bible teaches; it tells us to fear, worship and give glory to God (Rev 14:7).

How, then, should we worship the Lord? Men may stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to south searching for the word of God but they will not find it. (Amos 8:12) According to this chapter, it is the duty of people who fear the Lord to search His word before this time comes.

Fearing the Lord is not just reading the Bible like any other book, but putting into practice what the Bible wants us to do. Let us continue fearing God by searching His word, because we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed (Hebrews 10:39).

As we know, the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Let us then be a good example to the world. We should be like lamps put on a mountain for everyone to see, not hidden in a basket, and like the salt of the earth. So, brothers and sisters world-wide, tell people about your fear of God for them to be with us in the Kingdom. The one King, our lovely Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon.

*Bro Charles Muhupu (Kabompo, Zambia)*

## **Baptism**

Baptism is symbolic showing that water is not the most important factor. This is the point made by the apostle Peter in his first letter, when he explains that baptism is not the removal of dirt from the body (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is not like taking a bath, something else is involved which

makes a difference. He that *believeth* and is baptised shall be saved, but he that *believeth not* shall be damned (Mark 16:16). Baptism must follow belief. It becomes a seal of assurance and declaration of belief

*Bro Fred Mumba (Mululira, Zambia)*

## **Droughts**

Just been reading a bit about the droughts affecting so many places, the American National centre for Atmospheric Research says, the percentage of the earth's land area stricken by serious drought has more than doubled in the past thirty years. The following recent news clippings conform this.

"Australian drought raises questions about long term sustainability"

"Wading Birds in danger as our wetlands dry up"

"Global warming blamed for decline in Puffins"

"Drought tightens its deadly grip on Europe"

"Sewage could solve Australia's Drought"

"Showers will barely dent the drought"

"Call for aid as Niger faces famine"

"Iberian misery as drought bites"

"A Nations starving to death"

## **Signs of the Times.**

"Fear seems to be the dominant mood of the moment. Hurricanes, tidal waves, floods, earthquakes and terrorism this year have all brought with them not only appalling scenes of devastation, death and suffering, but also outrage at the lack of preparations to avoid or cope with these disasters. Now even the birds of the air are a threat we are told...could be carrying the virus which might soon kill tens of millions of people" (*The Economist* 22nd Oct 2005). One could add disease drought, pestilence and wars etc to these woes. As awful as these signs are of the coming "time of trouble such as never was" (Daniel 12v1), they tell us the coming of Jesus is near as he told us, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke21v26).

## **2 Chronicles 14 v11**

"Lord, there is no-one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O Lord, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you".

### **“Come now, and Let us reason together ....”**

This tender invitation which opens a beautiful verse by Isaiah, is one among those often misunderstood and misinterpreted by a good many. “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Isaiah 1:18, RSV).

The expression “... let’s reason together” has no meaning in terms of a give-and-take discussion between two counterparts. It does not refer to bilateral negotiations where both sides make concessions to come with an agreement. Not at all. We do believe God is merciful and sympathetic; His capacity for forgiveness is unmatched. He alone can take away His people’s sins that are “as scarlet” and wash them clean, “white like snow”. No human efforts, sacrifices or prayers can wash sin away; only God’s forgiveness can remove the stain of sin. He grants such forgiveness for genuine, heartfelt repentance. Note since it was repeated, the importance of: “red like crimson” sins will become like undyed “wool”. “Come now, let’s reason together” is a compassionate and pitiful plea whereby God makes it plain to those who call upon Him in spirit and in truth, that He is the forgiver of sins, no matter how bad the sins are, as long as He finds the sinner really repentant.

Consider the example of King David who sinned horribly:

- i. He coveted Uriah’s wife (2 Samuel 11:2,3) thus breaking the tenth commandment
- ii. He had sex with that woman (2 Samuel 11:4), a breach of the seventh commandment
- iii. He ordered that Uriah be sent to the frontline of the fiercest battle so as to have him struck down (2 Samuel 11:14), an infringement of the sixth commandment.

Though he committed such tremendous sins, yet he repented (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalms 51:1-17) and was forgiven. In the same way, God reminds us that no matter how far we might have strayed, it’s never too late to set matters straight with Him, by coming back to Him with a contrite, remorseful, repentant heart. Therefore, God has never finished with forgiving His people’s sins as far as “He desires all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3,4).

*Bro Innocent Baruani E’engele*

## **Relationships with My Friends and Brethren**

As a Christadelphian, I should always try to see the best in others and not the worst: So whatever I wish that others would do to me, I should do also to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 7:12); ‘Why should I see the speck that is in my brother’s eye, but not notice

the log that is in my own eye?' (Luke 6:41); 'Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful' (1 Corinthians 13:4,5).

I must not be easily offended; but rather remember how much I have been forgiven by God. So if I am offering my gift at the altar and there I remember that my brother has something against me, I should leave my gift there before the altar and go first and reconcile with my brother, and then I come and offer my gift (Matthew 5:23, 24). I should come to terms quickly with my accuser while I am going with him to court, lest my accuser hand me over to the judge, the judge to the guard and I be put in prison. Truly I will never get out until I pay the last penny.

I should accept rebuke patiently and humbly and I must be ready to forgive with all my heart any offence against myself. God will not forgive me unless I do. Fighting and cursing must have no part in my life in Christ, because the world does such things. I need to care that weaker brethren and babes in Christ are not caused to stumble by anything I do or say: 'I should speak evil of no-one. I should avoid quarrelling and be gentle and I should show perfect courtesy towards all people' (Titus 3:2).

I need to be careful about the company I keep. Some friends would help me, but others would only hinder me in my efforts to follow Christ. I should not be deceived; bad company ruins good morals, My boasting is not good, I should know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Cor 15:33; 5:6). I should seek the company and fellowship of brethren and sisters and choose my friends in the ecclesia, The time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties and lawless idolatry. With respect to this, they are surprised when I do not join them in the same flood of debauchery and they malign me. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead' (1 Peter 4:3-5); Let no-one deceive me with empty words for because of these things, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore I should not associate with them. For at one time I was in darkness, but now I am in the light' (Ephesians 5:6-8); I should devote myself to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42).

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? What accord has Christ with Belial? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?' (2 Cor 6:14-18; ch7:1). God said that 'I will make my dwelling among them and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst and be separate from them, says the Lord, And I will be the father to you and you shall be my sons and daughters'. Since we have these promises, we should cleanse ourselves from the defilement of our bodies; bringing holiness to completion by the fear of God.

*Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)*

### **Memories from Kamukuywa Bible School**

It was a mildly hot afternoon when we arrived at Kamukuywa. We were received by Brethren Justus Mabuka and Herman Kisabuli and Sister Anet Mabuka on behalf of the other brethren and sisters at Brother Justus's home.

After a short while after being refreshed with sodas, we moved to the nearby ecclesial hall for the memorial service. This memorial service was to give newly-baptised brethren and sisters the opportunity to partake of the emblems in memory of our absent Lord. Bro Robert Ryan (UK) gave a word of exhortation and we were all spiritually renewed.

After the meeting, sisters served delicious meals both in the hall and outside. I found myself taking many 'chapas' (chipatis) cut into quarters. The fried liver – Woh!

The following day was the real start of the three day Bible School; at 9:30 we started with a hymn, a prayer and an address. Our first speaker was Bro Peter White (UK) on "Joshua as a Type of Christ". He based his talk on Joshua's faith, so strong that he could be relied upon. The name 'Joshua' is the same as 'Jesus' and means 'The Lord will save'. "Faith is the confidence of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 1:1). Dear brethren and sisters, let us all daily meditate upon the whole counsel of God, so that the faith that was in Joshua may also develop in us that we may become men and women whom our ecclesial families and our individual homes may rely upon to the glory of God.

We also had other interesting addresses: "Melchizedek" by Bro David Green (UK), "Events showing the return of the Lord" (Luke 21:20-24), "Abrahamic Promises" (Genesis 12:1-3) and other topics. Bro Peter White came again and spoke on "David and his life", David also being a type of Christ (1 Samuel 17:39,40,48,49). Saul's strength declined and David's increased – compare with Jesus and John the Baptist (John 3:30). The Millennium, the pre-existence of Christ and an exposition of Daniel chapter 7 were other interesting talks.

We all enjoyed the company of brethren and sisters, most of whom had never met one another before. Should our Lord tarry, hopefully there will be another Bible School in Kamukaywa; but should he return sooner, by God's grace, let us meet in the Kingdom.

*Bro Geoffrey Chitcher (Kobujoi, Kenya)*