

The Gospel News



“To all nations”

EDITORIAL: Spiritual Growth (2)

Indicators Of Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth is perhaps something we can only get to grips with by observing it in practice. I want to discuss a few indicators of spiritual growth which in my judgment are the most significant in practice.

Self Talk

We all talk to ourselves. There's a steady stream of self-talk going on within us, whether or not we quietly mouth the words to ourselves at times. Some people have a stream of self-talk going on that denigrates their self-worth day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. Others have thoughts of anger and bad imaginations against the evil which they imagine others are doing. Yet others have thoughts of utter vanity, of grandeur, of lust, of various fantasies...and these all, in the very end, influence our words, actions and ambitions. From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. So "guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov. 4:23). This is why we are told to speak the truth *in our hearts*. David definitely has in mind here our self-talk. Our self-talk has a high likelihood of being untrue, fantasy, imagination. Be aware, keenly aware, of the private conversations you're having with yourself. Ensure that all you are saying to yourself, even if it's not about spiritual things, is at least truthful. This is where this great theme of truth starts and ends. Ideally, our self-talk should be of Jesus, of the Father, of the things of His Kingdom. Of anything that is just, true, of good report... Yet our self-talk is closely linked to what Scripture would call the devil - the constant fountain of wrong suggestions and unspiritual perspectives that seem to bubble up so constantly within us. The devil - the Biblical one - is "the father of lies" (Jn. 8:44). And untruthfulness seems to begin within our own self-talk. I would even go so far as to almost define the devil as our own self-talk. And it's likened to a roaring, dangerous lion; a cunning snake. And it's there within each of us.

The control of self-talk is vital. And the Biblical guidance is to make sure it is truthful; for lack of truthfulness is the root of all sin. Sin is normally committed by believers not as an act of conscious rebellion, but rather through a complex process of self-justification, which on repentance, we recognize was the mere sophistry of our own self-talk. This is why truthfulness is the epitome of the spiritual life. To deny ever being untruthful is to deny ever sinning. We all have this problem. It's why the assertion of Jesus that He was "the truth" was tantamount, in the context, to saying that He was sinless. Only thus is He thereby the way to eternal life.

No Fear Of Others' Judgment

Fear of the judgment of others is a source of false guilt. It is this which militates against the true and free life of which the Lord speaks so enthusiastically. We fear showing ourselves for who we really are, because we fear others' judgments. This fear makes us uncreative, not bearing the unique spiritual fruits which the Lord so eagerly seeks from us and in us. The Lord said this plainly when He characterized the man who did nothing with his talents as lamely but truthfully saying: "I was afraid" (Mt. 25:25). Think about this: What or of whom was he afraid? His fear was not, perhaps, so much of his Lord's judgment, but rather of the judgment of others - that he might do something wrong, wrongly invest, look stupid, mess it all up... And thus John writes that it is fear that leads to torment of soul now and final condemnation. The Lord's words in the parable are almost exactly those of Adam. The rejected one-talent man said, 'I was afraid, and

so I hid *my talent*'. Adam said: 'I was afraid, and I hid *myself*'. The talent God gave that man was therefore himself, his real self. To not use our talent, to not blossom from the experience of God's love and grace, is to not use ourselves, is to not be ourselves, the *real* self as God intended.

There are Biblical examples of refusing to take guilt when others feel that it should be taken. Recall how the Lord's own parents blamed Him for 'making them anxious' by 'irresponsibly' remaining behind in the temple. The Lord refused to take any guilt, didn't apologize, and even gently rebuked them (Lk. 2:42-51). In similar vein, Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Even if I made you sorry with a letter, I do not regret it" (2 Cor. 7:8). He would not take guilt for their being upset with him. Likewise Absalom comforted his raped sister not to 'take it to heart', not to feel guilty about it, as it seems she was doing, taking false guilt upon herself (2 Sam. 13:20).

False guilt is played upon by the ever greater fear of the spirit of judgment which progressively fills our world. Novels, movies, soap operas... all increasingly deal with this theme - judging who is guilty, to what extent, in what way, what judgment is necessary or warranted. Everyone feels under constant criticism, innocent words are increasingly misread, litigation opened against truly unintentional slips of wording or action. In one form or another, earth's population is living in fear of judgment. Recriminations and reproach fly around our own community. None of us is indifferent to it all, all are hurt by the critical email, SMS, word, look or unspoken opinion of others. It leads to fear between parents and children, wives and husbands, pastors and flock, which is breaking down society and our own community. This fear of criticism/ judgment kills spontaneity, it precludes formulating independent thought and truly original ideas and programmes of action; it is the fear of this, rather than of *God's* judgment, which lead people to leave their talent buried in the earth. And in the end, it leads to an empty conformism to what is perceived to be the 'safe' position, a bourgeois, spiritually middle-class formalism. Spiritual maturity involves, to me at least, overcoming this tendency to live in fear of others' judgment, with all the taking of false guilt which this creates.

To feel otherwise involves overlooking a fundamental of our faith - that there truly is one Judge. Hence Paul could say to his critics within the brotherhood that it mattered so little to him how he was judged by them, for he had *only* One who would judge him (1 Cor. 4:3). Indeed, Paul's thought here is building on what he had earlier reasoned in 1 Cor. 2:15, that the spiritual man "himself is judged of no man". There was only One judge, and the believer is now not condemned if he is in Christ (Rom. 8:1). He that truly believes in Christ is not condemned, but has passed from death to life (Jn. 3:18; 5:24). So however men may claim to judge and condemn us, the ultimate truth is that no man *can* judge / condemn us, and those who are spiritual should live life like that, not fearing the pathetic judgments of men, knowing that effectively we are *not* being judged by them. How radically different is Paul's attitude to so many of us. The fear of criticism and human judgment leads us to respond as animals do to fear - the instinct of self-defence and self-preservation is aroused. We defend ourselves as we would against hunger or impending death. Yet here the radical implications of grace burst through. *We* are not our best defence. We have an advocate who is also the judge, the almighty Lord Jesus; we have a preserver and saviour, the same omnipotent Lord, so that we need not, and must not, trust in ourselves. By not trusting in this grace of salvation, we end up desperately trusting ourselves for justification and preservation and salvation, becoming ever more guilty at our abysmal and pathetic failures to do so.

Further, when a man is under accusation, his conscience usually dies. He is so bent on self-defence and seeking his own innocence and liberation from accusation. And we see this in so

many around us. But for us, we have been delivered from accusation, judged innocent, granted the all powerful and all authoritative heavenly advocate. Rom. 8:33 states that there is now *nobody* who can accuse us, because none less than God Himself, the Judge of all, is our justifier in Christ! And so whatever is said about us, don't let it register with us though it is God accusing us. Not for us the addiction of internet chat groups, wanting to know what is said about us, or feeling defensive under accusation. For all our sins, truly or falsely accused of, *God* is our justifier, and not ourselves. And thus our consciences can still blossom when under man's false accusation, genuinely aware of our failures for what they are, not being made to feel more guilty than we should, or to take false guilt. This is all a wonderful and awesome outworking of God's plan of salvation by grace.

Freedom From Fear

The Bible has so much to say about death, depicting us as having a "body of death" (Rom. 7:24). And yet humanity generally doesn't want to seriously consider death. Death is the moment of final truth, which makes all men and women ultimately equal, destroying all the categories into which we place them during our or their lives. If we regularly read and accept the Bible's message, death, with all its intensity and revelation of truth and the ultimate nature of human issues, is something which is constantly before us, something we realistically face and know, not only in sickness or at funerals. And the realness, the intensity, the truth... which comes from this will be apparent in our lives.

And yet the fear of death grips our society more than we like to admit. A psychologist described the huge "number of people who dream that they are locked in, that everywhere they come up against iron-bound and padlocked doors, that they absolutely must escape, and yet there is no way out". This is the state of the nation, this is how we naturally are, this is the audience to whom we preach. And we preach a freedom from that fear. Because the Lord Jesus was of our human nature - and here perhaps more than anywhere else we see the crucial, practical importance of true doctrine - we are freed from the ranks of all those who through fear of death live their lives in bondage (Heb. 2:15). For He died for us, as our representative. How true are those inspired words. "To release them who through fear / phobos of death were all their living-time subject to slavery" (Gk.). Nearly all the great psychologists concluded that the mystery of death obsesses humanity; and in the last analysis, all anxiety is reduced to anxiety about death. We can see it for ourselves, in how death, or real, deep discussion of it, is a taboo subject; how people will make jokes about it in reflection of their fear of seriously discussing it. People, even doctors, don't quite know what to *really* say to the dying. There can be floods of stories and chit-chat... all carefully avoiding any possible allusion to death. This fear of death, in which the unredeemed billions of humanity have been in bondage, explains the fear of old age, the unwillingness to accept our age for what it is, our bodies for how and what they are, or are becoming. I'm not saying of course that the emotion of fear or anxiety is totally removed from our lives by faith. The Lord Jesus in Gethsemane is proof enough that these emotions are an integral part of being human, and it's no sin to have them. I'm talking of fear in it's destructive sense, the fear of death which is rooted in a lack of hope. The person who is freed from this has grown spiritually.

Certainty Of Salvation By Grace

The wonderful certainty of salvation and freedom from condemnation is brought out by the wonderful figure of Rom. 8:33,34. The Father and Son are presented as the judge who can alone condemn, as the person bringing the complaint of sin against - for there is no personal devil to

do so – and yet also as our intercessor and advocate. Our judge is the very One who is so eager to declare us guiltless. The logic is breathtaking, literally so. The figures are taken from an earthly courtroom, but the roles are mixed. Truly “if God be for us [another courtroom analogy], who can be against us” (8:31). This advocate / intercessor is matchless. With Him on our side, ‘for us’, we cannot possibly be condemned. Whatever is ‘against us’ - our sins - cannot now be against us, in the face of this mighty advocate. Let’s face it, the thing we fear more than death is our sin which is ‘against us’. But the assurance is clear for those who will believe it. With an attorney for the defence such as we have, who is also our passionate judge so desperate to justify us - even they cannot stand ‘against us’. Rom. 8:38,39 says that neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God. In what sense could *life* separate us from God's love? Surely only in the sense of sins committed in human life. Yet even these cannot separate us from the love of God which is so ready and eager to forgive us. This is the extent of grace; that not even sin - which on one hand separates from God - can actually separate us from the love of God in Christ. We are often plagued by a desire to separate out the things for which we are justly suffering, and things in which we are innocent victims. We struggle over whether our cancer or depression is our own fault, or whether we only got unhealthy as a result of others' stressing us... etc. This struggle to understand the balance between personal guilt and being a victim of circumstance or other people, makes it hard for some to free themselves from guilt. Seeking to understand is especially acute when we face death, suffering, tragedy, etc. How much was I to blame? In how much was I merely a victim? My determined conclusion is that it is impossible, at least by any intellectual process, to separate out that suffering for which we are personally guilty, and that suffering of which we are merely victims. The cross of Jesus was not only to remove personal guilt through forgiveness; all our human sufferings and sicknesses were laid upon Him there. Our burdens, both of our own guilt and those which are laid upon us by life or other people, are and were carried by Him who is our total Saviour.

Acceptance

The final indicator of spiritual growth is what I would call ‘acceptance’. Acceptance of our salvation, of who we are as persons, acceptance that we are sinners, acceptance of everything around us that cannot be changed until the Kingdom comes. Acceptance, in the end, of grace; an acceptance that merges into faith - faith in its full and final sense as we soberly contemplate our death, judgment to come, and the awesome prospect of utter infinity shared with the Father and Son.

Notes

(1) Leslie Newbigin, *A Word In Season* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994) p. 192.

(2) Leslie Newbigin, *The Gospel In A Pluralist Society* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989) pp. 196,197.

Duncan Heaster

News from Africa

news from burundi

We have spent time in preaching the gospel around the country and God has blessed us. Now we are at Bujumbura and those we preached to were satisfied and wished to have Christadelphian books of songs and Bibles in Kiswahili We have no possibility of doing this and so ask for your help. We get all correspondence without any difficulty. Do not forget us in your prayers so that the gospel goes well. We also have difficulties with getting wine for the Lord's supper.

Bro. Julien Sululu



Photo: Bro Costantin Mwangalwa, Bujumbura, Burundi

news from cameroon

With sadness we report the falling asleep on Feb.23 of our Bro.Ebong Abel Elong, aged 64. Bro Ebong was baptized in 1996 and was the Arranging Brother of Epen ecclesia. He lived a life for the Lord, devoting his efforts to ecclesial duties. He now awaits the sure hope of resurrection at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro.Brain Ebong.

BAMENDA

Knowing the truth myself, I have been trying to make others also know it and follow the right track. So, brethren. the 'track' we are talking about is what the Christadelphians believe, and this has been requested by some interested people. Thank God for this. So I am pleading that you try to save some of them by telling them of the Gospel. Thank you for your help by leading us to the truth as we continue to stay prayerfully and patiently waiting for his coming.

Bro. Kum Donatus

With happiness I am delighted to inform you that Bro. Songsom Samson who was in isolation and needed help from a near-by ecclesia, as contained in the last edition of *Gospel News*, has been visited by brethren from the Bamenda ecclesia with help from Brethren in the UK. I will also thank the Lord for extending a hand to the needy. My Sister, Wife, Evelyne attended a seminar on HIV/AIDS taking along a copy of the book '*Where There Is No Doctor*'. She introduced herself as a Christadelphian and went ahead to explain how she came about the book. She also shared quite a number of the *Bible Reading Companions* and some few copies of *Glad Tidings* magazines. She was nominated a resource person to lecture on HIV/AIDS to nearby communities.

With help from the CBM, we are organising a Bible and vocational training seminar from 3rd to 28 July God willing. It should be mentioned that at last year's seminar seven were finally prepared for baptism during the visit in Nov. by UK brethren. This year's seminar will run in two shifts of a fortnight each as there promises to be more attending than last year. There will be four representatives from four different villages where we have over 27 preparing for baptism.

We were also able to donate *First Aid* drugs and materials to a remote village with no medical facilities thanks to the book, *'Where There Is No Doctor'*. The health department has also approved the CBM to open small Health Centres in rural areas. Two Sisters are training as community health workers to care for this. They are using the *'Where There Is No Doctor'* book. Our spiritual growth has increased enormously, as we take the daily readings a life-and-death commitment, knowing fully that we are exiles in the present world order and hope to be citizens of the Kingdom from above, by God's grace, at the return of the Master. We can only comfort you with the words of the apostle Paul, that you are fighting a good fight and a crown of glory awaits you and all who patiently work behind the scene at the revelation of our King.

Bro Emmanuel Nanji.

I was baptised by total immersion into the saving name of the Lord Jesus Christ in Nov. 2005. I had been sprinkled in the Presbyterian church some 26 years ago while I was a child. I knew nothing, and after my primary school I was again sprinkled after some few Bible quotations as confirmation of what I did not understand. My baptism as a Christadelphian is the best thing that has ever happened to me. First, it was unique in that my interview was done by UK brethren on their yearly visit. I had studied the 40 lessons Basic Bible Truths for four months. My other delight is that my baptism was done by my husband, with four others who had also prepared for baptism. I now know the one needful thing in my life which Jesus said Mary had found but Martha was still weak on. This one needful thing can be seen in Eccl. 12:13-14. Seek the things about God and His KINGDOM.

Sis. Evelyn Nanji

BUEA

I am a young convert and was baptized in November, 2005, when our brethren from the UK came for the Bible School. I am so happy to know the Truth and dream to take it to my nation. I am a school proprietor and will see that this truth is taken to teachers, students and the community where my school is.

Bro. Amin Formin

MUTENGENE

There is one Bible - Why are there so many different Churches? There are so many religions in the world because after the death of Jesus and his apostles, wrong teaching entered the Christian congregation and drew believers away Matt.7:13-14; Act 20:29-30. This is the reason why there are so many religions in the world today.

How can we identify a true religion? The mark of a true religion is that the Christians of that religion have real love among themselves (John 15:12,13,17; 1 John 4:20,21). They have deep respect for the Bible and believe what it says Jn 17:17, 2 Tim 3:16-17. They treat God's words as being more important than human ideas or customs. They try to live by the Bible in their everyday lives. They don't preach one thing and practice another (Titus 1:15-16). True religion must honour God's Name (Matt 6:9). True religion must preach about God's kingdom (Luke 8:1). Jesus always talked about God's Kingdom. True religion must believe that only God's Kingdom will bring peace and security to this sinful world Ps 146:3-10.

Bro Nicolas Menjuah

MUYUKA

Our mid-week Bible discovery: "That we should take time not to enter into temptation". Matthew 26:41 says we should keep on the watch and pray continually, that we may not enter into temptation. The pressure on Jesus at this time was intense, unlike any he had experienced

before. Jesus, the Son of God, was near the end of his earthly life. He realized that soon he would be arrested, condemned to death and impaled on a stake. He knew that his every decision and action would reflect on his Father's Name. Jesus also knew that the future life prospects of mankind hung in the balance. Faced with all this pressure, what did he do?

Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples. It was a favourite spot with Jesus. There he withdrew a short distance from his disciples. When alone, he turned to his Heavenly Father for strength, pouring out his heart in fervent prayer, not just once, but three times; Jesus did not feel that he could face the pressure on his own (Matt. 26:36-44).

Today we, too, are under pressure. We are living in the final days of this wicked system. The temptations and stresses of this world are intensifying. The decisions and actions of any of us who profess to serve the true God reflect on His Name and have a profound effect on our individual prospects for life in His new world.

We love God, we want to endure to the end - the end of our life or the end of this system, whichever comes first (See Mat 24:13). But how can we maintain our sense of urgency and keep on the watch?

Knowing that his disciples then, and those today, would also be under pressure, Jesus urged: "Keep on the watch and pray continually, that you may not enter into temptation".

Bro. Tanyinjia Atabong Martin

Personal Testimonies

I was born on June 1, 1973 in Fontem. I first attended the Catholic church at the age of 17 where I was sprinkled with water as a form of so-called baptism and I began attending Catholic church services without any knowledge of the Bible. When I came across Bro. Atabong Martin and his wife, Sis. Lucy, I was encouraged and I knew God had poured His blessings on me by showing me the light. I was really moving in total darkness. I was baptized on June 25th, 2005, at Magenge, and I am proud of being a Christadelphian. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps. 133: 11). I am married and blessed with two boys and a girl. Our Lord Jesus Christ will soon come and set up the Kingdom of God for which we are all waiting, and may that happy day be of joy to us all.

Bro Akamin Romanus



Photo: Baptism of Bro Akamin Romanus

I wish to thank Bro. Martin and Bro. Thadius of my ecclesia for their wonderful support which helped me find the Truth. I was baptized into the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ on June 25th, 2005 by Bro. Alam and Bro. George. John 14:15 says, "If you love me, obey my commandments", because baptism alone cannot save. We should be grateful to God that Jesus came into our sinful lives in this dirty world in order to save us and give us such a hope as we have in the truth Luke 24:47 says, "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached". If we know this and walk accordingly, then the coming Kingdom and eternal life will be for us.

Bro. Kungang Hilary

I am very happy and peaceful due to having been baptized into the Lord Jesus. I prepared myself by reading the Bible with the 'Companion' for a good two years, with the help of the Brethren and Sisters of our ecclesia. They taught me many doctrinal things; I used to believe that after death the sinful ones went to hell, which I believed was a place full of fire ever burning, where sinners were thrown. But I learnt that hell is simply the grave, also that the Kingdom to come is to be here on earth. In fact, I am very pleased with God's true message of salvation to mankind for Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied" (Matt. 5:6). My baptism took place on June 25th, 2005, at Magenge and I am very happy to be part of those who await the coming Kingdom. So, Brethren and Sisters, let us all live our lives according to the teaching of our Lord Jesus until he returns. I am in a family of eight; apart from my little brother and sister, all have been baptized into Christ.

Sis. Susan Ntenwgwa

news from ghana

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

Bro Lawrence Nkrumah

news from kenya

BULIMBO

I haven't recently received any news, parcel or letter from any of you. Sometimes I wonder if you are almost forgetting me so please may all of you bear me in mind, your beloved Brother Sadique. In our family my father and mother are Muslim members, including all my brothers and sisters. I am the only individual who decided to convert and join the Christadelphians in our village. I have no peace with my family. I am alone. My parents have refused to give me food because of being a member of the Christian faith. They have snatched from me all the items that they had bought for me. I am living a life without harmony, peace, love or unity with my biological parents and my brothers and sisters. I thank God for enabling me to have peace of mind with Him. I take this opportunity to assure all of you that since I have decided with all my heart and soul to follow Jesus, I will never backslide, even with the situation as difficult as it is in my life.

Bro Sadique Bukhebi Joumer

The Answer

Go to all the nations
And spread to them this news,
About a powerful Name,
That heals the lame,
And protects the righteous,
In happy and sad moments,

The Name has the answer.
It is only the Name of Christ
That has the rightful answer.
He is the anointed one,
The true Son of the Most High.
He is a rock of ages
That does not wither
For his Name is great.

Bro Emmanuel Joumea

BUNGOMA

I'm very happy for your assistance to my fellow brothers. We congratulate CAT on their support of the word of God by sending them some books like Bible Basics. Now the word of God is stable to my fellow brothers. They are spreading the gospel through the guidance of that book. Those brothers are really working hard to spread the gospel to the entire community, they are actually struggling to see that the people should enter into the Kingdom of God. Moreover, although I'm so far away, fortunately at the place where I stay there are many people who want to hear the good news. However, the bad news is that we have such limited resources that we are not able to spread the gospel as much as we would like. Therefore I beg you to assist with more literature.
Bro Aggrey Muyila.



Photo from right: Bro Anazetu Khaemba, Sis Christin N. Kasili (my wife), Sis Metrin Maina with her baby (wife of Bro George), Bro Aggrey ou sent toMuyila (the one with a guitar). Bro George Maina.

First of all I wish to take this opportunity, to show my appreciation for Gospel News and the book entitled 'A Woman's Place' which you sent to me. Receive abundant blessings because you have made my life to become godly. This book – 'A Woman's Place' – has clearly portrayed the position of women and has thereby strengthened our ecclesia, as every person knows what is expected of him/her. Here in Kenya, you may have heard of the claims of 'New Constitution', meaning that people are battling for earthly supremacy. It is therefore a challenge to us. While they focus on this contest, let us focus on the coming eternal Kingdom for which there is a word of encouragement: "That we shall be made kings and priests in thy kingdom" (Revelation 5:10). We have an obligation to help them to reform their negative ambitions. We are experiencing a very severe drought in parts and conditions have become totally unfavourable to unresistant crops, consequently low production. Brother, due to this change in climate, my request to you is to advise me on resistant crops, and how to use them during drought seasons. Finally, I would say that for the will of God to be done I need a Bible. I normally use an old, torn Bible with some pages torn off. Brother, I kindly request you for this.

Bro Wycliffe Wasike

CHWELE

Thank you very much for your e-mail message. It was very encouraging and we hope that this year will be a very busy one. Our country, Kenya, is undergoing a transformation. Last year it voted 'No' to the referendum which has delayed the process of getting a new constitution for our

country. Also the ruler of our country has embarked seriously on fighting corruption among his cabinet ministers, which has led to some stepping down. The truth is that Kenya is still in its infancy. Hunger is at its peak, no clean water for people and animals. The government promised to solve the problems but truly has not managed to solve anything. We realize that Jesus Christ himself will establish his everlasting Kingdom without a chain of problems day by day. How CAT is concerned about safer motherhood is wonderful! This will eventually reduce the mortality and pre-natal morbidity amongst our sisters worldwide. In our ecclesia, most of the sisters are in the reproductive age of 25 to 35, and it will be a great pleasure for them to receive a copy of "Where Women Have No Doctor." In the love and peace of Christ Jesus

Bre Manasseh Wamamiti and David Wanjala



Photo: From left: Bro David Wanjala, Bro Daniel Wakharu, stripped to the waste after digging a bore hole to get water for domestic use. (Water is the biggest problem in this area)

Thank you very much for the wonderful work you are doing in supplying Gospel News magazine to us. It is heartening and encouraging as we learn more about our brothers and sisters worldwide. Also thank you very much in caring for our sisters as you have initiated a wonderful scheme of supplying an important book, 'Where Women Have No Doctor.' We wish you could supply one for each of us in the sisters group in our ecclesia. This would help our sisters who don't attend clinics until they give birth. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you as we his return.

Sis Jacklyne Wanjala



Photo: Sisters at Makhonge having a cup of tea after a Bible discussion held last December.

GISAMBAI

I sincerely pray and wish God's blessing on all your efforts. I really appreciate your support spiritually. I'm very happy to read from brothers and sisters from all over the world. 'Gospel News' is a soul revival magazine, it is so encouraging to read about people of different cultures, languages and colours. To think that they are all my brothers and sisters in Christ is something that keeps me very pleased, strong and vibrant. I'm sharing bread and wine with you in the Christadelphian ecclesia of Givungi and we are looking forward to establishing a strong foundation for preaching the truth in many areas around here. I get a lot of literature about Jesus, salvation, health, general life and even words of encouragement on the internet, but I can't print all this to share with brothers and sisters and friends because of the high cost of printing. I therefore ask you to give me brothers' and sisters' e-mail addresses to contact them or them me through odaliminijo@yahoo.com so that I can share this with them. I'm looking forward to attending Bible schools, meeting with many of my brothers and sisters from all corners of the world, talking with them and even working with them. I'm kindly asking you to do me a favour – I'm interested in knowing much about the Philippines as a country, their culture and its people; please connect me to a brother or a sister who will help me achieve this as soon

as you can.

Bro Amos Odali Minjo

KABUJOI

My faith is always strengthened when I read from you. Many thanks for the earlier packet and the very nice Bible published by CAT from Bro David Green when he and Bro Peter White visited Kenya. Most brethren and sisters in Kenya speak Kiswahili as a second language. All of us have our native languages but it is Kiswahili that unites us language-wise. It is a good idea to have a small Kiswahili magazine to encourage those that cannot speak English. The English language is a third language to most of us. I wonder whether it is possible for you to send me campaign material. I was recently in an area quite a distance from my home which I saw was so backward and remote, I wondered whether the residents of the place had even received the good news. Material setting out our beliefs could be very welcome for a start. I will let you know of the response when I have distributed the first material, and what material would be needed for follow-up. It's our prayer that the good news reaches all the ears willing to hear.

Bro Geoffrey Chirchir



Photo Left to right: back row: Bro Silas Bwalya, Sis Grace Chipata, Bro Silas Chishimba, Bro Geoffrey Chabala, Sis Evelyn Lumuna, Bro Joseph Lumuna

Front row: Bro Musanda Mbewe, Sis Loveness Chileshe, Sis Jane Bwalya

MUFULIRA

You know it's good to live in the truth. Jesus once said, "Know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). So if we are not learning the Bible truth, how can we expect to be free?. We may not be slaves or servants, but without the knowledge of God, His truth, we are prisoners. We are told that we live by the sinful nature which Paul describes as prison. But good news has come from our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life. And it is only through him we find rest to our souls. And so he is the only one to set us free from prison, through knowing more about him and his Father. And this can be done by sharing ideas during the Bible study and other meetings we have like, the Fringilla Bush Camp, where we meet and are able to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and his Father. Brethren and sisters, remember that one of the practical principles for our life in Christ is Bible study. Therefore, let us support it so that the word becomes our daily food, as Job says in 23:12.

Bro Musanda Mbewe

MWEIGA

I lost contact I came to communicate early last year. I wish you and all the brethren in the UK a good year. I wanted to make a request for this writing to be published, for I trust in your help and the help of the UK brethren if possible. I praise God that you will understand where my heart is and what I am trying to say. As you know, I need much spiritual help from you as a teacher, to guide me in the way of providence. Please do not hesitate to respond and I look forward to hearing from you.

Bro Lawrence Gitonga

NAKURU

It can be said that preaching and pastoring a church have been turned into a business. Many evangelists acquire fame by claiming to perform miracles and some people become rich, whereas the Bible states clearly, "Seek first the kingdom of God" then the rest will follow (Matthew 6:33). Cults and other denominational organisations are misled by their dogmas. For instance, some worshippers believe that the righteous will go to heaven, while the truth is that a theocracy will be on earth, man's dwelling place when Jesus Christ comes back (2 Peter 2:1-3). Let us worship God in truth and spirit. Having a share in God's Kingdom is like saving your cash in a national bank where no-one can steal and the bank cannot be put under liquidation. This sort of confusion over dogma has led to the situation where we have one Bible but different churches are many. Yet the Lord is omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent, Psalms 100:1-5. The preachers should abandon their false pride in claiming to possess the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bro Samuel Wanga

Brother Samuel Wanga Watako has translated 'What is the Gospel' into his native LUHYA language. We have sent him 500 copies and any who would like a copy can obtain one direct from him. c/o, Uchumi Matt Ltd, P.O.Box 3622, Nakuru, Kenya. It is also viewable at www.carelinks.net



From left to right (standing) Bre Moses Bwire, Reuben Maina, Sammie Wanga; (squatting) Bre Thomas Oyaro, Chrispin Oduor, at the Woolmatt Supermarket.

NALONDO

We as an ecclesia have started the programme called "Bungoma Rural Resources Programme" with the aims of struggling against crippling hunger, diseases and poverty. The first attempt was to organize families through their mother-churches, schools and self-help groups, to enable them to exchange skills and ideas. Therefore we had thought of introducing to them the drought-resistant food crops. Bungoma area consists of three districts that vary in elevation from 1500-1800m above sea level. The soils vary: we have sandy, medium texture and clay, suitable for cassava, sorghum and soya-beans. In order to play its role better, it is essential that BRRP should be armed with the necessary information, which we believe you are the best placed organisation to provide. You have already played a very important role in serving members and groups within the brotherhood who seek to spread the good news of the gospel.

Bro Moses Wamami

NDHIWA

I've been put in contact with you by Sis Mary Clement in order to get one copy of "Where There Is No Doctor". I live far away from Shiwa ecclesia so I am trying to get a copy in order to help myself, my family and the surrounding people. I like looking after and helping the people surrounding me. I live in a very remote place so if I get that copy, it will be of great help to me. If you can help with health facilities and books, they help me too. Now in Kenya it is terrible. No water, no food, etc, so there are many diseases in children, and pregnant mothers are facing

danger.

Sis Emmy Aseyo

SINDO

I received your letter plus message and the book "The Christadelphian Shield". I took time to read it and felt happy when men/women who believe the truth and are strong witnesses to the truth will see this earth filled with God's glory. I now request to receive now the books on "Where Women Have No Doctor", second "How to Grow a Balanced Diet". Please, if the Lord permits, send them to me as I want to have them in my home library. I was in the Roman Catholic Church from childhood, 1954 to 1975 but on August 21st 1976 I was baptized into the Christadelphian faith by Bro. David Rowley in the city of Nairobi. Since then I have been a strong advocate and witness for the truth. I have admired your strong service as a good example; the servant of God must be able to show in action what he stands for, Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Jesus gave this great commission to his disciples after his resurrection. Because of unbelief and hardness of heart, mankind has turned away from the truth and worships false gods that cannot save them. Unless we believe the Gospel message preached to our ancestors and disciples about Jesus Christ we have no hope of living after death. God of Israel, God of our fathers spoke a message of hope but human beings have neglected the message of life and end their lives in the grave. Reading the "Gospel News" has made me remind you that we must not let anything stop us proclaiming the Gospel message to all creation. I am pleased that since the year 1999 I have never missed the Gospel News. Good work for the CAT. We pray for the message to be spread and that all brethren will do the Lord's business. "Gospel News" has made us God's real household family, to hear world-wide how men/women die for the truth, and witness to its message in their everyday lives. When our Lord and Saviour Jesus takes over the kingdoms of this world, the glory of God will cover the earth. We shall be able to live in harmony with God and our fellow human beings. The earth which has become a bad environment will become a beautiful place for those who obeyed the Gospel message. People have become lovers of themselves and have forgotten the love of God through His Son Jesus Christ. People are hostile to the Gospel message. They have turned to wickedness and enjoy the present life which is very short indeed. We must continue to follow the patriarchs of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. Our service to the God of Israel must come first, before everything. I am a very strong advocate, a witness to the truth of the Gospel message. We must pray and read the Bible every day, have personal study and continue to witness to the truth everywhere that service takes us.

Bro John Owalo Onanai



Photo: Memorial Service at Sindo

SUNA-MIGORI

I work as a laboratory assistant. I did not train in a recognized institution and I have no permanent job. I just keep moving from clinic to clinic; that is clinics where they don't have lab. men. I went to school up to form four and I only got a credit in English. I don't have good papers that can make me secure in a better place. Despite my pathetic situation, the knowledge I have

acquired from the Christadelphians has given me hope. My rescuer is not far from me and I know that all this will change in the kingdom, where we shall for ever live happily with the Lord. I forgot to tell you my marital status. I am married to Lucy Apiyo who is also baptized. The Lord has blessed us with three children, namely, Kevin 9 yrs, Jackline 7 yrs and Marian 5 yrs. I have also adopted a 2 year- old girl whose mother died of AIDS.

Bro Joseph Onyango

news from malawi

BOYOLE

I have been looking in the Bible. “And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs”, “and Moses took the rod of God in his hand”.(Ex 4:13 & 20) We see that the Israelites were taken out of the hands of the Egyptians, through a very small thing. (Ex4:2), “And the Lord said unto Moses, ‘What is that in thine hand?’”. “We all know that we can not keep the flocks without the rod, which is used to steer the sheep whenever they are going astray. So through Moses’ rod, vast multitudes were blessed, plus himself. Many brothers and sisters are not content with the resources they have, but do we realise that when these are used correctly under divine guidance, we can achieve exactly what God requires us to do. Reading the Bible will help us to understand that we have all we need to live our lives, provided we pray to God for guidance.

Bro Alexandre Banda

BUA

The signs indicate the coming of Jesus is near because in most countries people are being affected by hunger, disasters. disease epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, political conflicts, corruption which leads to poverty among many countries, wars and many more. All in all whether we have joy or sorrow what we have to do is to say thanks for the amazing grace of God because He never forsakes us. We also give thanks for Gospel News to all nations, which many brethren and sisters have benefited from, as it really exhorts us, builds us up and encourages us to be faithful, for even though we may never meet in this life we are all journeying together to the Kingdom. We must be watching and waiting because it is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. So, Brethren and Sisters, let us look forward to Jesus’ second coming, but not be impatient about it. As we all know, prayer always needs a lot of patience, we cannot expect an answer immediately, we may all have to be patient a long time before our prayers are answered. It may sometimes be God’s will that our requests are not granted, but through our continuous prayers we may come to realize we are being given another opportunity for something much more than than what we are asking God to give us. However long a time it might be we must wait patiently, for the Lord will never forsake us and will always hear our cry. Let us also be patient for the coming of the Lord and show our desire for his coming, through our deeds and in our prayers to our heavenly Father. My thanks to all who make it possible for so many to have Gospel News to all nations, may God’s blessing be with them in all their labours of love.

Sis. Bertha Khonje

CHINANI

I give thanks to the Lord that my bicycle is now mended and I can visit other brethren and sisters. My wife’s right arm and leg are lame, if she wants to ease herself I usually lift her on my back which is a heavy task for me. It would be nice to have a bicycle trolley so that I could take

her out, but for me that is financially impossible. Talking about myself as a Christadelphian, I have to let you know that I am a real and true Christadelphian even though you were told that I am not. But to me I do not become much worried with those false words. What I know about myself and my God in heaven is that I am a true Christadelphian and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I swear I shall die a Christadelphian, no change at all. Visitors from U.K. visited us here in Malawi last year. I am still waiting for the parcel of books which you have sent to me by sea.

Bro. B. Chipala



Photo: Bro. B. Chipala (Cinani)

CHITALA

When you complete producing the 16 section book for foreign English learners let me sample a copy. It could be useful for my grandchildren, whose English is very sub-standard. Judging by the eyes of flesh, 2005 was a very difficult year for most countries in Southern Africa, especially Malawi. The media did blow up out of proportion some of the problems, however. The extent of famine in Malawi was never near anything you see happening in Sudan or Ethiopia. Besides, most western countries sent aid (some of which was diverted by the politicians). Our own brethren and sisters in the Christadelphian brotherhood did send us aid. So in short, the Lord let us through the year. We started this year with very good rains and a good crop – then came armyworm to devour most of the vegetation including maize. I think the main problem is that we pretend not to see God’s hand in this. Psalm 24:1, King David acknowledges that "The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." In the book of Amos are recorded judgments on nations because of their transgressions. They may be ancient nations, but we are all similar to them in that we were created by the same Almighty God and do transgress just like they did. Why shouldn’t God mete out punishments if it would help us look to Him for solutions to our problems? Amos 5:16, "Therefore the Lord God of hosts, the Lord says this: There shall be wailing in all streets and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! Alas! They shall call the farmer to mourning and the skilful lamenters to wailing." This must happen, and it is what is happening in our age. My contract with the Ministry of Agriculture ends soon so I hope to write more frequently than in the past as I will have plenty of free time once more, God willing. In my previous letter I said nothing about receiving the books you sent some months way back because I hadn’t received them! Now I have received them I convey my heartfelt thanks. Some of the friends who wanted Bible Basics are in my home district of Mulanje and will, God willing, take them home.

Bro. Ignatius Maluwa

DZALEKA

You will remember I was at the Refugee camp in Namibia and you helped me there. I am now in Malawi and life is still very difficult. I was baptized in February 2000 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Bro. Isaac Nagaheba

JALI

I thank God for the blessings He is giving me. Last year I got married. Recently she has been

baptized and now we have got a one year old boy. The Bible Basics Calendar helps me do the Bible readings. Would you do me a favour? Apart from Gospel News, send me two booklets, namely on 'Spiritualism' and 'Do you believe in a Devil?' Lastly greetings in the name of Jesus Christ to you brother and all those you share smiles and break bread with. I am very happy to receive Bible Basics but I feel sorry to hear from you that there is an increase in postage from this April. Let me put an idea on rabbit production. If they were kept in a wood shelter each female would be kept separately from one another and then males put together just for a while for reproducing and move them out from females for feeding. Here in Malawi we do feed them locally. This is the way rabbits are kept. To me I can say this idea is mostly welcomed.

Bro. Lucky F. Mbalale

KAIINGO

I have been down with malaria since early December last year but thanks to God am still kicking. I have the pleasure to inform you that I have passed the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE), which is equivalent to GCSE, with passes with credits in seven subjects including English and Maths. If I got two or more distinctions I would apply for a place in the University of Malawi. Now having failed to reach the University requirements I would like to do a computer programming course if all goes well. This will in future help me translate the Gospel News from English to our vernacular languages such as Chichewa, Tumbuka, Lombwe etc. The sun rises and sets, evenings come and dawns break. I always look at the sky waiting to see the coming of the Lord Jesus, as he said he will. How I wish he would come today and take his lambs. May God's Kingdom come. Acts 12:1-25 talks more about persecutions that believers faced. We hear that James was killed by King Herod. What do we learn on this chapter? We learn that the Church shares in Jesus' suffering. Remember in the time of Stephen, he also died because of the name of Jesus Christ and we hear that while he was stoned he saw the glory of God. This means that everyone who dies in the name of the wonderful counsellor will see the glory of God in the future.

Bro. Davis Madolo

KASUNGU

We are now settled in Central Fellowship. We have cleared everything and we are now on the mailing list in UK Central Fellowship for the magazines. I received a letter from Bro. David Nightingale in which he expresses his views of receiving us into the fellowship. He is very happy with us. You know how painful it is to lose friends whom we have known for years and how tough it is to make new close friends. So you are the first close friends of our ecclesia as you have encouraged us very much. We would have been lost without your effort. We are very strong now that no-one will be able to disturb us in this new fellowship with the Central. We have received messages twice from Bro. T. Muleso of Lilongwe Ecclesia that they are willing to pay a visit to our ecclesia. I know you know this Brother. God has blessed us with good rains but our fields were attacked by army worms, so we are now planting again. We have received help from the Government - that is medicine that we should spray in our fields. This will take a very long time for everybody to be assisted.

Bro. Harmony Ntchalachala

LUWANI REFUGEE CAMP

Concerning the activity of the Ecclesia from the time of our first meeting on 15.10.2004, the Ecclesia has been pressing ahead with new-born – that is to say new believers, or members, of our Ecclesia. These newly-created ones want you to visit them. The needs in the Ecclesia are,

An Ecclesial hall (we meet in the open air)

Swahili and French Bibles

Swahili and French hymn books

Books for Sunday School lessons.

N.B. We beg you to help us both spiritually and physically, for we are suffering a great deal in this country where we are refugees in Malawi. Firstly, the climate is really unfavourable. As far as food is concerned, the amount given by the H.C.R. every month is not enough! Also, because of the lack of variety in the food, many among us are falling ill with anaemia! We should also like to tell you we have not enough clothes or shoes.

Bro. Jafari Amisi

MANGOCHI

Thank you very much for sending me a book entitled "People we meet" and sensitising me of the dangers of cutting for foreskin in old age. Definitely I do support your opinion and you are of course assisting us in the way forward to the Kingdom of God. God bless you all! I was an Anglican since I was born in 1965. From 1990-1993 I was doing my priesthood course at the Anglican Theological College where I met a man known as Malekesa, a Christadelphian, who was working as a cook. He asked me three questions to be answered at a later date.

- 1) Which scripture supports the baptism of infants?
- 2) Where in the Bible do we find the baptism of sprinkling?
- 3) Which scripture mandate payment before baptism takes place?

These questions gave me a task of perusing the Bible, sleepless tension and different thoughts, at the end I had no answers. Early 1994 I quitted the priesthood course. On 29 May 1994 I was baptized and my wife Dorothy was baptized in 1996, a couple of five children all Christadelphian members. New stations are dying naturally due to non visiting of stations halls by councillors. When they are called to visit a station they cannot always go. Every councillor has ten stations on average, some of them are at a long distance, others at 50 km, 100 km, up to 150 km, meaning they cannot ride a bicycle there and back. It takes 2-3 years for a councillor to visit a station hall. I repeat stations are dying naturally. For instance, our councillor had fifteen stations but now has only ten, at the moment one of them is shaken, and will soon declined.

Bro. Morris Assani

MIGOWI

I am a boy of 27 years. I went to school from 1990. By the year 2002 I completed my education but I am remaining unemployed. I am in no doubt that God has done to me something of paramount importance. He has increased my knowledge of the Bible and now I am in a position to preach the gospel news so wonderfully to the multitude. I am married to a young lady by the name Manesi and she has a son of mine named Dickson. I also let you know that we have a baptism which will be conducted at our own church. There are 15 brothers and 6 sisters who are to be baptized. They are learning the promises of God that he made to Adam, Abraham, Noah and David. Lastly I am very much obliged for Bible Basics as well as the leaflets that you always send to me. I am very much benefited from this literature.

Bro. Symon Wanyekheya

MZUZU

The hunger situation has greatly affected us in the two months, January and February. There is

no news of having maize in Admare, which is the main government marketing body. However, we hear that the government has imported maize which is waiting for clearance in Tanzania and Mozambique ports. In short that is the situation here. Once again I am really sorry for bothering you time and time again. Just for your information I didn't cultivate my garden due to the poor health of my wife.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo

SALIMA

We thank our God for being gracious to us in giving us good rains this year, and though not 100%, the stand of the crop is very promising and we hope the situation is going to continue as it is. Yes, your observation is right that people tend to forget the problems they have passed through and not learn a lesson from them, but I think we should also take a stand to ring a bell during harvesting so that they take care and not take things for granted. You also mentioned about growing alternatives to corn. Others do, but not on large scale. They just make a few ridges of sweet potatoes, or, if close to marshes, a small plot of rice and so forth, whilst others just rely on maize. About goats, yes I have now learnt so many issues, good and bad, about goat-rearing, more especially as a group enterprise, like the ecclesia. Rearing rabbits is indeed good for both consumption and income but, I need to make a survey/research with veterinary staff for their guidance. Generally these are good in that they are easier to care for and they reproduce frequently, only that they are easily attacked by diseases. Another point is about "Introducing Bible Basics". I have a good number of them in stock. These being in English, I fail to distribute them since the majority of the converts here are illiterate. I was thinking of having it translated as we did with Bible Basics. On 1 April 16th, we had about twenty baptisms at Chatewa where three ecclesias met for Easter Bible meeting. We had a wonderful time; Bro. Emmanuel Mphambo also came to be with us. May I also bother you brother, I am in need of a Greek/English Interlinear New Testament Bible. I came across this title when I was reading a certain book. I would also love to have copies of books which explain about Satan, Elijah's heaven-going and Resurrection of the dead. I quite well understand about the Kingdom of God to be established when Jesus the Anointed comes again and I do not find any problem in explaining that.

Bro. George Nkhoma



Photo: Group of Sisters at Salima who are studying in detail 'Where Women have No Doctor'

SINYALA

If you could add an extra three copies of Bible Basics manual in Chichewa language I will deliver them to brothers and sisters or my ecclesia and Kadase ecclesia. Also send 3 Bible Companions. Let me know the truth from the following:-

Rev 2:15 says "So you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans." Who are these Nicolaitans? And 2) The ark and the great flood (Noah) – Will the people destroyed by the great flood (when people failed to obey God) will they awake for judgment when Jesus Christ comes or have they gone for good? Thank you very much, God bless.

Bro. Henderson Sosola

TENGANI

I respect this correspondence because I have received your letter in which you enclosed the book known as Mfundo Zoowadi Zeni-Zeni Za Bukhu Lopatulika. I am very happy to hear from you at all times. When I read the book I was helped in my spiritual understanding and I also pray to God for the super things that you did to me to prosper in blessings from God himself. If you could come here I would be very grateful.

Bro Ereck Biyala



Photo: Bro. Harry Benito and family (Ulongwe)

news from nigeria

ABA

I am a reader of Gospel News. First of all I want to commend CAT for the efforts you have been putting in on gathering information worldwide and publishing it. I pray that Yahweh will guide you. Gospel News has been my companion. It makes me know that I have brethren all over the world and also encourages me when I read of the hardships my brothers are in, especially those in the Arab countries which are mainly Moslems, and the faith they use to overcome them. Please, brother, my mother, a Sister, is in great need of the book 'Where Women Have No Doctor'; it will be of immense help to her. Please, I hope you will kindly send it to her. We Africans have serious economic problems. We are having serious inflation here in Nigeria. Here, US \$1 = 245 Naira. It is hard for a student to get the 245 naira. We feel this must be a sign of the coming of our Lord.

Bro. Peter Onwuchekwa

I am a regular reader of Gospel News and other interesting books you send. I do appreciate your labour in the Master's vineyard, in fact, keep in up – God will strengthen you people and those that do emulate you to spread the gospel. He will not leave you or forsake you, He will reward abundantly. I have many pictures which I take at our various camps and gatherings which I would like to appear in our Gospel News but the envelope you sent me is too small, please send me a larger envelope, my pictures are 5 x 7. I also need Bible Basics, the English version, at least three or more. A brother from Togo came and insisted on taking my copy, so I had to give it to him and now I don't have any and many friends around me need it. Please I will be glad if my request will be granted.

Bro. Elijah Eze (Jnr.)

CALABAR

I have some Bible students who are interested in the daily Bible reading calendar. Please can you send some more. The Gospel News, other literature books like Glad Tidings, extra features in the magazine, the Present Day Events, all are very encouraging. I know that my answers on "Teach Me Thy Way" results will be made known to me and the corrections. I so thank you for including my name in the present list to continue receiving Gospel News and magazines. On the

Igbo translation of Bible Basics, I would like you to send as many with the English translation so that I can supply them to two University libraries in Calabar, my State Capital. We also thank the Almighty God for the change of mind of our new brothers in Indonesia and Malaya for leaving darkness to light and ready to know about the true living God, now that we are expecting the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please kindly send the exhortation on the seven letters in Rev. 2-3 as the last two paragraphs of your letter are so moving that I n feel I was there with you to hear the whole words in the evening Bible Class. I thank God that I can read them.

Bro. Igani U. Eteng

ENUGU

I have received the forty Igbo Bible Basics which we are putting to good use. We also need some more English copies. We have many new contacts and need general preaching literature. The hardships you mentioned in your letter are a sign of Jesus' coming – here in Nigeria, many are dying of hunger and disease. Unemployment is so widespread that some have left Enugu in search of work. Almost all the brethren in my Ecclesia are unemployed. I am the only person who decided to carry on alone as an industrialist (small scale) tailor by profession, but today it is not s o easy for me. I sew and sell. Nowadays people are bringing ready made materials from China and other countries. That has disturbed our own business and I am looking for something to do since the business is falling.

Bro. Goddy Nwosu

KADUMA

I received your letter and the pamphlet “What is the Bible”. I am very glad also to hear from you about my request, but am not happy that the Yoruba version of Bible Basics is not yet printed, owing to the costs and only available on the internet which I do not have access to. Please, whenever it is printed, I would like my own copy. I will be expecting the copy of ‘Elpis Israel’ and wish to inform you that I will be interested in Bro. Stanley Blackstone’s edited and typed up comprehensive set of notes for the daily readings you mentioned, these will also help me understand the Bible message more clearly. I have difficulty in understanding the book of Revelation and would like to have any book that can explain it to me.

Bro. Anthony Coker

I will like to share this phase with you all, hoping that it will encourage us to continue to run the race to the Kingdom. “Nothing guarantees a great future like a correct picture and you can’t feature in a future you don’t picture. We should all have a picture of the Kingdom of God on earth in our hearts as believers in Christ. Let us all try to feature in this future that we picture as we continue the wilderness journey to the Kingdom and await the return of Christ. Most importantly, let us always “obey and follow” and the Lord will see us through in Jesus name.

Amen

Sis Joy Amuchi.

KANO

Companies and industries alike do take stock for every fiscal year to assess how far they have fared. The balance sheet (if well assessed) will post either profit or loss in line with the company’s performance. The sustainability of any such organization depends largely on its creditable performance or faces being declared bankrupt. Like the industries, when we start a new year hale and hearty, it has become imperative for us to take stock with an overview of our relationship with God in the past year. How have we been able to adhere to the recordings and instructions of the instrument of discipleship in the Bible. “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine

heart.” (Prov 4:20-21) This I hope will serve as an acid test which will help us to re-position, re-engineer, re-focus and re-strengthen our faith in God and further help to purge away our shortcomings which were at variance with the things of God. This could be our last chance to amend our ways and return to God. For we have no control over death, let alone knowing when His Excellency, Our Lord Jesus Christ, will return. That we are living today is not a mark of our righteousness (self delusion) over those who are dead, but a ‘privileged opportunity’ to serve God in truth and in spirit. We have come a long way and therefore should not allow any little mistake(s) at this time rob us of our laboured eternity. For it is written, if we keep the whole law and yet offend in one, we are guilty of all. Indeed, a sober reflection is all we need to mirror our spiritual serve-cards. Our revivalism should be rekindled, unadulterated and unbounded. The crippling effects of hunger, wars, natural disasters, terrorisms and mayhem should not by any means deter us, but should serve as the desired tonic to cause us to hold on to Him that is abundantly and exceedingly able to do all things. Like the Israelites of old, let us proudly say at all times “...for this day (year) is holy unto our Lord, neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is our strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

Bro Chris Anyanwu.

UMUAHIA

Loving greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are always very happy receiving Gospel News and reading the heart-warming news it contains. It is through Gospel News that Christadelphians know how wide in the world the glad tidings is reaching. It would be interesting to know the number of countries that the Gospel News reaches if you have the records. Thank you for your kindness, may the Almighty God continue to give you strength as you labour in His Vineyard.

Bro. Johnson Uwasomba



Photo: Bro Johnson

news from tanzania

BARIADI

I beg you will continue to send me Gospel News. Every week some food increases in price. Here I drink gruel after two days, therefore my body is not powerful. One day I shall die because of hunger. I went to do work but they repay me very little money. God bless you.

Bro Joseph Isamla

BENENDE

The Bible is the Word of God and tells us how to obtain everlasting life. (John 3:16). Since the Bible is inspired by God it is imperative for men to read it always for guidance, correction and training (2 Tim. 3:16). God communicate with us through the Bible so that we may walk in light instead of darkness. (John 8:12, Psalm 119:105). The Bible shows God’s love to us, mankind. This is quite clear from the fact that Jesus, God’s Son, died for us in order to save us

from our sins, which estranged us from our Creator (Romans 5:8). The Bible then leads us to the future of hope by showing us to accept God's offer of salvation because we are sinners (Romans 3:23). What is required of us is to be convinced of our need for a Saviour. Jesus invites us to share in the coming Kingdom of God on earth by his prudent words in Revelation 3:20-21, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne." God has always been calling us to follow Him (Prov.1:24). It behoves us then to listen to the words of God as they try to direct us in the Bible. By doing what the Bible tells us to; our sins will be blotted out. (Isaiah 1:16-19). The whole picture shows how our heavenly Father loves us. The apostle Peter, in his second letter, reminds us of this love (2 Peter 3:9), "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

Bro. Gabriel Mwakasapi

KIBIRIZI

Sisters and Brothers of our ecclesia were very happy with the group visit including Sis. Judith Evans, Bre. Tim Evans, our linkman, Tiherry Kabangu, Sammy Mutanga from Kenya, Samweli Alinoti and the Evans' children. They together visited us on 26th December 2005. Their visit positively reinforced our faith through their deep teachings. They taught us about sin in Eden and up to the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. They referred to the Holy Scriptures according to Matthew 1:1-21. We also talked about an ecclesial hall, which we do not have. We continue to hold our praying session in my house.

Bro. Edward Musabah

KIGOMA

I am very glad to have come upon your name and address in the book entitled Bible Basics and I was happy to read it carefully and answer the choice and ordinary questions at the end of each chapter on a separate paper. But I am delayed sending those because I have not the money at present to buy stamps. I am 20 years of age and single. I am a Christian of the Christadelphian faith, baptized on Thursday 25th September 2003 at Lugufu River for Ligufu Ecclesia, by Bre. Arthur East and Paul Dredge from UK but I was transferred to the Nyarugusu Camp ecclesia. I am learning the English language here and, please, I would like to have help from you of the Bible (in English language, Authorised King James) and a dictionary of English-French/French-English. Finally, having made the greatest and most important choice of my life taking Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and receiving the forgiveness of my sins, I need further gospel help from you to improve my understanding.

Bro. Wilondja Ramazani Lewis

Joyous salutations in Christ. With heavy breath I gladly received the 2006 Bible Reader's Calendar with which I hope I will further deepen my knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. This always shows, if not proves to me, that I am on your list preparing us towards the Kingdom. I promise that I will use it as I usually do in order to be well equipped with the Word, hence a positive teacher of my fellow brethren and sisters in my area. However I am now using a new postal box of 367 Kigoma, instead of the past 368. Please, for smooth communication, note carefully the change. Moreover, may I ask you to send some more scripture books, pamphlets and tracts to aid us in the daily work of our Lord.

Bro. Jerome Bukambo

KYELA

If you can send me an English dictionary, I will be thankful. Enclosed, please find an article for Gospel News. I wrote it by hand as it is expensive by computer. It is a sowing season out here and the rain has not started falling down as heavy as it usually does. We are therefore busy doing farm work despite the fact that worms have destroyed some seedlings in our fields. We pray that our Heavenly Father will help to wipe out these destroying worms in our fields. We are indeed living in the Last Days. Our Lord's prophetic words in Luke 21:11, Mark13:8 and Matthew 24:7 are true. The backbone of our economy here is only farming. We eke out our living by just cultivating our fields and getting both food and money from the farm produce harvested.

Bro. Gabriel Mwakasapi

MBEYA

Thank you for the reading glasses and the Bible Basics book translated into Kiswahili which I received. I was very sorry that I was sick for the whole three months. By God's mercy I am a bit better for I had no help from anywhere but from my Saviour Jesus, the King of Kings. I am still requesting other literature which will help me to defend the truth found in our faith. I sometimes hold debates with other sects and we always become the winner. I hope to bring some of these people into our family, God willing. Our country Tanzania is now facing an acute problem of food shortages, although it is the sowing season, there is no rain. The country is now praying for rain so that at least God could arrest the situation before it gets worse. N.B. One of my students is in need of reading glasses, he is aged 60 yrs and needs 3.0 glasses.

Bro. James Mwangomo

MBOZI

You have sent me cards (A string of Jewels) which I have found to be excellent for Bible teaching. I would like them translated into Swahili, at no cost, only the cost of typing. Please allow me to go ahead so that many of my students may have direct access to the knowledge. We would like to reproduce the pictures therein, maybe you can help us with that. But please let me have your comments first, especial, if you are willing to foot the typing bill.

Bro Raphael Mkeya.

NYARUGUSU

I am very thankful to receive the Bible Basics which you sent me, I read it for a long time. Our ecclesia here in Camp needs doors and chairs, Bro. Tim Evans was here and promised to send us money to make the doors and the chairs. There are 17 members here who would like to have Bible Basics in Kiswahili and one in French. Bro. Marcus, I remind you that we have a problem with learning the English language because the teacher who teaches English demands money from us. We would like how to know and write English well but we are not able to pay the teachers and so would like a copy of Duncan's 'Speaking with Jesus' English book.

Bro. Akulu Mmandama



Above: Advanced contacts receiving Bibles at Musoma.

Below: The Musoma Sunday School.



SUMBAWANGA

I would like to thank you for Gospel News that you send, it helps me to grow spiritually. I request one pair of reading glasses grade +1.5 and one Swahili Bible if possible.

Bro. Andrew Mlengo

ULYANKULU

We are in need of more calendars, Bibles and other supplementary books that are written in Kiswahili. Pass our great greetings to our lovely brothers and sisters and ask them to pray for us because we are facing great global warming which results in poor production. With that situation the followers are suffering from hunger and thirst. I am yours in Jesus Christ.

Bro. Makenga Reveliyano

Request for help. We are East African Church followers. As you hear from various media concerning the situation that the famine has overlaid the zone, actually we are suffering bitterly. So far the rain season has changed into a dry one, therefore we have no hope. With that situation we are crying to you brethren that you can save us from that deadly situation. We are about 29 church followers who are in need of assistance. (Matt.7:7-8, Psalm 82:4).

Bro. Makenga Reveriyano

UVINZA

I got sick with malaria and blood pressure illness. I am grateful that the Lord preserved me from this illness. I am now strong by His love. My thanks to all brethren and sisters who came to visit me at the hospital and encouraged me with the word of God. My cry to Christadelphians is to be busy with our heavenly Father's business. I send my photo and that of Lokole. The shot of him was taken when I was hospitalized.

Bro. Amnobe Iyungu



Above: Bro. Asende Lokole.

Below: Bro. Amnobe Iyungu, while hospitalized at Lugufu Hospital.



BUGIRI

Thank you for the letter you sent me. Surely it is so long since I heard from you, but all the same God has given us the gift of life up to this day. I have always remembered the time we spent in the sharing of God's Word and I believe we are together. Please can you send me more literature as it is a good preaching tool. God bless you all.

Bro. Waako Stephen

Bro. Yokosani Higenyi

It was 16th October 2005 when I was baptized in Busia, Uganda. When I went back home I had changed my behaviour to Christian life. I tried to get contacts to come to me wanting to know more about the Bible. Good enough they also agreed and they were baptized on 18th December 2005. So we have an offshoot ecclesia from Buswale ecclesia. We are four brothers and one sister with so many contacts.. They told me that they should also be considered on the list. The names are: Wanyama Fredrick, Ojiambo Philly, Nabwire Winnie, Oketch Alex and myself Mukisa Samuel. I thank you for Bible Basics which enabled me to learn and read very well and I passed the interview. I was one of the best students on that day. Another reason is to encourage my brothers and sisters all over the world that when you are interviewed and you fail, never be discouraged but instead learn more and understand. I myself was interviewed twice and I failed but I said I must work with the Chirstadelphian people because of the doctrine they believe in. So I thank God for what I am today.

Bro. Mukisa Samuel

BUSOLWE

Although I've been told something about you by some brothers whom you met at the time you came to Uganda, now something about myself. I am 24 years of age and was baptized in 1999 in 'Dawn' fellowship and changed, in mid 2000 to 'Central' where I fellowship. I am unmarried and a youth leader among the youth in Uganda. Thanks to the current news you sent me in relation to Bible prophecy, I will be happy to continue receiving such news since sometimes I can't listen to radio due to commitment somewhere and sometimes relating to the current news on Bible prophecy, so it will be helpful to me.

Bro. Juma Jophter

BUSOLWE

The message is, "So I will come near to you for judgment, I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me, says the Lord Almighty." All this is from Malachi 3:5.

Bro. Yokosani Higenyi

KASESE

I am very pleased to receive the book, 'Where There Is No Doctor', a few copies of 'Misingi ya biblia, Kitabu chenye Mafunzo', Bible Basics in Kiswahili and Bible Basics in English and its Introduction, 'The Death of the Cross' and 'Public Debate on Demons'. I quote the thanks of the early Apostles Paul and Timothy to all the saints at Philippi in Phil. 1:3-11 "I thank my God every time I remember you, in all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you... And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more

in knowledge and depth of insight.” I really thank you very much to make all the efforts to fulfill my request. The five copies of the Kiswahili Bible Basics and some of the literature books I am keeping in our ecclesia and use them during our Bible Study, especially for teaching those contacts who do not understand English since their number is big also. The public debate is so good giving the light of the truth in the Bible, especially a big challenge to the Pentecostal Evangelists and other groups (other than Christadelphians) who preach about the present existence of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit possessed today. It is very good for our reference when I am sharing the Word of God with other Christian groups. God willing, I need the book “The peoples we meet” which gives more references to different groups of people who have different religions and beliefs, so that in sharing the Word of God you can easily know to what type of person you are talking. I again thank you for Gospel News. Finally, peace be to all the brothers worldwide and love with faith from God, the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

Bro. Isaac Bulea Cox

KASESE

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I am Biira Josinta, baptized by the Christadelphians. I am aged 19 years. My dear brothers and sisters I need to receive Gospel News. I also need to give articles to other brothers and sisters worldwide.

Sis. Biira Josinta

KISANDALO

Here at Kigandalo we are all well. We thank those that enable us to be sent Gospel News and literature. We are enjoying it with our friends and brothers and we hope you will continue with the same spirit because people are very interested in reading them. I will also thank Bre. Mathias and John Palmer for the good messages I always receive from them. Please remember me in all your prayers and pray that the Lord Jesus comes back this year.

Bro. Samuel Onyango

NAKUKU

I came to know the truth in the Bible and after that was baptized. I thank God for what I am nowadays. The point today is that I would like you to send me the following if possible: (a) leaflets (b) Gospel News (c) books concerning God and Jesus (d) a hymn book. I would be very grateful if I am considered for the above items since I am eager to learn about the Word of God. God bless you all.

Bro. Mukisa Samuel

news from zambia



Photo: Bro Nelson Bwalya [right] with Bro Charles Chall at Solwezi

CHIFUNSA

It has taken me a long time to communicate with you due to various reasons. Because I live in a

remote place, I also face problems in finding stamps. I am requesting from you the following books, if possible:- Where There is no Doctor, Bible Basics and other educative books and leaflets.

Bro. Goodwell Mubanga



Photo: Members of Chifunsa Ecclesia

CHINSALI

I write to you to ask for free Bible study tapes; our group consists of five people. We will be very grateful if this request can be granted. We are sure that this scheme will help us to grow spiritually. If possible kindly send me a copy of a Zambian agricultural officer's notes on soya bean production and how they can be used or processed before consumption. I understand they are consumed in different ways but I don't know how.

I am the secretary of a small ecclesia in a remote area in the northern part of Zambia and this is Kabale ecclesia. I write to request the book "Where Women Have No Doctor". To help benefit our families. Another request is for the book, "Growing a Balanced Diet" but I understand that this book is out of print and since we are unable to get the required information. We ask CAT. to let us have any of the following six booklets from the Swedish Co-operative Centre:-

1. Principles of Planning Vegetable Production
2. Traditional Vegetable Crop Production.
3. Root Crop Production.
4. Production of some exotic Vegetable Crops.
5. Seed Production and Vegetable Processing
6. Conservation Farming

Since we live solely on cultivation, these booklets will help us to become self-sufficient. We will be very grateful if any of the above requests can be sent to -

Bro. Brighton Chiluba

I personally find Gospel News very informative, spiritually and salvation wise. Being a new baby in Christ I found your message to be of great importance to me and many of my brothers here at Mandona. Please keep it up. The other thing here is that we are passing through a very difficult time as we had very few rainfalls last year, which started after our planting season, so we had very little harvest. This year rains started in January, instead of November last year, so many of the brethren here are surviving on food for work, so we are at times failing to meet all at the same time as one or two may be out looking for food for the family. It is my appeal to my brothers and sisters worldwide to pray for us that we may go through this period with minimal suffering.

Bro. Charles Kangwa

KABOMPO

I am very grateful to be informed that you have sent a parcel of books and tapes by sea mail. Brothers, may the Lord bless CAT. for the work of God you are doing, which is helping us us the narrow way to the Kingdom. Kabompo ecclesia has translated our local songs in Lunda and Luvale, which are the main languages of Kabompo and two of the seven languages of Zambia, through Bro. Bob Webb.(Horley,UK) God willing Kabompo may grow through these songs.

We are very grateful to receive the book "Where There Is No Doctor". I am informing you that Kabompo ecclesia held an election of office bearers. I was elected the secretary, Bro Francis Mukabe, treasurer and Bro. Richard Masuwa committee member. Kabompo ecclesia has no permanent postal address due to the fact that it is too expensive. This is why the secretary elected uses his personal address. Regarding the gospel tapes project we have formed two groups of four members each group for rotation of tapes. This is the new start of Kabompo ecclesia.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Cecilia Muhupu



Photo: Bro Nelson Bwalya (left), during a visit to the Kabompo Ecclesia

KAFUE

Sadly I have lost five children, which has left me with twelve grandchildren, whom I am staying with at the moment with in an uncompleted house. The house is partially roofed and always poses a danger to the children, especially in the rainy and cold seasons.

Bro. Lotson Kayuni

KALOMO

The following is a brief account of my preaching mission.

- 1) I left Kalomo town on 1.5.06 at 14.30 hrs. for Kabanga.
- 2) Arrived there at 18.30 hrs. Then walked to a student's home, Mr.Carrius
- 3) Munyumbwe's. At 20.45 I was at the place and stayed the night. Friday morning I and the two students, Mr. Elias Mwembe and Mr. Carrius Munyumbwe sat at 7.30. hrs to discuss matters pertaining to their meetings. I was told that all was okay. About eight students have received their English lessons, only those awaiting Tonga lessons are without. What they need are Tonga Bibles to enable them to answer Tonga lessons, and hymns, as well as constant visits from baptized brethren and sisters at least twice a month.
- 4) At 9.45 hrs I left in search of the widow of the late Brother Daniel Siamusonde, Mrs. Sophia Mweene, who also has been doing some correspondence and has completed. I reached her home at 12.15.hrs. I enquired how she was doing with the lessons and I was told that she had completed. She is also in need of a Tonga Bible since the one they used previously was grabbed away by the administrator. She also needs constant visits by brethren and sisters, also some material assistance where possible.
- 5) At 14.10 hrs I left for a certain student's home, Mr. Bonwel Muvanmi.

6) I arrived at his house at 15.30 hrs. The aim of seeing him was to find out more about what Bro. Elijah left behind since it was heard that he had shifted to Luanshya in December 2005. Fortunately I found him and his wife. After some 10 to 15 minutes two more students arrived. I then introduced my visiting his house and to assist me proposing some names of students, two male and two female, who could be used as organizers of CBM programmes (assisting). Four names were given – 1. Mr. Charles Nyekeleyi, who was present that day, 2. Mr. Kingley Kamasitu, 3. Mrs. Rodah Mweene, 4. Mrs Florence Siamatwe. On the part of meetings they said they do meet but haven't yet found a suitable meeting place since Bro. Elijah left. But Mr. Bonwel Muvanmi sacrificed his home to be used for meetings now until a place is available. English lessons do arrive to some students, only those for Tonga lessons are still waiting. They also ask for Tonga Bibles as well as hymns. Constant visits are needed..

7) After that long discussion I left for Jokwe Basic School (Kanyanga turn off) with the aim of finding a place to sleep with whoever would welcome me. While still languishing about a lorry ferrying relief maize for Mooka Basic School happened to pass by. I asked for a lift and was granted it. By then it was 19.00 hrs. By the time I arrived at Mooka Basic School it was 21.15 hrs, then I started on foot to see Mr. Phanael Siamutone, the student.

8) I arrived at his home at 22.10 hrs and he and his family were still awake and after supper retired to sleep. He is our CBM contact person in place of our late Bro, Daniel in that area. Early morning of 7.1.06. we sat, four of us, Phamael, his two wives and me. The first thing I did was to hand over the students mail lessons which pass through Box 620214. The mails were 15 in number, other mails I delivered some time back. After that I asked how the meetings are going on. They do still meet as before. Tonga lessons are being waited for. Tonga Bibles are needed and constant visiting. Then he gave me more new names to start the course – 1. Mr. Charles Siatubebe, 2. Mr. Jonah Tilimboyi, 3. Mrs Agnes Siamubone, 4. Mr. Misheck Nalweta, 5. Mrs. Susan Nalweta, 6. Mr. Clare Syeejilo. At 8.20 hrs. I started for Jokwe B. School, returning back. After having walked for 3 hrs. a lorry happened to come my way. I asked for a lift and was granted it but this driver was still to branch off for Simalundu to collect some empty drums of diesel for refilling in Choma. He asked me if I could go with him and I agreed since I was tired and hungry and the journey was to take me four more hours to reach Jokwe B. School on foot.

9) We then branched off but only above halfway the lorry got stuck because of wet ground. These drums were at a dam construction. We struggled to make the lorry come out from 12.30 hrs. assisted by nearby villagers, but no success. At 18.50 hrs another small vehicle arrived at the site going to the dam. It tried to pull but failed. At about 19.30 hrs a big lorry from the dam arrived to assist. It was our earnest hope that would avoid our having to sleep at that point. Drums were brought to that point so we turned back for Kalomo after being pulled out. Three contacts talked to us while we were busy with mud all over our clothes. 1. Mr. Victor Siatontola, 2. Mr. Lloyd Siatontola, 3. Mr. Dicson Mwyinzala of Box 620184, Siamfumba Basic School. We arrived at Kalomo at 24.30 hrs. and slept at a bus shelter. Early morning I reported my trip to the secretary, Bro. Lameck and reached home at 13.30 hrs. Thank you so much for the Bible Basics you sent both English and Bemba. All parcels have arrived safely. Thank you for the small book and all your assistance. Please do send any suitable literature for preaching purposes.

Bro Harry Hambula

KASAMA

I have plans with our local community radio to make arrangements for a little time on their table for me to present to the public a religious lecture. Unfortunately, I currently don't have enough

literature on most difficult concepts in our faith to overcome any due challenge, like topics that appear in the Study Manual of Bible Basics. I need supportive material from you, i.e. notes concerning the same and many more. I'm not as profound in the faith and Truth as you may be, so I surely need your spiritual support in material and prayers. The place in which we live is comparably poor in terms of health and facilities. We therefore are very much exposed to adverse conditions that risk our lives in terms of disease. We know that God is in control but He has given us reasoning power for us to tell the situations and know how to avoid danger. So our commitment to Him should be accompanied by our own skills as Bro. Duncan states in his Bible Basics Study 11. Some problems we face in our lives are as a result of carelessness and ignorance. It is in this respect therefore I make a request again for 'Where There Is No Doctor' for the wellbeing of my family and the surrounding neighbourhood.. From the point of view of Revelation, not only are some of our ecclesias letting go of the 'agape' love as the ecclesia of Ephesus, but are actually becoming lovers of their own selves more than lovers of others. Jesus never transmitted a picture of loving some people and hating others. God loves all. How do we, as brothers and sisters, come to choose who we should love? Thank God for Jesus and the type of person in him! O Lord God, you are great and fair! Had it not been so no man of my kind and nature (a beggar), would have had a chance in your Kingdom. Blessed be your name O God, now and for ever, Amen. One wonders if 'we' as a society, are becoming a contributing factor to the losing of the first love by the community. God forbid, and may the Lord help us to learn to stand by ourselves and that we cling on to the Truth to the end. Anyway does the burden come from Africa alone? Thanks, brothers, for the information enclosed, for it is really helpful to me. My prayer is that you extend your hand of help both spiritually and physically to wherever God so wills for the reward reserved for you is immeasurable. Please let me make this one request if I find favour in your eyes; a Bible dictionary, a commentary and a copy of "Where there is no Doctor" will be heart feltedly appreciated.

Bro. Boniface and Sis. Christine Simpanzye

KAZEMBE

Continue to send me and Sister Elisabeth the Gospel News. Right now I am working on articles for publication. Also send me leaflets to assist me in my preaching mission. What is the latest news about Israel? Are the Palestinians still hoping to divide the holy city Jerusalem? Don't they read the Bible and understand how God divided that land through Joshua?

Bro John Kasanda

KITWE

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. I have received the two parcels containing 10 Bible Basics in French and 8 Bible Basics in English, plus the Bible. Thank you so much for your great love, may the Almighty God bless you in whatever you do and grant you a place in His Kingdom to come. I am very happy to have received your letter and the book "The Death of the Cross". I was impressed on what will happen in the future and the consequence of the flu pandemic in UK and earthquake in the Dead Sea. These things are to warn us believers to prepare ourselves to meet our Lord Jesus because we do not know the hour or the day. Israel has suffered injustice from her neighbours and from world influence and I will be happy it I could be with Israel and fight along with Jesus. Concerning rabbit production, it is a very good idea which I would like to do. Please if you have details on how to care for these animals I would be glad to receive them.

Bro. Robert M. Miwele

Life is indeed getting harder and harder every day. The dollar has been falling but there is still a cry from local business communities that they are running out of kwacha as they have to order their merchandise from abroad in dollars. The drought that hit Zambia last year hit most parts of the country and the impact has spread even to other areas. Last year a 5kg tin of maize was costing k4,000.00, the same tin (known as a medda) was selling at k5,000.00 in December and in February k7,000.00. There have been government efforts to assist in areas where food has been very scarce but these are not often enough. I am glad to hear that you have sent me by sea mail a few Bible Basics and a book 'Where Women Have No Doctor'. I will be very ready to receive them and thank you very much. My wife assists at the nearby health centre with ante-natal cases. The book will be very helpful to the ecclesias as well as the community. We in Zambia really do appreciate the work that Duncan is doing. We pray that all hurdles be removed from his way as he continues to do the Lord's work. Our Kitwe Ecclesia has been split into (what I can call) proximity groups. I was told that the Kitwe Main School, which was central even for me from Luforanyama district had become expensive and will only be used for fraternal. This arrangement has made my son, Elvin Jr. (16) unable now to attend Sunday School, which he used to do fortnightly. I am, however, pleased because the fraternal dates are being sent to me and I can break bread with brothers and sisters once every three months. The Gospel of Mark would be ideal for studying the gospel as well as teaching the English language. Internationally we have an exploding world population which is going hungry because of man's destruction of the environment by deforestation, pollution, chemicalisation and war, leading to climatic changes in places, fierce hurricanes and huge flooding, the plague of HIV-AIDS which has infected many. It has become daily talk on all media in Zambia. Nevertheless we have to heed Luke's warning, "Be careful" he says, "lest the day closes on you, like a trap." (Luke 21:34). I thank you very much for the book "The Gospel and Strife" by A.D. Norris. I have also received three other books. Thank you once again for your efforts in this direction. I am still awaiting receipt of the Bible Basics you sent to me by surface mail. I hope they will arrive soon.

Bro. Elvin P. Muntamba

LUSAKA

I thank you for Gospel News magazine and the Bible Reader's Calendars. I would like to continue receiving the Gospel News because it helps me to know what is happening to other Brothers and Sisters worldwide. Some articles encourage me so much that I would not want to miss a single copy. I would like you to send this book entitled "Modern Medicine and the Bible" and the comprehensive set of notes for the three daily readings prepared by Bro Stanley Blackstone, if available. As far as I am concerned I am very young in the faith and I always want to learn from big brothers and sisters. May the good Lord, who revealed the divine wisdom to you, help us to do His will. The day of the Lord is really at hand, that is why I want to keep on updating my mind with the Word of God. You are really doing a tremendous job by encouraging me.

Bro. Jaxon Kalumba Jnr.

Comment. We are unable to add any more to the mailing list for the Daily Reading Notes. Unfortunately the scheme has proved to be more expensive than anticipated. MH

I don't know how I can thank CAT for their compassion shown, by sending me reading glasses. I received them safely together with a book "Jehovah's Witnesses, their doctrines briefly tested by Scripture", and "The Death of the Cross", plus "Present Day Events and their meaning from the Bible". I walk 6 miles Saturday and 6 miles Sunday from my house to the ecclesia meeting hall. With reading now I am OK. Please do send me any books you think would be good or

beneficial to me.

Bro. Davies S. Nthara

I am aged 22 and have completed my post course of 40 lessons and I have started the new course which is "New Life in Christ". I am willing to serve my Creator and I am very happy to be in the Christadelphian community. I started receiving the Christadelphian lessons in 2004 and I wrote my grade 9 exam in 2005, as now I am waiting for my result to come out. I was baptized on 24 April 2005 and I would like to receive Gospel News and learn what my elder brothers in Christ write, and I want to be in God's Kingdom through Jesus Christ.

Bro. Stephen S. Siomabi

MUFULIRA

Here in Africa the only problems which affect me are attendance at our meetings. People have no interest in the Word of God. They want something that can satisfy their desires, as the Bible says, in the last days. I received the latest Gospel magazine in which I found news about Mike, my son who is deaf. I would like to ask how possible it is to have the book which I saw in the magazine 'Where Women Have No Doctor'. If possible try to send us one. I would love the following list of names to receive Gospel News.

Bro. Fred Mumba

I hope this letter finds you in good health as we wait for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope one day we will all meet in the Kingdom and all our life's problems will be solved. I would like to inform you that since I was baptized on 6 June 2004 I have not been receiving receiving Gospel News which I enjoy as it gives wide knowledge.

Bro. Musanda Mbewe

As we are called brethren in Christ we must resemble Jesus Christ in everything. We must not be teachers by word while our hearts are far from him or else we are killing ourselves. We read from the Word of God how Jesus went through a lot of suffering but he had faith in his Father. If we look at Joseph his faith was also in God, and Job never cursed God, instead he became stronger in all his suffering. What about us, who are called brethren of Christ, do we have faith in God and His son, Jesus Christ? Brothers and Sisters, when trials and temptations fall on us let us take them to Jesus; yes, let's lay them at the feet of our Lord Jesus, for he is the only one who can save us from everything. Let us not lose sight of Jesus. I know that it is hard with this flesh of sin. Remember Jesus also had our sinful flesh nature but he never sinned. When we sin let us recognize the sin and stop it for Jesus never sinned.

Sis. Loveness Chileshe

I never thought Russia could be that cold - rivers frozen over and 'difficult summers'. It is good that, despite the weather, the Lord has always been able to provide security for his servants. I am glad to inform you that I have now completed the course in Motor Mechanics at Grade 7 (Trade Test level) and I got quite good results; 84% in Theory, 62% in Practicals and 85% in Entrepreneurship Studies. You can see that I very much need to get involved with the practical exercise as we were not much exposed to it during our course period - six months were not enough. Despite these results I am not yet in employment though I have written some application letters to some companies within Mufulira and one in Kitwe which seems promising; maybe soon I may be called for interviews and, God willing, be successful and ready to start a job. Life is not easy at the moment, as you put it, 'for everyone everywhere'. We still have to put it all into the Lord, for He knows best what we need and when. So let Him act. I was delighted to hear of the Bible Class you had, looking at the letters to the seven churches and the

tremendous commendation for the Ephesus Ecclesia. You will agree with me that the love the ecclesia lost was the only way they could prove their 'hard work' for the Lord and that was to see their part in the Kingdom, as is the case for all who come back to the Truth. Had they regained their real love, repenting of their sins, they could have been forgiven. I stopped for a moment to say that what happened at that 'zealous' ecclesia, it is also happening in our ecclesias – you will agree with me. We seem to be having difficulties and confusions in our own ecclesias, not thinking best for/about others, and not just loving them, and I think of what the Lord will say to us on that day! Please, brethren, don't stop remembering us in your prayers, as much as we remember you, that together, we may be in that glorious Kingdom – may it come soon. Surely almost everything that was to happen in the last days is happening.

Bro. Silas K. Chishimba

Below left, Bro Nelson after a Bible Class at Mufulira



NAKONDE

I am thanking God for the Africraft organizers who made it possible for me to have the opportunity of going to Chipata, Zambia, and learn how to sew. I know that this skill will help me in future. May God bless those who are doing this work and who are helping those in need. May the grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with God's people. May He bless you for the work CAT is doing.

Sis. Esther Muntete

We are all fine here in Nakonde except that I have a very painful right eye. I went to see the doctor in Lusaka, which is about 1000 kms., because here in Nakonde we don't have an eye doctor. They did their best, the doctor removed something from my eye and he told me to go back for a review which I did and I was given another medicine and have to go back in two months. The Calendar helps me a lot for Bible readings and even for the students and Gospel News has been very helpful for us who have been in isolation for some years, because whenever we read from it we are being comforted by the letters and the articles.

Bro. Martin Simukwai

NDOLA

I am a bit better as last week I was suffering from malaria. Life in the world is not easy, we all go through hardships, but God tells us to call upon Him in time of trouble, read Psalm 50:15. Only God can solve our problems through His Son Jesus Christ and also God works through people. Bro. Stanley Blackstone (Worthing UK) has edited and typed up a comprehensive set of notes for the three daily readings. Let Bro. Stanley continue with this as we need a good set of notes covering the readings. I also thank you for the book 'What is the Bible?' Some people do not know how the Bible came about, the inspired Word of God, written by people moved by the Holy Spirit of God. This is not an ordinary book, like newspapers or novels, it is the Word of God talking to us, telling us what to do and telling us what happened to our fellow brothers and sisters of long ago, warning us not to fall into temptation but to follow our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our days are days of trial and extreme temptation, renewing our faith. Read Revelation 3:21 and also read John 12:24-26. Jesus said, "Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates

his life will keep it for eternal life” and also read Hebrews 9:27, “For it is appointed for a man to die once, and thereafter judgment”. The Bible writings were written by God’s spirit inspiring men (2 Peter 1:18-21). Those Bible writers prophesied and spoke the words with which God’s spirit had inspired them, these words were written down and form all scripture which we have in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Bro. James Mwanza

PEMBA

I am happy to have this time to write after a long time. I have been held up, so many things needed my attention, my pre-school as well as other things. The schools are now closed. I am however just going through Bible Basics translated into Bemba and it was wonderfully done. My hope is that this one in Tonga will be done in the same manner. I also think you might be wondering as to why I have taken much time to finish the assignment. Some officers concerned at this time of every year are busy with seminars to prepare for annual shows and new seed/fertilizer sharing as well as other food security programmes. You might also have noted that in my last letter I mentioned some materials which I did not include to you, so here they are. I may need to talk to the agriculture man in Choma as well as in Monze as soon as they are free from this raining/farming season. I am always looking forward to your response to my letters, also Gospel News. I need the following books ‘What the world is coming to’, ‘2000 Years of Daniel’ and ‘The Revelation’, also Middle East updates plus other materials. There is still much that we ought to do, the world is nearing the end and we should not overlook or pretend to ignore it, Rev.2:7, 11-12. We should therefore go into the world and share the good news of the gospel, (Mark 16:15-16), thereby showing the light in us (Matt.5:14-16). We really need to focus our attention on what is happening and be conscious of time. There is need for us all to meditate, study and pray. We shall never feel lonely if we are working and thinking as well as doing what time needs us to do. Let us build our foundation by working with God, we will then get it right with God and every step we take will be enlightened by Him.

Bro Wilfred Chibomba

Comment - Bro. Wilfred has helped us a great deal in locating literature on food production and on growing many crops. We have printed his leaflet on Conservation Farming which he will be pleased to send anyone. His address is P.O. Box 640047, PEMBA, ZAMBIA

I was very happy indeed to receive the copy of ‘Present Day Events’. Soon I will write to Gospel Publicity League in Australia for more copies to be sent to me. Also thank you for sending me “What is the Bible?” which I have found very interesting. I wish, if I can, to translate it into Tonga because it bears educative Bible historical background. I would like to start a small Bible School in our area. Because we are in isolation we need to have a good number of Bible teaching materials for enabling us to help new contacts. I hope and trust that you will help where you find it possible. My experience these days is that one cannot say, ‘Next week’, for example, ‘I will finish building the house’, without first asking God in prayer.

Bro. Joseph Mulawo

SOLWEZI

We were hit with illness in the family, malaria. Our daughter suffers what doctors are calling Bell’s Palsy, she has difficulties with talking and drinking and can’t close her eyes. We need your prayers. Our son, Timothy, also did not do well in his exams and has to repeat the grade; he had some chest troubles for some time and it has affected his learning. Bro. Nelson Bwalya came to see our sick daughter in a very poor hospital We had a nice time with him.

Bro. Winstone Lotala



Left, Bro Nelson who baptised Bro Kahjingah on 23rd March, which is the last of dozens of baptisms he undertook before his falling asleep in Christ on April 21st.

news from zimbabwe

BULAWAYO

Greetings to you in the sure hope that we share. Many thanks for the Bible Basics, leaflets and a book entitled "The Cross of Christ" which you posted for the Bulawayo Ecclesia. The parcel came when I was outside Bulawayo, visiting my family, as you know that here in Zimbabwe we have country homes as most of us have no special professional jobs. The rains have fallen very well and the severe drought facing us has come to an end this year.

Bro. Ambrose Tanyepana

I am now back in Bulawayo. Every month end I go to Masvingo, a town about 99 kms from my home area. One of the things that touches me to the quick is that whenever I read Gospel News I came across some sad news about brothers or sisters in Africa or the world. Let me say the suffering, poverty and disease are from God. When God said, "Look, the man is like us, he knows good and evil" (Gen.3:22), the underlined word "evil" means bad. So in Gen 3:18 God promised suffering after Adam sinned, "The land shall produce thorns and thistles for you". So why are we dumbfounded about suffering? Let us know that the life we have is meaningless (read Eccl.2:17-26). Wisdom to please God is the only good thing under the sun. When God created man He wanted him, to be obedient to Him. Some problems that we face are because of our sins. God promised to Israel curses for disobedience (Lev.26:14-21). A loving father always gives punishment to his son when he does bad things. When the Israelites bowed down to the golden calf, God plagued them (Ex. 32:35). We know that Jesus said, he will keep us from undue suffering, (Rev.3:10) Suffering gives us the perseverance that develops into faith. Faithful men are always at work, no matter at what time. In Romans 8:35 it says, "What shall remove us from the love of Christ..?" If we believe that God is our shepherd (Psalm 23:1), we shall not want. However many trying times come, He shall comfort us. All these shall end like one dreaming. All suffering and trying times shall end when the Kingdom of God shall come no war, disease or death. Finally, let us be like the lamps which were in the tabernacle burning day and night, meaning our daily reading, that will make us a bud like Aaron's rod. When we call ourselves Christadelphian it means that we are the flock of the same sheep, we must have been gathered together with the same voice (John 10). This means that all of us are united together with the cup of the new covenant that we share. However, if we follow our own ungodly desires (Jude:19,20), there is a punishment that one can come to like Korah, Dathan and Abiram who were swallowed by the earth. To us also, we shall be sent to Satan (the world). We shall be swallowed by the sin that is in the world. Why also should the body of Christ be divided? We were all grafted in by the same olive tree (Rom. 11), Also the vine, we are all of us the branches (John 15). Why shall we put ourselves in the place of Christ who is the trunk? When we are leaders we must be the same as others. Finally I say let us value our baptism and the bread and wine. (1.Cor 12:25). Thank you for sending me Gospel News while I was at Chivi. I have tried to

plant maize and sorghum on a large scale because our area is receiving rainfall below the amount needed.

Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

I have been added another year to my age. We should also be maturing in truth and faith. I have just finished reading the Present Day Events and their meaning from the Bible. The headings are: "Chaos in the world...when will it end?" and "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch". I was desperately touched with the question by Jesus, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" With all this chaos, my answer is that many are called but few will be saved. I think with the current world situation, a vast number of people are trying to use human effort to solve the problems, but that should not be so with us who have chosen to follow Christ, come what may. Gal.3:3, "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

Bro. Moses Ajiweka

Gospel News and other literature are like appetizing food which lead me to read the Bible. CAT is really doing a great job in helping people to know the Word of God. May our dear God bless the work more and more with the hope of the Kingdom to be established on this earth. Here, we are busy planting and weeding our fields. The rain season has started well. We look forward to a good season if the rain continues like this. The environment now looks green and beautiful. It will be more beautiful in the Kingdom as there will be no toiling and sweating. It is a life and place worth looking forward to. Like Paul writing to the young Timothy, likewise those who are elders, married couples and those who are well-to-do in material advancement, should help our young people and the needy to continue in the faith. Each ecclesia must see to it that it organizes teenage and youth meetings to help them to know what God expects them to do, and for our unmarried brothers and sisters to marry in the ecclesia. We should pray for and preach to those who are not saved. It is good to marry someone who is of the same belief and faith. Preaching through leaflets, invitation and visits are very important in bringing people to the Lord. Like ants, let us work and encourage each other as the time draws near to our Lord's coming.

Bro. Obert Wiki

CHIVI

I am very happy because it is Sunday and I must keep the Lord's commandment that says, "Do this in remembrance of me" Luke 22:19. We must do it with faith, hope and love. Well, the world cannot judge itself, but we must judge ourselves. If we do this we shall not be judged. Finally, I want to let you know that my father has a small piece of land at Chivi where he has planted cassav in the backyard.

Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

GUTU

I want to have a daily personal reading of pioneer studies especially on the book, "Elpis Israel". So could you please send the complete set of notes on these studies. Please keep sending the Gospel News and any other literature. Our secondary school is building a library and the plans are now at an advanced stage so please donate some literature, especially Bible Basics.

Thank you very much for sending the book 'Backyard Rabbit Farming In The Tropics'. The manual is easy to read and the instructions easy to follow. Another project which does not need a lot of money to establish. I have +1,000 plants of JATROPHA on a nursery bed, the seeds of this plant

can be processed into diesel fuel substitute, oil and soap, candles can also be processed from it. It takes three to four years to start producing a crop. I am now looking for more information on growing, harvesting and processing the oil from them I am eagerly in need of this information.

Bro. Raphael Nyandoro

Comment. Thanks for the most interesting comment about growing *Jatropha*, this is a very interesting crop and, as you say diesel fuel and oil can be produced from it, also soap and candles. For those interested and who have access to the internet, there is much information on its uses and cultivation, just write in 'Jatropha' on the internet and very much information is obtainable; I am sending you some of it. There is also an article on the negative aspects of *Jatropha* which can cause poisoning, it produces hydrocarbons which may cause some cancers. It is sometimes used as a dense hedge and I guess could be difficult to remove if not wanted. I appreciate Oil Palm take, a long time to bear fruit, but I would have thought long term they would be very useful as a valuable food and for cooking oil etc.MH.

KADOMA

On 23rd February there was an earthquake here in Zimbabwe; but mostly Mozambique. I do not know how many died or were injured because I am far away from Mutare, during that time I was fast asleep. May the Lord bless our united effort to encourage people to get back to the Bible.

Sis. Alice Mlambo

KARIBA

I thank our Lord Jesus Christ, through whose death we have this wonderful fellowshiping in the Truth of the Christadelphians. I am 62 years but I am still a child who needs more spiritual food in spiritual books, Present Day Events, Glad Tidings, Gospel News, to mention a few. The prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ, John 17:6-12 - I feel very happy in the faith, that God chose me (v.8), and yet I always pray as in Matt.5:3 & 6 that I will thirst no more, even to those that I speak to, that the truth of the gospel news be revealed to them as I received it through Bro. Joshua Pakali. My opinion, God willing, is to make or start a pre-school for our Christadelphian children so that from youth they may have a true understanding of the Word of God. Though the preaching is in progress by the Campaign Group there are a good number of children and youth. There may be a place for them to meet and as we have a younger sister it is fitting for her to work with the children. Kariba has many students doing lessons, and some have given us reports that their tutors wrote letters for baptism, God Willing. As we wait for the Kingdom or our Lord Jesus we always pray that we may have all the armour of God (Eph 6:10-18), and I also pray for you that the love and peace of our God be with us till the Kingdom is revealed to us, where we will see each other face to face.

Bro. David Mhondiwa

CHISAPE

I was so happy when I received Gospel News and the deeper study of interest, 'The Epistles to the Thessalonians 1 and 2', very good. Thank you; this is real encouragement in our wilderness journey. Receiving Gospel News regularly and more news from you, my brothers and sisters, I have benefited a lot. Last year, I developed in wisdom through many trials and through your hard work in sending to me much different literature. God bless everything that you touch and keep you in good health. May they keep on sending Present Day Events and the newsletter; they are very informative and I am alert on world events, especially Israel, a boiling pot. We as the 'chosen fruits' of this earth know what is coming on this earth so let us pray always for our redemption is nigh. The Bible prophecy is now fulfilled at every corner of the world. Surely Jesus will come when all his enemies are under his feet. The sheep and goats are separated at his

judgment, at his coming. 'Where Women Have No Doctor' would be good for my wife, Joyce, she does not feel well in her body. May she be sent one for her health needs. Sister Joyce sometimes feels pains in her body and hands; I will help her to understand an English copy, if available. At the moment I am busy working on sweet potatoes, which are doing very well, following instructions of "How to Grow a Balanced Diet". May I have another book called "Principles of Planning Vegetable Production", thank you.

I know that things are difficult these days but I always remember that every flower that has bloomed had to push through a lot of dirt to do so. We make a living by what we get and make a life by what we give. I believe that God is in control in the affairs in the Middle East, soon His Son will appear on Mount Zion. As Rev. 2-3 gives us hints on the first ecclesias it is good for us to compare how we are doing in our ecclesias; have we got agape love? Doing is better than talking. Blossom is well in its place...but if there is no fruit the tree is worthless. Prayer is the key in the morning and the bolt on the door at night. We must try and fail...but not fail to try, this is my motto. Your brother longing for Jesus Christ.

I was so happy when I received the book "Speaking About Jesus". A good deed, no matter how small, is worth more than the greatest intention. My heart is full of joy. You have uplifted my 'O' level studies through the gospel message of our Saviour. Last year I sat for 'O' level exams for the first time. I wrote 5 subjects and passed one subject because of lack of books and assistance. I did not lose hope. Now I am doing night school at the same school that I wrote the exams. We were encouraged by the headmaster to do night school for them to accept us when we write exams again. I was very happy at this arrangement, so I am attending the night school. From my home and back is 16 km. but I have sacrificed to the end. You are saints of the Most High. You have done great my brothers and sisters. I am so pleased I am learning computer programs for the first time. I am seeing the hand of Providence in my wilderness journey through your deep spiritual love you share with this poor Lazarus. It's the little things we do and say that mean so much as we go on our way. A kindly deed can lift a load from weary shoulders on the road, thank you very much. As I am a student these books are very helpful as I have a desire to pass my subjects when I write the examinations. This time I am studying human and social biology, English, Maths, Computer, History and Commerce.

Bro. Stanford Kuuzha

MASVINGO

Here in Zimbabwe we have received good rains and I have recently received your articles. It seems that God cares for our needs, physically and spiritually. Keep it up with the work of publications as this has helped by fellow student teachers, mainly Mubonderi Tongorona and Mpisa Samuel. We experienced a tremendous earth movement at midnight. This and other related issues herald Jesus' coming very soon. All we need is to repent from our ways and be baptized in the Name of Christ and that is what is called complete renewal in Romans 6. I have also received all the literature you sent, but my fellow workers are better encouraged through reading from the Bible Reader's Calendar. I am living in perilous times in the teacher training situation at Chikaruoko and hope I will endure up to the end of the world. Lastly I dedicate my best fellow student, Mpisa Samuel, to be in the Truth revealed in the Bible and also pray pray for me in this matter.

Bro. Simon Mudavose

I write this letter to let you know that I would like to continue to receive Gospel News and other literature. I am finding them useful.

Bro. Costa Makwarimba

MATHABISA

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we are still waiting to come and set up the future Kingdom (Luke 21:34-36). He will raise the dead and judge them according to their faith and works. Those who are unworthy will die the second death (Dan.12:1-3). We are sorry to report the death of our student Portia Moyo after a short illness. She was on lesson 26 of the course and left two children, the first born daughter is in the Sunday School, aged 6 years. On the other hand we are delighted to report the baptism of Itai Ngwenya here at Mathabisa area, on February 27th 2006. May the Lord guide him to the Kingdom. Now we are three brothers. I am happy I now have brothers in the faith so that we can share the same faith and preach the Word of God in our area, God willing. We thank the CBM for opening us a postal box. The new address is Christadelphian Bible Mission, P.O. Box 110, Mathabisa, Zimbabwe.

Bro. David Ngwenya Norest

Let me take this time to thank you once more for your hard work for the widely read Gospel News. Here in Mathabisa we were blessed with one baptism and hoping the number will increase in the future as we walk towards the establishment of the Kingdom of God. We hope you will be spiritually and physically strong and healthy. We are doing fine in our preaching activities to our beloved students here in Zimbabwe. We are experiencing a lot of rainfall, and we thank the Almighty for His love towards His people. We meet twice a month with brothers and sisters in Bulawayo for breaking of bread. May the Lord of peace be with us in this life-threatening world, full of terror. Hoping the Lord Jesus may come very soon for his followers. Your brother by the grace we both abundantly receive.

Bro. Balewa Ngwenya

MUTARE

What are you seeing in the present day life? Are there any changes between today and yesterday? Life is now full of uncertainty, warnings, insecurity and fearfulness. This is to fulfill what is written in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Jesus. Read Rev.22:6-21. A true believer knows that God is in control, that He cares for His loved ones and that the Kingdom is coming soon. Did God reject His promises with the Jews and with Abraham? Read Romans 11:1-10. Did Jesus tell them about his death before he died? Read Matt.17:22-23. Who saw the vision of the Son of Man? Read Rev.1:9-20. Briefly I can say to all the believers, there is no room for fear, just joy.

Bro Stanford Masika



Photo: Bro Stanford's son and his friends.

TRIANGLE

Here at Triangle the word of our Lord Jesus Christ is going well. I am waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Bro. Jonathan Zvavamwenye

ZUMBA 7

Thank you for your letter and the notes on the signs of the times which are heralding the return

of our Lord. It is really heart-rending to witness and hear of such sad events happening in our neighbourhood. As Christ told his disciples to watch the things that are going to come and happen before his return, we should also likewise take heed for what is befalling others can also happen to us. We can find all the answers and truth in the Holy Bible. Now, let me share with you the joy of our ecclesia on February 5th. We were very happy and blessed with the successful interviews followed by the baptisms of five wise Sisters who were studying the Truth for two years. These are Sis Fungai Joseph, Sis Costa Musi, Sis Talent Chimbodza, Sis Nhamo Wiki (my sister) and Sis Patricia Chiwara. There are now seven sisters at Zumba ecclesia and three brothers. There are about six male students who are studying the Truth; some of them will be interviewed before the end of this year. May you and other brethren and sisters worldwide pray for our five Sisters so that they may be firm in their journey to the Kingdom of God. There are more female students who are also learning the Truth. When travelling to town I like discussing the Word of God with fellow passengers. On 3 February I had a spirited discussion about where believers and Jesus will be during the thousand years. A lady and two gentlemen said believers will go to heaven. I disagreed with them together with another gentleman from another church. This made me search my Bible more and more to find the truth. Many Christians seem to have taught or misunderstand the Scriptures. They also base their argument on John 14:1-4. But the Christadelphian knows that Jesus will reign here on earth during the thousand years.
Bro. Obert Wiki

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). We are delighted to report that we witnessed the baptism of five Sisters here in Zumba on February 5th 2006 by Bro Gift Lungu. The names of the Sisters are Fungai Joseph, Costa Musi, Talent Chimbodza, Nhamo Wiki, and Patricia Chiwara. So brethren we ask for your prayers so that the ecclesia may become stronger spiritually. Our aim is to spread the gospel to everyone. I would like to thank you for the literature sent to me. “If you, O Lord, kept a record of sin, O Lord, who could stand?” (Psalm 130:1-4). What if, from the day you were born, your parents kept a special book about you? In this book they write down every time you did something wrong. As you got older you were required to write in the book the things you did wrong. For example, you had to enter bad thoughts that no one else would know about or the bad things you might have done when no one else was around. The book kept growing larger and larger. The good news is that no book like that exists, but God knows all those things. Yet out of His great love for us, God offers us forgiveness through Jesus. The Bible reminds us that God removes our sins from us, as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). So Brothers and Sisters let us thank God that He offers forgiveness instead of keeping records.

Bro. Emmanuel Kondowe

ZVISHAVANE

Loving greetings in the hope we share. Hoping this letter finds you in good health as we are. We do appreciate very much the work CAT are doing worldwide, the proclamation of the good news. It is for this reason that we share the same faith as one family. Our ecclesia consists of eight sisters and four brothers and a Sunday school class. I have written this letter of behalf of CBM Zvishavane to request the book “Where Women Have No Doctor” for our sisters and the girls they are bringing up.

Bro. Sibangani Maka

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

We live in a world in which anger reigns supreme and in which forgiveness is a forgotten virtue. Today it has become fashionable to be a victim so that one can wear one's anger like a badge of honour, a poisoned ornament that sets one apart as somehow special, a sort of knighthood in the kingdom of human darkness.

Reconciliation and forgiveness are much more difficult options than anger but they restore us, victim and perpetrator alike, to a spiritual and psychological health that cannot be achieved until we find peace with those who have hurt us and with whom we have hurt. The message is: let us look into our own hearts and ask ourselves if we are a people of truth and reconciliation. We must be people who live the Gospels ourselves. The Lord says: *"If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift at the altar, go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift"*.

Sis S.

Fight the Good Fight

Once upon a time, a boy was helping his little sister up a steep mountain path when she complained, "This isn't a path at all, it's all rocky and bumpy". The little brother smiled and said, "Sure it's a path, the bumps are to climb over". A simple and straightforward sentimental expression. But if we, as Christians, stop to think, what these two young ones said, might have a deeper meaning in our journey to the Kingdom of God.

We, too, can sometimes think that the path is nothing but rocks and bumps. But we are reminded here that the rocks and bumps are to climb over. Following Jesus Christ is not just a simple matter of attending the memorial service every Sunday and partaking of the emblems, rather it entails determination, commitment and submission for life on our part. It's like fighting an unending battle in which one might seem to be winning today and is on the verge of losing the next day. It is only through determination and commitment that one may be assured of victory – thus overcoming sin.

At one point in Jesus' ministry, the apostle Peter was determined to fight an entire band of men who wanted to take his Lord by force, yet a few hours later he was so weak to the point of denying three times that he ever knew Jesus. He momentarily lacked determination and commitment. He had always felt safe and protected when Jesus was with him, but felt insecure and doubtful when his Lord had been taken away. The story of the brother and his little sister teaches us to encourage each other to continue fighting the battle even if the odds seem to be against us. It is only through determination and commitment that we can overcome the temptations that surround us. Like the apostle Peter, we may find that at times we are eager to resist, yet a few days later we find ourselves weak and vulnerable to the same temptation. For this reason we need to mentally rise up for the fight against the flesh and submit ourselves to the things of God. Paul, in his last days, was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith". He could only have said this because he had discovered the rocks and bumps on his way and knew that they were "to climb over".

Most of us have a tendency to relax, sitting on our laurels, thinking that because we were baptised into Jesus' name everything else would just flow. We should just learn that every day has its own battle to be fought, an onward race to run. We must be prepared each day to stand up to the challenges of that day, knowing that we will never be "tempted beyond that which we are able to bear". Never should we, as Christians, rest on our laurels, thinking that we can win today's battle with yesterday's score. Always remember, "There is a battle to be fought, an onward race to run, a crown of glory to be sought, a victory to be won". Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Bro Thompson Changata (Chishumba, Zimbabwe)

A New World According to God's Promise

The Bible, the written word of God, gives us hope when it says: There are new heavens and a new earth for which we are waiting according to his promise in which righteousness will dwell (2 Peter 3:13). Which is the "new heavens": spoken of by Jesus. (Rev 21:1-5).

The new heavens is a new government that will rule over the earth. It is new because it will replace the present system of rulership; it is also a new development in the outworking of God's purpose. It is the Kingdom which Jesus taught us about (Matthew 6:10). Since God is its source and He lives in heaven, it is called the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 7:21).

What should we say the new earth is? It is not a new globe, since the Bible clearly states that the earth will abide for ever (Ecc.1:4;Ps148). The new earth is a new human society, It will be new because the wicked will have been cut off (Prov 2:21,22). All who will inherit eternal life will then honour and obey God, and will live in harmony with His requirements (Psalm 22:27). People of all nations are being called upon to learn these commandments and to bring their lives into harmony with them now. Are we doing that?

In God's *new world*, everyone will respect His rulership. Does love for God move us to obey Him now (1 John 5:3). Is that evident in our home? At school? In our work place? In the ways we are using our lives? In that *New World*, human society will be united in worship of the true God. Do we worship the Creator of heaven and earth? Does our worship truly unite us with fellow worshippers of all nations, all races, all languages? (Psalm 86:9,10; Isaiah 2:2-4; Zephaniah 3:9).

Bro Tanyinjia Atabong Martin (Cameroon)

Passport (Nehemiah 2:1-7)

Long ago, Nehemiah was working for Artaxerxes as a servant. He had been faithful to his master for a long period of time. One day Nehemiah heard that his former city was in ruins and all his ancestors' graves laid waste. He was very sad when serving his Master with wine. Before, he had never shown disappointment in front of his Master. That day, Artaxerxes asked Nehemiah about his sadness.

Nehemiah expressed everything that he wanted chiefly to go to Judea, where his ancestors had been buried, to re-build Jerusalem. The master approved his request and asked him how long he would be gone (Nehemiah 2:6). In verse 7, Nehemiah asked his master to grant him the favour of giving him letters to the governors of West Euphrates Province instructing them to let him travel to Jerusalem.

Brethren, do you know what a passport is? It is a form of letter that one needs when he/she goes to another country. In most cases it is provided by the District Commissioner, according to your good conduct.

Brothers and sisters, have you got a passport? In the Gospel of Matthew, it describes the narrow road and gate that few find. When we say 'passport', we mean a spiritual passport, that is faithfulness before the Lord. It is this passport that will enable us to be in the Kingdom, but without it, we will be treated harshly (Daniel 12:2).

Bro Symon Wanyekheya (Phalombe, Malawi)

Find Joy in Your Worship

Personal Bible study and prayer are acts of worship that we may carry out in private. Now, however, let us consider an aspect of worship that we carry out publicly, speaking to others about our beliefs. Have you already shared some Bible truths with others? If so, you have enjoyed a wonderful privilege (Luke 1:74). When we share the truths we have learned about God, we are taking up a very important assignment given to all true Christians, that of preaching the good news of God's kingdom (Matt 24:14; 28:19,20). The apostle Paul viewed his ministry as something precious, calling it a treasure (2 Cor 4:7). Talking to people about God and His purposes is the best work we could do. It is service to the best Master and it brings the best benefits possible. By engaging for Him, God appreciates our efforts (Hebrews 10). Staying busy in such work helps us to remain in God's love.

It is important to remember that Kingdom - preaching work is urgent. The Bible says, "Preach the word, be at it urgently" (2 Timothy 4:2). Why is doing this so urgent today? God's word tells us, "The great day of God is near and there is a hurrying of it very much" (Zephaniah 1:14). Yes, the time is coming quickly when God will bring this whole system of things to an end. People need to be warned! They need to know that now is the time to choose God as their Sovereign. The end will not be late (Habakkuk 2:3).

When we gather with fellow believers at Christian meetings, we have a wonderful opportunity to praise and worship our beloved God. We also build one another up and encourage one another, strengthening the bonds of love and friendship in the ecclesia. It is important that we look for the good amongst us. Do not expect perfection. Remember that all are at different stages of spiritual growth and that every one of us makes mistakes (Colossians 3:13). Let us seek to build close friendship with those who love God intensely and we will find ourselves growing spiritually. Yes, worshipping God with our spiritual brethren and sisters will help us remain in God's love.

Bro David Yelulani (Banket, Zimbabwe)

Iranians Free At Last!



We're delighted to report that our beloved Brother Babak and sister Mona, the young Iranian couple who have so frequently been the subject of prayer requests and news on carelink, have finally arrived in Canada. This is a cause for pure rejoicing; that prayer does change things, and that our wonderful Father and His Son are indeed actively at work in our lives today, doing things which can truly be described as 'miraculous' in that without their gracious help, these things simply wouldn't have happened. In this message we summarize the history of our beloved brother and sister, and report on their final release.



They were baptized in Summer 2002 in Iran, along with six others, who have all now reached North America. Here is the ecclesia as it was then in Tehran- Babak is far left top, holding a Farsi Bible Basics. Soon afterwards, the fledgling ecclesia was persecuted, Bro Rassool was murdered, and all of them seriously persecuted and in risk of losing their lives. The entire ecclesia fled through Kurdistan to Turkey, where we began the long and complicated process of appealing to the UNHCR for them. Here's Babak boarding a bus on the last stage of that amazing journey.



The whole refugee experience was traumatic, Iranian agents were following and threatening the group. Babak and Mona perhaps inevitably fell in love. We arranged a wedding service. Here they are choosing a ring, and Bro Steve Johnson doing the service in an apartment in Turkey. But their lives were hard. Soon afterwards they were suddenly arrested on the street, imprisoned and deported to Iran, where they were imprisoned. They were badly beaten and abused and handed death sentences. They suffered terrible things which we won't elaborate. We stepped up our appeal to the UNHCR, collecting a petition of 2000 letters, which we took in person in a big box to the UNHCR head office in Geneva and personally pleaded for something to be done urgently. Eventually, something was done. But not before the Lord had saved them by a great deliverance from jail and death through payment of 'the cost of living'. They hid in various places in Iran, until we were able to arrange for them to flee to Georgia during the revolution and brief anarchy there [we have to mention the wonderful efforts of dear Liz in this connection, as in so very much]; and from thence to Azerbaijan. In Baku there were other Iranian refugee brethren and sisters, all of whom have now escaped to Canada; an ecclesia was formed. After the other

Iranians left, our brother and sister were very depressed and had huge problems with the authorities. Sisters Liz and Cindy made several visits to encourage them and strengthen them.



However most of the time they were alone, often fearful to even go out of the apartment, breaking bread and doing the Bible readings faithfully.



Along with Br Phil Ashforth of the CBM, we stepped up yet again the pressure on UNHCR and the relevant agencies. Nothing seemed to be happening, despite our prayers. But God does answer! Recently Duncan was able to go out to Azerbaijan and be with our brother and sister through the final clearances, and to see them onto a plane to Canada. And the great moment came, for them to sign up the final documentation for entering Canada. But all wasn't over. We had tickets for them to fly at 03:45 at night- but we still didn't have their passports, without which they couldn't travel. We'd arranged to meet the man working on their case in a park at 01:00 at night. It was a nail biting finish.



We broke bread together, prayed fervently that indeed this time all really would work out. The Lord taught that we must act as if we believe in what we ask for, and act and feel as if we've received it. And so we tried to. Going about the apartment, which had become some kind of prison for them over the last months, we joked about 'this will be the last cup of coffee here... last time we flush this toilet... last time we use this kettle...! The final act of faith was giving the keys back to the landlady. She asked if they really were leaving for good, as if so, she could move another tenant in the next day. 'Yes, we believe we're leaving for good tonight'. And we handed the keys back. We made a video of our prayer, that we would meet up with the guy in the park OK, and get through the airport OK. The prayer was answered. But we didn't know that at the time of course. So, as we said, 'for the last time', we walked down the stairs just after midnight, and out into the night to walk with the bags to the park. It all worked out like clockwork. We got to the airport and started the long red tape process.



Here's Mona almost asleep standing up, with her IOM tag, as we went from pillar to post with the red tape. And finally, finally ... passing through the final security and on towards the plane.



It truly was 'goodbye to all that'; and we're delighted to say that our dear brother and sister were met off the plane in Toronto by Iranian brethren Kourosh and Nima, along with local Canadian brethren. We're grateful to the Canadian ecclesias who are taking in our Iranian brethren. What can we say to these things? Thanks be to God for His unspeakable mercy even in this life. But please don't forget the number of other brethren and sisters in serious danger at this time who are still seeking safety and live in daily danger. Please pray for them and please continue to support the efforts for them. And we would like to record our sober and deeply felt gratitude to those of you who have prayed, given funds, found out information, tried to pull strings behind scenes, worried, cared and fasted for our Iranian brethren. We really do so appreciate it, and so do they.

For more information, see www.carelinks.net

Morocco

A number of visits have been made to Morocco over the last few years, slowly building up a small body of brethren in the small towns that border the Sahara desert. It's hard to imagine fully what life is like in those places. Everyone knows each others' business; Islam is the norm; you all show up at Friday prayers; tradition and being normal, like the rest, not shaming your family, not appearing 'odd' - these are values that are upheld even to the point of death. It's from those small towns that suicide bombers are recruited, fighters go off to Iraq. They would seem the last place where Biblical Christianity could take root, embracing as it does the hope of Israel and the radical call to follow the Lord's principles rather than those of the world, accepting His counter-cultural call... And yet against all odds, it has. The internet cafe has become an important addition to the otherwise very traditional and unchanging culture of those dirt poor towns. Here young people hang out, enduring terribly slow connection speeds to have a look at the wider world and check their Yahoo accounts. It's almost impossible to mail Biblical literature to those places - but that's where the internet has opened up the world. People can sit and read through our material at their own speed. Of course, for those brave few who take their interest all the way and have been baptized, difficulties and rejection of all kinds await them as they take up that radical, counter-cultural call of the Truth. Our visit was partly to assist the brethren in these problems. Additionally, it was a pleasure to spend time with SAMI, one of a very large family who had boldly accepted Christ some time back, then got involved with Jehovah's Witnesses in Morocco, and then again, thanks to the internet, came to understand their errors. The family run the hairdresser's shop in the small town, and again, there are serious social consequences for our brother. He gave a good confession of his faith, but it was necessary to take him to another town to perform the baptism. He was very clear as to the errors of the trinity, and is firmly looking forward to the Kingdom being established on earth. We discussed the idea with him of establishing an Arabic language portal on the net, as there must be many others like him throughout the Arabic world, eager for online contact and information about the Gospel. Hopefully our new brother will be able to join us at the CCM's online breaking

of bread [held on Tuesdays at midday GMT, run by Br Joel Pickering. Any who are interested in joining in can view more information at www.carelinks.net].

The other issue to report and ask for your prayers for concerns a Jewess, we'll call her SALI for security reasons. Most of the Jews of Morocco - they numbered nearly 400,000 in the 1940s - have moved to the West or to Israel. The community is in serious decline. Sali's parents lived in a small town with little contact with other Jews, occasionally taking her to the synagogue in Rabat- one time home of Maimonides. They died, and she was adopted by Moslem neighbours. They made her documents out as their daughter, and she has no documentary evidence of her Jewishness which would enable her to emigrate to Israel. Thanks to the internet, she studied Judaism and feels herself very strongly 'Jewish', and makes no secret of who she is. Living in a large house inhabited by her adoptive extended family, this makes her an embarrassment to them and despised in the town. She refuses to wear the hajib, the Moslem female head covering, nor will she go to Friday prayers. That was bad enough for her adoptive family, but then she met an Australian brother and sister on the internet, who directed her to our sites, from where she learnt the true Hope of Israel and decided she must accept Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. She's a very brave young woman, and she shared her convictions about this matter too. She is utterly despised in the town, abused in various ways, totally alone, her only friends being those of us she knows on the internet. It was therefore a pleasure to meet her and spend time discussing her faith, and to baptize her into Jesus. She sees herself as a Jewish Christian who has found in the Lord Jesus the true One for whom Israel hopes. She has a very clear understanding of the promises to Abraham, the Kingdom, and the way that Christianity generally is astray from its Jewish foundation. Her situation is difficult and she really needs assistance to get out of where she is, and we're working on trying to enable this.



Photo: Sis S outside the 'needle' gate along the old city walls in Rabat

You can clearly see the small 'needle' gate and the wider gate for loaded camels. We discussed the Lord's teaching, that to enter the Kingdom, we have to kneel down as a camel would have to, shed our burdens, and pass with difficulty through the narrow, 'needle' gate. Meanwhile please remember our sister, our new brother, and our existing Moroccan brethren in your prayers.

Who Then Can Be Saved?

Most of the time we face many things hard to bear, and at other times, problems simple to solve. Day and night, we face better things and worse things happening, both in the world and in our life in Christ. Sometimes the words we hear bring joy, at other times even fear. Consider the words of Jesus: "It is more difficult for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle" (Luke 18). Those who were listening asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus gave a straightforward but brilliant answer, "Nothing is impossible for God". No one who has left all to follow him, for the sake of the kingdom, will fail to receive many times as

much to come – even eternal life (v18-30). With that assurance, if we wholeheartedly seek his word, then we can have that life. Let us consider a few things that will help us to be saved.

Trusting in the only Lord and Saviour

Daniel and his friends knew that no matter what King Nebuchadnezzar would say, they would not serve any other god apart from the Lord their (and our) God. When Daniel's three friends were threatened to be thrown into the blazing furnace, they fearlessly said, "We do not need to defend ourselves in this matter... the God we serve will save us from it ... But even if he does not, we know that we will not serve or worship any god or the image you have set up" (Daniel 3:13-18). With much courage they said these things to the furious king, who ended up throwing them into the blazing furnace, but the God they served saved them. We, too, should have that courage and trust in the Lord to be saved. Our forefathers cried to the Lord, and they were saved, though they sinned against Him. We too, though sinful, can turn to him and He will save us. David, foreseeing (prophesying) the Lord Jesus' sufferings, cried out to the Lord (Psalm 22:1-5), and we know he was saved, but no king with his numerous army can be saved by them (Psalm 33:16). So, we need to put our trust in the Lord God, and in His son Jesus Christ (John 14:1-4).

The Advice to Repent and Live

When the Lord's people (Israel) offended Him, He brought severe punishment upon them. There was only one way they could get back to Him, having again that assurance that they will be accepted by Him and that was, providing they repented. "If you repent, I will restore you I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze ... declares the Lord. I will save you from the hands of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel" (Jeremiah 15:19-21).

Ezekiel also records: "Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you according to your ways, each one of you, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from your offences... Rid yourselves from all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and new spirit. Why would you die, O house of Israel? ... Repent and live" (Ezekiel 18:30-32).

John's baptism was one of repentance. He preached that people should repent of their evil ways to enter life. The Lord Jesus said the same) and "unless you repent, you will perish" (Matt 3:2; 4:17; Luke 13:3).

When Jesus was taken up to heaven, his disciples were sent with full authority, to tell the people to "repent and be baptised." With much emphasis on repentance, we should be aware that we do wrong in many ways. No one can spend 24 hours without stumbling in one way or another. No-one is good and upright. So we need to be prayerful, seeking the Lord's forgiveness day after day, then he will save us from that wrath due to befall those who do not by any means acknowledge his presence and power.

Seeking God's kingdom FIRST, not our own riches

We are all of different backgrounds and what comes into a person's mind depends to some extent upon how he or she is brought up. There are so-called '*rich*' people, as well as '*poor*' people. But we must be careful. Worldly riches may only ruin our responsibility to God's duties. We may be in great need of things we love the most, but we do not get them. We may wonder *why*. The Bible constantly tells us that those who seek the Lord's favour find a good thing. We do not need to worry because we are poor, for such are "Blessed" (Mat 5:3-12). We should all consider our ways, and always do good to please the Lord our God. Those who are rich should not depend on their riches. We should 'store up our treasure in heaven' above all this,

we should “Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness, and everything will be given us” but only if we earnestly “seek” first (Mat 6:33). If we are rich in this world and don’t consider the Lord’s word so important, then we will be lost in our riches. The Lord warns such people that “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). Verse 16 goes on to tell about the rich fool, and what happened to him in the end. This is a warning to us. We need to *watch out!*

Holding firmly to God’s word

We will see that when we do the above things and please the Lord, then the question “Who then can be saved?” will be answered. To bind all things up - we need to hold firmly to the Lord’s word, and keep His ways. We do not need to be tossed here and there by every kind of ‘false’ teaching or the worries of this life, for our life to come will be so, so special, and all peaceful and loving. Let us “not let the book of Law depart from our mouth, but to meditate upon it day and night ... then we will be successful and prosperous in all we do” (Joshua 1:8). “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised it is faithful” (Heb 10:23).

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, there is an assurance of life eternal if we draw near to the Lord, if we trust in Him, if we repent of our sins, and seek first His kingdom and hold firmly to His word of life, to the end. May His love be upon us all as we await His Son’s return and may that be soon.

Bro Silas K Chishimba (Mufulira, Zambia)

All Nigerian – CYC Held At Enugu In April

The turn out to this event was great. It was as though we were at Jerusalem, in fact, it reminded us of how it will be when our Lord Jesus Christ appears in glory. Since we started the CYC meetings in 1970 this was the highest attendance. Six people were baptized and will send more details later. One of the outstanding things was a wedding, which gave us all joy – Brother Frank and Sister Joy Onyemaechi

Below: Bro Goddy beside the poster advertising the talk “World Government on the verge of collapse”.



Below: some of the audience.





Above: Baptism at Enugu and below one of the groups at the Camp



Bro. Goddy Nwusu (Enugu, Secretary)

Encouragement

The people who trust the Lord will become strong again (Isaiah 40:31). The Lord might strengthen you through some person or an unexpected meeting. It may come through someone God uses to encourage you. I know this is true because there have been times when I needed to be encouraged. And there have been other times when God used me to give encouragement to someone else.

“Trust in the Lord.” Remain in touch with God through prayer. Remind yourself of how important you are to Him. After all, He loved you enough to send His Son into the world to be your Saviour. Just because you are a child of God does not mean you will never have problems and never need encouragement. Nobody is born free from problems. A problem-free life is an illusion, a mirage in the desert. It is a dangerously deceptive perception which can mislead, blind and distract. To try to pursue a problem-free life is to run after an elusive fantasy; it is a waste of mental and physical energy.

Jesus told the truth when he said, “In this world you will have trouble” (John 16:33). But he immediately added a word of encouragement: “But be brave! I have defeated the world.” The first step will be to put your problems into perspective; the second step is to learn to solve and manage problems; the third step is to be open to the positive ideas God will place in your mind; the fourth step is to take action on the positive ideas God places in your mind.

Bro Mbiaoh Anthony (Kumba, Cameroon)

Images of God

Can human beings understand or relate to a God who is far above them? How do the images of God used in scripture help bridge the chasm between people and God Almighty?

We humans are earth-bound, flesh and blood, flawed creatures while God is a Spirit, perfect, unlimited by space or time. In 1 Tim 6:15,16, Paul reminds us that there is no way our minds can

fully grasp this divine being. God “is the blessed and only ruler, the King of all Kings and the Lord of all Lords. He is the only one who never dies. He lives in light so bright no-one can go near it. No one has ever seen God, or can see him.”

Yet in spite of the chasm that separates God and people, the good news of the Bible is that God wants to become one with them.

Bro Mbiaoh Anthony (Kumba, Cameroon)

Self-Confidence (Mark 14:31)

We admire people with self-confidence. It is one of the marks of maturity. You won't get far without it. Successful leaders all display strong self-confidence. Indeed, some leaders are so confident that they find it difficult ever to think that they could make a mistake. After three years with Jesus, Peter believed he had enough faith to withstand any trial. Jesus knew that he was fragile, despite his bluff and despite his promise. In the end, Jesus was on trial and Peter had to face his own kangaroo court! The court found him guilty of being a follower of Jesus. He flatly denied it, thus fulfilling the prediction Jesus had made that Peter would fall away.

The reason Peter failed was because he believed he was strong enough to withstand pressure. He trusted in his own courage. He was not only self-confident he was too confident by far! Beneath his bold exterior he over-estimated his own capability, when, in fact, he was as weak as the next person.

Never be too confident in your own strength. Ask God to give you an honest self-image. There is no need to sell yourself short, but let God and others guide you as to your abilities and capacities. If you are called to stretch beyond what you know your capabilities are, ask God for strength, help and guidance. It may surprise you to find how much more God can do when you rely upon His resources.

Bro David Yelulane (Banket, Zimbabwe)

A Perfect Truth

“Then said Martha unto Jesus, ‘Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.’” She went on, “But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.”

“Jesus said unto her, Thy Brother shall rise again. Martha said unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection, at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She said unto him, Yes, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world”. (John 11:21-27). Bible readers if they had understood this portion of scripture as a perfect truth, should not teach others about *rapture*. It is well known that the word *rapture* appears nowhere in the Bible. Rapture is a human word, brought into the gospel by false teachers. Who first used 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 to back the idea?

This chapter does not write of *rapture*, but says “caught up in a cloud.” If we go to the letter to the Corinthians: “we shall be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:51,52). The truth remains that “As the Father has life in himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in himself. And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of God” (John 5:25,26) which Martha testified

Bro Golden Onuoha (Enugu, Nigeria)

Do We Know the Lord Jesus?

Reading: John 17 (Quotations from the REB)

In this chapter we have the amazing privilege of listening to the Lord Jesus praying. He prayed not only for the twelve disciples but for *us*, who believe *‘through their words’*. He wants us to be *‘one ... in us’ vs20-21*. That doesn’t mean that we must all be the same, but that we should be united in him, in spite of our diversity. In order to be *‘one’* in that way we need to know him in the sense he spoke of at the beginning of this prayer: *‘This is eternal life: to know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent v3.’* So we learn that we will receive eternal life not by what we do but by knowing God, which we do through Jesus. But how can we know someone we have never met?

We can get to know facts about his life, what kind of things made him sad or happy.

We can read his words about himself and the words of others who knew him.

We can look at the reactions of those who met him.

The facts about him are well known: he was born miraculously, was baptised, preached about the Kingdom of God, healed the sick, taught the right way to behave, was crucified, died, was raised and taken into heaven. This shows that he is unique and powerful, but we need to explore more deeply to find out what kind of person he is; we need to find out why he did what he did. The first thing to notice is that he preached and healed because he **loved** and **had compassion** for people:-

‘The sight of the crowds moved him to pity: they were like sheep without a shepherd’ (Mt.9:36).

‘...his heart went out to them’ (Mt.14:14).

‘...filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched...’ (Mk.1:41) (NIV).

‘...his heart went out to her’ (Lk.7:13).

What made him sad? Twice we are told he wept; when he saw the suffering of Martha and Mary after Lazarus died (Jn.11:35) and when he foresaw the suffering of the people of Jerusalem after their rejection of himself (Lk.19:41).

What made him happy? He was *‘full of joy’* when the disciples came back with news about their preaching and healing mission, presumably because that was a foretaste of the Kingdom (Lk.10:21), and in Heb.12:2 we read that it was *‘for the sake of the joy that lay ahead of him’* that he was able to endure the suffering. Was he ever angry? One occasion is given: when the Pharisees obstinately tried to find a reason to accuse him (Mk.3:5), but even then it was *‘with*

anger and sorrow'. He also seemed to be angry when he drove the animals and money-changers out of the Temple, but it was indignation, not fury (Jn.2:14-15, Lk.19:45). He spoke severely against the Pharisees and scribes, calling them '*Snakes! Viper's brood*' (Mt.23:33), but ended by lamenting that they wouldn't let him protect them (v.37).

These facts indicate a man who feels deeply the sufferings of others, but who does not tolerate wrong. He was patient with his disciples but didn't hesitate to warn and reproach those who did wrong. Of himself he said, '*I am gentle and humble-hearted*' (Mt.11:29), and he showed that humility when he washed the disciples' feet, a task usually done by the most junior servant, teaching that we must serve one another in the same way.

He always acknowledged that he could '*do nothing by himself*' but only what his Father tells him (Jn.5:19,30). He described himself as '*the good shepherd ... (who) ... lays down his life for the sheep*' (Jn.10:11), '*the door of the sheepfold*' keeping them safe (v.7), '*the bread of life*' (Jn.6:35), '*the true vine*' (15:1), and '*the way, the truth and the life*' the only way to God (Jn.14:6). These qualities describe someone totally self-sacrificing, whose main concern is for others. He **never** lied, deceived, threatened, insulted, mocked or took offence; as Peter wrote, '*He committed no sin, he was guilty of no falsehood. When he was abused he did not retaliate, when he suffered he uttered no threats ...*' (1Pet.2:22-23).

You would think that a person like that would be universally loved and respected, but it wasn't so. Although the people in general were amazed at him and followed him, when he said something they didn't like many forsook him (Jn.6:66; 7:43; 10:20), and in the end the majority shouted 'Crucify!' Even his family reacted with embarrassment and unbelief (Mk.3:21, Jn.7:5). The reaction of the authorities, priests, scribes and Pharisees, was disapproval from the very beginning; they criticised everything he did and said, becoming ever more hostile until they finally killed him. For the most part those who did accept him were the ones the rulers described as sinners, second-class citizens: labourers, women, Gentiles, tax-collectors, prostitutes, the blind, Samaritans and the thief crucified beside him.

As we think about such contrasting reactions, do we feel we know him a bit better? He certainly comes across as a strong character, not at all intimidated by the opposition of the rulers, but at the same time he was the sort of person to whom parents had no hesitation in bringing their children. In the face of the lack of comprehension, fear and even quarrels of his disciples he was always patient, so that they remained faithful to him in spite of everything. Towards his enemies he always behaved with complete self-control; knowing everything about them he was in control of every situation.

Perhaps it will help if we think of some particular incidents, using our imaginations to come a little closer to him. We naturally feel more affinity with those who believed in him, so think of this: what would a person be like to cause parents to bring their babies to him for him to '*lay his hands on them with prayer*'? (Mt.19:13) These were not sick children; something about the Lord Jesus made these parents want to do that. Have those of us who are parents ever done such a thing? We may not be able to put into words exactly what that tells us about him, but we can feel something. Another helpful example might be the centurion (Mt.8:5). This Roman soldier showed more faith than any Jew - even Jesus was astonished; what was it about Jesus that made this man absolutely certain that here was a person with authority from God? Again it's hard to put into words; it's something sensed more by instinct. At the very least, we can feel that here is someone whom we can trust absolutely; he will **never** let us down.

But however well we might think we know him it can only be *'partial'* in our present life; only *'when wholeness comes'* will we truly 'know' (1Cor.13:9,10,12). Until then we must *'grow in ... the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour ...'* (2 Pet. 3:18). If John's first letter is a commentary on his gospel, he gives an answer to our question: *'It is by keeping God's commands that we can be sure we know him.'* (1 Jn.2:3-6). So no-one can claim complete knowledge of him, but those who want to be 'in him' can try by loving one another. The more we become like him, the more we will feel the needs and sufferings of others, and will consider them more important than our own desires. If we acknowledge him now in that way, when he comes we will be able to look at him at last with joy and love.

Sis Jean Field (Kendal,UK)

To Espungabera (Mozambique)

I have successfully completed a four-day visit to Espungabera, (Mozambique) my mission being mainly to meet our two brethren there and to encourage and strengthen them spiritually. I also had the opportunity of strengthening and consolidating my large contact base there, encouraging them to work together with those requesting correspondence lessons, which is very difficult in a place like Espungabera, a place with no postal services or addresses. In such a place definitely correspondence courses rarely work, but we have to *make* them work. This we do by regular home visits, leaving the lessons and collecting them after completion and post them to the overseas tutors.

On my arrival at Espungabera I only managed to meet Bro. Average Maducu; when I asked after Bro. Arone Muchanga I was told he was at his rural home. I went there, a distance of 18kms, by foot. I was very happy on arrival to see that my Brother was around and the reason he could not come and meet me at Espungabera was that he had a swollen leg. We had our daily readings together as well as being joined by the family members.

We then quickly arranged for a Bible Seminar, which I thought at first would not be a success, but to my surprise several people attended. Overall, every one was very pleased to have come and the overwhelming feeling was one of good, genuine fellowship. I noticed an ease amongst people and a true commitment to being there for the sake of the scriptures, not for gain of any sort.

It is my hope and prayer that by keeping on preaching in that area we are laying the foundation for a future ecclesia. The people who attended also had the privilege of seeing us breaking bread, showing them the way we remember our absent Lord, and we had the opportunity of explaining to them that this was for baptized members of our community only – the Christadelphians.

Our new Brothers will be happy to receive letters of encouragement from Brothers and Sisters world-wide, using the address: P.O. Box 320 Chipinge, Zimbabwe, E. Africa. Bro. Arone speaks and writes Spanish and has been in S. American for four years.

Bro Moses Dhlakama (Zimbabwe)

Visit to Mozambique April-May

We have just returned from our preaching visit to Mozambique and we would like to thank CBM for the travelling expenses. We have travelled 67km, given more than eight talks and seminars, plus unnumbered discussions.

Quite a number of people are in need of our Bible correspondence course and it is a great challenge to make the preaching material available when needed. Something to be remembered is that because of poor road network most of the distances have to be covered by foot and because there is no postal services you have to travel to contacts' homes to leave the lessons or to collect the answers and send them to their tutors.

There is a whole range of new challenges (apart from no mail deliveries): no electric light, no Bibles, poor education, and stationery and pens are almost unobtainable. Even though there are problems, this is not the time for the folding of arms or the slacking of feet – there remains the responsibility to endure unto the end, and all those with the love of the truth at heart will willingly and readily respond. Please keep us in your prayers. The abundant blessings of God in the fruit we are witnessing keeps us from being discouraged with the work.

As I am writing, I have with me 27 Portuguese *Bible Basics* and five Shona *Bible Basics* to be taken to Mozambique. It is now 12 midnight and Bro. Aaron (a product of our preaching effort) is sleeping and he is the one to take the *Bible Basics* books back to Mozambique

We would like to thank you for the contribution you have made. May God bless the work and produce a self-sufficient ecclesia in the future here in Espungabera

Bre. Moses Dhlakama and Admire Museba (Zimbabwe)

Further Mozambique Report

I thank God for the time to report this harmonious event. A visit by Bre. Moses and Admire to Kaisene, a village situated about 20km from Espungabera, was a glorious moment to the people who love God. There was a congregation of 30 people. All things started with a prayer by Bro. Moses and this was followed by a Bible session and then breaking of bread.

I then joined the two brethren to travel 12km to Aluta where Bro. Average Maduce stays. Although he, himself, could not attend the function, we praised the Lord with Bro. Average's family and some neighbours.

After the function, the two brothers proceeded to Espungabera, a 15km journey from Aluta, before they returned to Kaisene.

Lastly, the two brothers took their way back to Zimbabwe, this time to catch the bus in Jersey Estate, some 12km from Kaisene.

Bro Aaron Muchanga

Freedom in Christ

In order to understand the joy of freedom, we must understand its opposite: slavery. Slavery at its worst is almost gone from the world. But there is still the slavery of sin, a shackle that no matter how hard we pick it, and no matter how persistent we tear at it under our own power, we can never be free. This slavery is present with us every day in our flesh. As the apostle Paul wrote through the Spirit: "I find this law at work: when I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being, I delight in God's law; but in my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members" (Romans 7:21-23).

What a distressing and sorrowful state in which we find ourselves, without hope of salvation, no better than an animal. With no rights at all we live and die at the whim of our self-serving nature and care nothing for the feelings of others in the greater sense. Slavery to sin is the worst kind of slavery: the master is merciless, and the keeper of our lives views us knowing no other life. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1,2).

Is this the life we have? Is this all there is to God's creation? Has our Heavenly Father put us here simply to serve ourselves and die, never to rise again? What do the scriptures say about this? If we are in slavery, as the Israelites in Egypt, then who will be our redeemer? Who is our captain that will lead us from the sins and bondage of Egypt to the new life and freedom in the promised land? Again Paul's words: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:24).

By submitting to baptism we became a beneficiaries of the testament of Christ and are seen publicly declaring that we want to be like him. We want to spend every ounce of strength we have in denying ourselves and glorifying God. We no longer want to be slaves to sin but, like Paul, we desire to be slaves to Christ, doing the will of our Father through the example of His perfect son, our Master. Friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever, therefore, is the friend of the world is the enemy of God. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you. You have been set free from sin and become slaves to righteousness (James 4:4; John 15:15, Romans 6:18).

Bro Fred Mumba (Mufulira, Zambia)

God Never Gave Up

ADAM

In Genesis we read that, God created man in His own image. He put Adam in the Garden of Eden, and gave him a command. Adam broke that command which was sin against God. After Adam saw that he had done shame to God, he hid himself, but God showed His love and sought him out (Genesis 3:9). If God had behaved like a man, He would have destroyed Adam and Eve, but He gave them clothes (verse 21). He also showed His great mercy by granting Adam a son, after Cain killed Abel.

NOAH

When the earth was filled with very sinful people, God was vexed. He saw that He had to destroy them all. But He saw that Noah was a kind and right man, and in His mercy He saved Noah and his family and many animals. God did not give up.

EGYPT

When the Israelites were in Egypt, God was fulfilling His promise to Abraham when He said that Abraham's descendants would be strangers in a country not their own. They were enslaved and ill-treated for 400 years: "I will deliver them and give them great possessions (Genesis 15:13,14). God delivered the Israelites through Moses, after about 430 years. God never gave up on the Israelites.

AT THE DESERT OF SIN

When the Israelites were at the desert of Sin after their departure from Egypt, they grumbled at Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt for us to die in the desert?" They were really grumbling at God. But God forgave them and provided them with water (Exodus 17:3,6). When God gave them water, He was showing that He never gives up.

GOLDEN CALF

Moses went up with Joshua to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights to be given God's laws. But the Israelites thought that Moses would not come back and made an idol. God was angry and told Moses that He would destroy the whole nation of Israel, and make a new nation from Moses. But Moses cried to God to forgive them (Exodus 32:9-14).

FURTHER SINS

Later, the spies brought an evil report about the Promised Land, and Korah led a rebellion against God Himself. But in spite of these continuing forms of gross disobedience, **God never gave up.**

Bro Dzingai Sumburera (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

Brother Nelson Bwalya (Zambia)

I feel I must say something about the sad news of the death of our dear brother Nelson Bwalya, who fell asleep in Christ on the 20th April., at the age of 54. I first came into contact with Brother Nelson through the Dawn fellowship Bible Correspondence Course and took him through the final stages of instruction before his baptism on 7th August 1989. Since then we have been in constant contact and he was particularly helpful in our four visits to Zambia, accompanying us on all our travels in the Copper Belt.

He was a pastor of an evangelical church and had received some of his training in England. On his conversion he of course, lost not only his job and his income, but also his home and his status, but he accepted the change in faith. He had a good knowledge of the Scriptures and his pastoral training was a great help in dealing with difficulties that arose from time to time in the ecclesias. As C.B.M. representative in Zambia, he travelled widely supporting and encouraging

the ecclesias and in recent years he shared his enthusiasm for the book of Revelation at bi-monthly Copper Belt Study Fraternals. He was responsible for the distribution of Bemba Bibles and his many contacts with ecclesias helped to keep the brotherhood together.

In between he made a small income selling used spectacles and second hand books from a street stall but more recently had suffered robberies from his home and destruction of his stall.

He has been a 'shepherd of the flock' and will be greatly missed. Who now will take on his role?

Our deepest sympathy is with sister Faides and his family, the Kitwe ecclesia and all the brotherhood in Zambia.



Photo: Bro Nelson on one of his frequent trips to upbuild the ecclesias

Bro Bob Webb (Horley,UK)

A letter of Encouragement

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed the article in *Gospel News* of April-June 2006 titled: "18 Reasons That Jesus Was Not God" by Bro. Mikael Lyngvig of Denmark.

Out of all the articles and booklets that I have ever read on this subject, Mikael's is by far the best in terms of both its simplicity of style and succinctness. Just the way questions are posed makes one not only have to think, but the way they follow upon each other - well, LOGIC must prevail. This is one article that I shall definitely be photocopying and placing in my Bible – as well as in various folders of Bible Study Notes that I have. Please convey my thanks for this article to the author.

I read every issue of *Gospel News* and receive a lot of encouragement from the accounts of Brethren and Sisters around the world. The numerous articles, too, are always a joy to read.

May the Lord continue to bless the good work that you are doing.

JD (Victoria, Australia)

Prayer

There have been a lot of people in the past and especially in the Bible who have been recorded giving or saying their prayers to our Lord Almighty God. These have been in different circumstances and for different reasons. It is for our benefit to look at these examples and to learn from them.

The prophets were humble, and talked in their prayers to God about what they had done. We may find it very hard to copy them and to be as humble. When times are very hard and possibly dangerous, men try hard to pray, but we must pray all the time and in all circumstances. And the manner of the prophets' prayers may help us.

Standing

The children of Moab and Ammon came against Judah, and their army was too large for Judah to defeat them, and to save their wives and children. But Judah gathered together from all their cities to seek the Lord. Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of God, before the new court (2 Chronicles 20:4,5). The prayer is recorded in verses 6-12, then (v13) "All Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, their wives and their children". Here Jehoshaphat "stood" and all Israel "stood", to request help from the Lord God in defeating the Moabites and the Ammonites. So, in our prayers, we can stand.

Kneeling

"Solomon had made a brazen scaffold, of five cubits long and five cubits broad and five cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread his hands toward heaven" (2 Chronicles 6:13). Here Solomon did three things – stood, kneeled and spread his hands towards heaven. King Solomon's wonderful prayer is given in vv 14-42. He was one of the great kings of Israel, but he humbled himself publicly and kneeled to pray.

Bowing down face to the ground

Bowing down face to the ground (2 Chronicles 20:18) as Jehoshaphat and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem did, is a further example of humility in prayer.

These different ways of praying are available to us and various examples of each are given in the scriptures. The Levites, the children of the Kohathites and the children of the Korhites, wanted to praise the Lord God. They stood and made a loud noise to God (2 Chronicles 20:19).

When Daniel and his three friends wanted a secret revealed, in prayer they blessed God and entreated his mercy (Daniel 2:17-23). Even Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and worshipped Daniel (v 46). Later Daniel himself fell face toward the ground (Daniel 10:9,15).

"Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they lowered their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground" (Nehemiah 8:6).

"The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces and worshipped God" (Revelation 11:16).

"And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling on his face he will worship God, and report that of a truth God is in you" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

There was humility in these people, and it is a thing worth learning and acting upon. When we pray, we should know what sort of prayer it is to be. Are we asking for help? Or are we blessing the Lord for what He has done for us?. Or are we worshipping Him as our Creator? So for every prayer, there should be a heading in our mind and we should know what we actually want.

"And when he (Paul) had spoken, he kneeled down and prayed with them all" (Acts 20:36).

“And when he (Paul) had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we kneeled down on the shore and prayed“ (Acts 21:5).

Our Lord Jesus is described as lifting up his eyes and raising his head to look toward heaven, acknowledging the authority of God. But, of course, Jesus is the one and only Son of God. “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or doubting” (1 Timothy 2:8).

The wonderful thing about our Lord God is that He sees what is in everybody’s heart. He sees what we do and knows what we think. At the same time he knows what we need and why. We are not on our own. So let us pray with proper reasoning. May the Lord God hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

Bro A D Liwawa (Neno, Malawi)

Ideas to Nurture A Close Relationship With God

- Ask God for nearness to Him, for He told us to seek Him.
- Look up and out to the heavens, as much as we can, and know God is there, supervising and loving and caring about us.
- Start the day, before we arise, when we open our eyes, with God, and close our eyes at night in sleep with God, and ask Him to be with us.
- Pray constantly, not only formally, but intimately, childlike, for the desires of large things and small things. Take every consideration to the Lord in prayer.
- Remember to accept His will, when and however He answers our prayers.
- Keep open the communication line with God, so that whenever we feel weak or weary we can renew our strength and mount up with wings, like eagles, and walk and run, and be not faint, and wait upon the Lord, serving Him in all we do and say.
- Read the Scriptures, and find Psalms, or other passages, that are special for us, and know that God talks with us personally.
- Talk to Jesus, asking him to be with us, helping us also. Enjoy Christ like, sun shiny and sun filled days.
- Feeling lost? Read the whole of a Gospel. Be inspired by Jesus’ life and words.
- Be confident that God thinks of us as His children and important enough to receive those messages from Him. Surround ourselves with the Godly messages.
- Put His glorious messages into messages for ourselves, using the "I" and "me" words, naming ourselves in those Scriptural messages. Put God’s messages of hope into the now, as well as into the future, for salvation is in the now.
- Find a Scriptural daily message diary, or a day-by-day tear-off calendar, and so daily learn more of Him.

- Learn a new song or part of a favourite hymn so that we can sing (or hum, or mind sing), whenever we need encouragement.
- Expand thanks for food into prayers of praise and thanks for all His goodness. Add requests as well.
- Try a daily Praise and Prayer Journal. Learn to meditate.
- Watch the trees, and the grass, and the flowers, and, yes, even the weeds, for they are evidence of God's power and beauty.
- Grow Babies' Tears in the shade, and know that God is happy and laughs with us, but that God also sorrows with us, when, we are in shade.
- Hear the sea, and the waves, and the thunder, and the hail, see the lightening, and the moon, and the stars, feel the warmth of the sun, and know that His storehouse of majestic glory is overflowing.
- Appreciate the insects, and the animals, and the fish, and the birds and know that they are all His creatures, and that not one falls, but that He knows.
- Look at the rocks and the stones. See His splendour there. Find some white stones and black stones, as His children did of old, for blessings and disappointments. Know that He is in charge of the "yes" and the "no".
- Find the good in every little thing, in nature, in events and in other saints as well, and know that all that goodness will enhance us all.
- Care for, and encourage each other, so that we can all rise together and be within the Veil, with Him. Look up, and know that we can all be, near to, and with Him.

Sis Beverley Russell (Hurstville, Australia)

Oneness

When one hundred scientists opposed Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, each one signed a document against it. In response, Einstein said that if he were wrong then only one objection would have sufficed. Galileo lived when everyone believed the world to be flat. He dared question that. He was put under house arrest.

It is a pity the more things change, the more they remain the same. Why can't we think for ourselves? If we must copy the weak, why must we also copy the good, like their highly developed sense of individualism, which is nothing more than thinking for oneself.

What we think informs our values. That is the entire point. Apart from being an "expose-as-much-skin-as-you-like", ape the West society, we are deeply religious. 70% claim to be Christians; the rest are Muslims or subscribe to some other faith. How come such saturation of the word of God has not put a little fear or a desire for the modesty that practically all faiths promote? How come all this religion has no bearing on our public conduct.

I suspect the answer is hypocrisy. It seems that we are mostly a bunch of pretenders, desperately wanting to be something that we are not. Even our religion is indicative of trends. Some are in the churches because it is fashionable, not because it will help them to come to an individual understanding and peace with their Maker. Not because Jesus Christ, or Allah, is worth following, but because there is security in numbers.

Bro Joseph Onyango (Suna, Kenya)

The Blood Sign of Redemption

Israel as a nation was in Egyptian bondage. It came to pass that the Almighty God heard their cries. God then chose Moses to mediate between Himself (God) and Israel. Since it was God's desire to deliver Israel from their slave-masters, Moses represented God in pleading with Pharaoh for the release or freedom of Israel.

As we may already know, for a nation to get freedom doesn't happen all that easily. Some people lose their lives, some property is damaged, etc. This was the case in Israel's release (it took ten plagues before they were freed). The king (Pharaoh) was defiant in not allowing them to go from his land. But is there anything too hard with God? No, not at all.

Even the apostle Paul observed the same: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" God was with Israel. Who was Pharaoh then before the eyes of the Almighty God but a creature of dust and ashes?

It is in the tenth plague that we see even more of God's mighty power at work. The people He wanted to redeem were given some instructions in order to evade the hand of the destroying angel of every firstborn child in the Egyptian families. The whole story is in Exodus ch 12. What were the instructions for Israel? A young lamb's blood on every Israelite door post and on the sides of the doors. Blood was the sign of redemption.

Now let us look at this as a type. Egyptian bondage of Israel is a type of our natural sinful life in Adam. In the case of Israel, the blood of animals gave them their redemption. The animals' blood then foreshadowed the blood of Christ: "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".

We see God's love right in Eden, in that He provided a covering for our two ancestors and He still does that for every sinner in Christ Jesus. His shed blood is for the cleansing of our sins. Looking at Jesus, God said, "This is my beloved son. Listen to him".

God gave His Son to show His love for us. Are we ready to believe in him? Yes, if we do believe our redemption is assured. Our first parents had free will either to obey God's words or to disobey. There is a lesson for us. The choice is ours.

Brother Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)

Kenya Sisters' Health Day

On 22nd April, we had the privilege of attending a sisters' special health day organised by Brother David and Jackline Wanjala. Indeed it was a charming event. Much thanks to CAT for the assistance that led the day to a success.

We were also able to identify that the root cause of most sicknesses in women is due to lack of enough food (balanced diet). As brothers, we have a great responsibility to provide enough food for them. Therefore we decided to practice growing a variety of crops in our small gardens and farms. As you now, unemployment in the country is ranking so high that we have limited means of generating income.

We still have many brothers and sisters interested to participate in the *Gospel News*. Now, request for more envelopes. Just put them together with the *Gospel News* and send to each one of us.

Hearing

If one hears a rumour, how much reliance can be placed upon it? Is it the truth? The answer is no. The same is also true in spiritual matters. You may hear many things but unless they are based upon the word of God they are of no value to you or anyone else. As a matter of fact, believing error could cause you to be lost eternally.

To begin with, we should want to know the truth above everything. Error may tickle our ears but it will not save us. There may be many things that you would like to do, but unless you are guided by the truth your deeds will be in vain.

What is truth? Christ said in speaking to God, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). So, that which God has spoken is the truth and Christ adds "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

We should not listen to man but to God, to Christ, to the scriptures. God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matt 17:5). Again we read, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken also unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds" (Hebrews 1:1,2). Now at one time God spoke through Moses and the pophets, but in these last days He spoke to us through His Son. Are we living in the last days? (Acts 2:16,17). Yes, so we are near to him. How are we to hear Him? Through a small voice? By a vision? In reading the creeds of men? No, but by accepting those things that are written in the scriptures. John wrote, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31).

There are several methods of hearing the truth. One may hear by reading the scriptures. In other words one may hear Paul, Peter, John and other preachers by reading the Bible, or having the Bible read. Next, one may hear the will of the Lord by listening to a faithful gospel preacher proclaim the word. But even then he should not accept the preacher's words but should always return to the scriptures to see if the truth is really being preached. And then again, he may hear the message of salvation by reading gospel tracts, pamphlets and leaflets.

Realizing the importance of hearing the truth and only the truth, Christ said “Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). Again, Paul said, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman ... rightly dividing the word of the truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). We read that the people of Berea were more noble than those of Thessalonica because they searched the scriptures daily to see if those things they heard were true (Acts 17:10,11). In every case of conversion in the New Testament, the people first of all had to hear the truth of God. On hearing the truth, faith was produced in their hearts: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). This is still the way it is done today.

Although it is essential to hear, we must keep in mind that it is equally important to hear *the truth*. Again, it is not enough just to hear. Many have heard the truth, but are not saved; why not? Because to be saved, action must be taken about what has been heard. A person may hear that he will receive a new house if he will go by a certain business office to claim it, but if he never goes, he will never get it.

A man may hear of salvation through Christ but unless he applies what he has heard, then it will do him no good. Be eager to hear but weigh carefully what you hear. Don't accept a thing just because it sounds good. Ponder it, investigate it and if you find it really is the truth, accept it, treasure it and obey it. As Paul says: “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us: looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1,2).

Bro Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)

Count Your Many Blessings

The LORD blessed the Eccles Ecclesia bountifully in the past year. We were privileged to share in the joys of Bro. Beresford Williams and his Sister wife, Elaine Williams, as they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Many young couples and others were in awe as they witnessed these two stalwarts of the ecclesia renew their vows after fifty years.

But most of all, our ecclesia was blessed with the baptism of Phebe Joseph, the granddaughter of Bro Eric and Sis. Alice Joseph, on Sunday November 27th, 2005. In addition, on February 26th, 2006, we were blessed with the baptism of Mr. Edward Bynoe, a 73 year old man.

Our Lord's return is closer, and He is still calling sinners to repentance. We must always remember the parable of the labourers. Preaching the *word* to both young and old is essential.

Through God's grace, we were also happy to receive back into fellowship Bro. Michael Joseph, who had been out for a long time. During this period, brethren did not forsake him, but constantly reminded him of his first love. As a result, on February 19, 2006, he was re-admitted into fellowship.

We reflect on the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.

Let us remember the Lord's command to us, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved".

Photo: Members of the Plegt Anker Ecclesia, Guyana



Photo: The 'up and coming' Guyana generation



Bro. Patrick Joseph, (Eccles, Guyana)

Ugandan Activities.

We are critically watching present world events in comparison with Bible prophecy. Instilling in us a great hope our Saviour will soon appear. Kiswahili is a national language and almost everybody whether illiterate or not can speak and understand it, thus Kiswahili magazines or literature are equally understandable and profitable to us.

Last year Youth convention from 23rd to 26th December, at Kaptama Ecclesia in Mt. Elgon District was successful. It comprised of teachers and youth from various Ecclesias and friends whose co-operation made for good fellowship. We were happy to witness the baptism of Sis Shamin Chemtai from Kaptama and Sis Rebecca Nafuna from Kaisagati. We are also happy to report the baptism of Bro Justo Simiyu of Kaptama, Bro Robert Namwekholio and Bro Simon Waliaula, both from Nalondo during the Bible Study on 7th-8th January, 2006 at Nalondo Ecclesia. They now share a brotherhood with us in Christ and have promised to work tirelessly in the Lord's vineyard.

On 13th to 14th January, 2006 Bro. Moses Masika, Bro Laban Sirengo and I had the privilege of attending a Bible Study held in Uganda at Bro. Robert Simiyu's home in Butimbwa village, Manafwa district, where friends; contribution was good and their eagerness for true doctrine seemed promising. Due to this, we left them with some Bible literature and Simon Cheteka, Fred Bisuche, Gabriel Khisa, Beatrice Kuloba and Sarah Tingwa promised to be solidly behind us. We have been invited to Korosyandeti (situated on the border of Western Kenya) and to Eldoret for the same work. This signifies that we still have a long way to go and the work seems greater and greater, hence we need your prayers and your support with Bible literature e.g Key to understand the Bible and cards to enhance this work as we eagerly await the great day of our Master to come.

Bro Nimrod Masika.

New Belgium Initiatives

The Belgian Christadelphians are to open their first Bible study classes in Leuven. We are convinced that God's larger desire is to invite people, all people, into the wideness of his mercy. It's God's kindness that leads to repentance. God the Father has given His Son and is prepared to welcome all of His children. All creation is from God and belongs to God. He is a God of Love and has always been willing to give to His people and has always had a heart for His creation. His kindness needs to be visible in the church and is something we want to share with all those who are interested to get to know more about God, His promises His Son, Christ, and about the salvation and the future for us all. The consummation of the church's missionary role will be that day when ten people from every tribe and tongue take hold of the hem of the robe of one believer and say, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you" (Zech. 8:23). Our aim is to find or make more followers of Christ and we sincerely hope that God shall be with us and shall bless our gatherings.

Until now we could feel the love of God who was with us at our Breaking of the Bread services at the AC Motel in Leuven and at the Marriot Hotel in Brussels. From September onwards we do hope we shall be able to meet new people and will find interested lovers of God to share with us the same faith.

"Fanaticism," Carl Jung said, "is over-compensation for doubt." We can trace this theological trajectory in the Pharisees. They disapproved of whatever they did not initiate. But Jesus identified their problem as a broken relationship with God. They over-compensated for doubt. Let us go forward and avoid the booby traps. We want to show to others we are not a fanatic church but concerned Bible readers who find it important to hold to the will of God and are willing to help each other to grow in the faith, because that is one of the responsibilities we have, helping the other grow in the knowledge of God our Creator, the Almighty.

We do not have the need to be cool or modern or in. We just want to be children of God with each having their own freeholder qualities. Perhaps this makes every ecclesia so different, but it is also this which would not give any body an excuse not being able to find somebody to belong to or not to find a group where to feel at home.

While at our Memorial Services we also follow the Bible reading scheme, we shall cover specific subjects at the Bible studies and shall offer a Bible Basics course. We do hope visitors shall be able to feel at home with us and are inviting you to come along. Are you coming too?

Meeting Place 30cc, Romaanse Poort, Lokaal A.1.6, Brusselse Straat, Leuven

Tuesdays: September 19; October 03, 17; November 07, 14, 21; December 12. From 20.00 hours to 22.00 h (8 to 10 pm).

Christadelphians België, Broeders en Zusters in Christus Foksweg 14, B.3061 Leefdaal, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium, EU.christadelphians_be(at)hotmail.bechristadelphians(at)uwnet.nl

Can you tell us how you came to the Truth? The incredible account of a Sister in Latvia

It's such a long story, I think there was not a moment in my long life when God was not present, to bring me to Him. Maybe it started before the war, in our village. My mother was a believer, but

all I can remember was that she would sit in a corner and read from her Bible, and take bread and juice with a covering on her head every Sunday. This was Stalin's time, it was illegal to have a Bible or go to church. It left an impression upon me from a child.

Did she tell you anything about the Bible? Did you read with her?

No, not that I can recall. But then there was the war. My father went away to the front, and we never saw him again. The Germans came and we ran into the forest. We watched them burn the village. Our houses were made of wood and they burnt easily. They started at one end of the village, it was just houses down a street. They stood at one end of it and started, we were standing there in the trees watching. They say, when you are old you can remember the past better than you can recent things. I suppose with me it is true, as I remember all that as if it was yesterday. I see it all still. I don't know why, but I ran back across the fields to our house, and went inside and took the Bible, it was in two volumes, Old Testament and New Testament. I have it here with me still. Published in 1917 in what was Petrograd, but became Leningrad. The men were shouting at me to come back, but I ran quickly. I took the Bible and ran back to the woods.

And then what happened?

Well how we survived the next two years I don't know. We went deeper into the forest, we were village people, we loved our village, and it was burnt to nothing, and Germans were passing that road all the time, moving towards Leningrad. We made shelters in the forest, in the ground. It was the winter of... 1941, or 1942, I am not good with dates. The temperature was so low that year. It killed many Germans, but it killed many of us too. We had few clothes, we lived on berries, we were always feeling sick and weak. My little sister died there in the forest, and then my mother. We buried them as best we could. We Russians are religious people, we have God in our soul, despite the Stalin times, the atheism etc. In the forest we were often talking about God. We prayed to God, we tried praying together, and I often prayed on my own. The older people remembered how the churches were before 1917. They said we must light candles for God to hear us. We had no candles, but we lit bits of pine twigs and cones, they burn well. I remember thinking, Why will God hear us, because we light candles? I wondered whether if we had real candles, God would hear us, but I decided He wouldn't. When I lost my mother and my little sister and saw our neighbours die, and some of them literally freeze to death, I had strange feelings about God. I knew more than ever that God is there, but I so wished I could understand Him and that He would save us. I tried to read the Bible I took, but I couldn't understand it. I buried it, wrapped it in cloth, at a certain place in the pine forest.

So how did you survive?

Only by God's grace. I was one of the few from the village who survived that time. You can see, how I have chronic arthritis, rheumatism, heart problems; it must go back to those long months sleeping in our shelters in the forest, living on whatever we could, we even boiled tree bark. We used to walk many kilometres to find villages which might give us food. But Stalin had ordered to burn everything, to give Germans nothing, actually nobody had food. A whole group of us were captured. I was a teenage girl. They took us to a railway station near a town, I am not even sure which town. I heard a language other than Russian for the first time in my life. We were in a big group with other prisoners on a railway platform for ages. The men said, 'They will kill us, and they will rape you'. We were such country people, I had never heard the word 'rape', I could only guess what it was. I prayed and prayed to God. I said I would do everything for God and love Him always if He would save me. Then, the guards changed shift. The older women said to run, that it

was better for us girls to run than to remain as prisoners. So, we just ran across the tracks. Believe it or not, I could run fast then. Now, I can barely move around my apartment. But then I could run. We ran through the gap left by the guards who were changing shift, and the other guards shouted at us, but I just kept running, I was thinking only, 'God, *please, please*, help me'. We got to some woods and then we looked back. I suppose they thought we weren't worth bothering with. Then we heard shooting. Probably the men and older women were all shot on that railway siding. I never saw them again. We got to a village, and they told us that Germans were leaving, that we were winning. It didn't seem like it, everyone was hungry, everything was burnt and ruined. Eventually I got to Leningrad.

So how did all that influence you spiritually?

I was so grateful to God for saving my life. I so wanted to love Him, to give myself to Him; but I can't really explain, this huge feeling like a cloud over me, that I didn't understand Him. I asked Him to tell me about Him, but there seemed no answer. I remembered my mother reading her Bible alone in the corner before the war. I wanted to be like her. I want to say to you, as testimony, I so love my mother. I do not know what she believed or how she believed, but I hope she will be in the Kingdom of God. Anyway, as I said, there was this terrible feeling at the back of my mind, that I so wanted to know God, but I couldn't seem to find Him. I went back to the forest and dug up the Bibles, those two volumes. They were a bit spoilt but you can still read them. I have kept them with me all my life.

Were you angry with God for all you lost?

No. I was never, ever angry with God. I know people get angry with God about death, loss, but even in the forest, when I heard people both praying to God and cursing God, I never had that feeling. All I remember was thinking that we were supposed to be atheists, but there in the forest, people were thinking of God, either praying to Him or even cursing Him. I only ever prayed to Him and wanted to know Him and was confused about Him.

Did you get involved with any church?

Not really. I remember that thing about trying to burn candles in the forest so that God would help us. It always seemed to me that our Russian Orthodox Church wasn't right. Something was missing there if God only hears you if you burn candles. Of course, I wondered whether the Orthodox Church could show me the truth about God. When I got to Leningrad, I met the man who was to become my husband. We decided to get married. He was a good man but a product of Soviet thinking and Marxist-Leninism. I said I wanted to have a marriage blessed by God. I asked him how we should do this, he said he didn't know, but he understood we had to have a priest to bless us and not just some paper from the registration office. I found a priest, or someone who said he was one. He said he would give us a secret ceremony. But he wanted some bottles of vodka to do it. I bought him the vodka the day before we were to meet. We went to him the next day and he was drunk, but he did some sort of ceremony for us, said some words from a prayer book and burnt some incense. I knew in my heart this wasn't the true church. By then, the USSR had taken over Latvia, and we were sent to live in Riga. I took the Bibles with me. We were given jobs and an apartment, it was wonderful for us after what we had gone through. And so began the decades of life in Soviet Latvia. I worked, we had our children, we lived normal life. It's all like five minutes for me, from a spiritual point of view. I used to try to read the Bible, I prayed to understand it. I met with people involved with the underground churches, but to be honest I was scared to be involved with them, I didn't want to be taken away

from my children and sent to a camp. I never told people I had a Bible, it was my secret. My desire to know God never left me, but it seemed as if the door was shut.

So how did you come to be a Christadelphian?

In 1991, Soviet occupation ended and Latvia was free, all controls on religion and possession of Bibles were lifted. I then saw an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a book called *Bible Basics* that would explain the Bible without the need for churches and traditions. I knew this was the answer. I wrote to England, it was my first letter to a Western country in my life. I wrote in Russian and I hoped they would understand. I received my copy and I read it over many times and started reading my precious Bible using the *Bible Companion*. Everything started to get clear. I received a correspondence course, and I sent the answers to Duncan in Vilnius. Then I had a letter from Duncan, that he was coming to Riga and would like to meet me. I met him, and Brother Vladimir Tuyev. We spoke for a long time, discussing all things and Duncan said I was nearly ready for baptism and I should study more, and he would come again to see me. I then started feeling that I was not worthy to be baptized, that I am too old. I had a dream where Duncan was baptizing me. It gave me strength, to know that actually I was worthy enough to be baptized. Duncan came again, and we had a long discussion about all the doctrines, and he passed me for baptism. I put on my best dress and met Duncan and some other brethren at a sauna. I had difficulty moving my legs even then, because of my arthritis. We had worked out that I could not be completely covered in water in our bath tub and I so wanted it all to be done properly. The brothers lowered me into the sauna, and lifted me up out again. So, I was baptized!



Photo: Sis Aleksandra weeping as she tells her story.

So can you tell us about your life in the Riga ecclesia?

When Duncan and Cindy moved to Riga, they used to pick me up every Sunday for the meetings. I always enjoyed meeting with the ecclesia and the discussions about the daily readings. I was given tracts advertising *Bible Basics*, and I used to walk down the stairs to the entrance to our block. We have no lift, it took me about 10 minutes to get down the stairs and about 20 minutes to climb back up again. I put the tracts in the letter box rack at the entrance to our block. They were my missionary journeys. I wrote to many people telling them about the Truth and sending them literature. But now I am too sick with my heart and other problems to even go out of the apartment [I live with my daughter and son-in-law]. Cindy comes round to see me every week to take my blood pressure and bring me medicines and break bread with me. I love her so much. I know I am with the true family of God. I phone every Sunday to see how the meeting went, as I can't now get out. My pension is so small I can't afford the medicines prescribed, it is enough only for my share of the food and utilities on the apartment. When I can, I ask my daughter to buy biscuits so Cindy can take them to the meeting and the others can have them when they have tea during the break, so they remember me. What I like most about Christadelphians is the way of reading from the *Bible Companion*. It means I can keep in touch in spirit with all the others who are reading the same chapters each day. I read the portions three times each day. I

write down the verses I like the most in a diary. I am worried that I am so forgetful, and that my sight is going. I need my cataracts fixed, but they say I am too weak to have it done. I just worry that what I read in the morning, I've forgotten by lunchtime, and so I re-read the portions, I hope God forgives me. I pray a lot, I look out of my window and pray that Jesus will come soon. I am dying, I know I am, if Jesus doesn't come soon then I will die. But I am very tired of life, I can hardly move from my room to the kitchen or the toilet. What I know and believe is that I will rise again. I only would like that written on my gravestone, if you don't mind to arrange it. I have found what I was looking for all my life, I wish I had found it earlier, but it was as God arranged it. I believe in the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the *Elpis Israel*, as it says in that book. I read that book a few times; you see I have not so much to do apart from praying or reading, and I believe all that, that Jesus is going to come, and I will be young again, and I will be able to give myself to God wholly and not with all the limitations I've always had. All I can say to God and to you is thank you, thank you, thank you...

[This interview was recorded in Russian, in between many tears, and this transcript has been edited for clarity, as there were several repetitions].

We Live By Faith, Not By Sight (2 Cor 5:7)

When Saul, a persecutor of the Christians, embraced Christianity, he did not allow the passing of time to diminish or weaken his faith in God, even though he didn't see the heavenly realities with his physical eyes. He was firm in the faith, writing to the Corinthian believers who had the heavenly hope. The apostle Paul said: "We live by faith, not by sight."

Living by faith requires implicit trust in God's ability to direct our lives. We must be fully convinced that he really knows what is in our best interests. As we make decisions in life and act on them, we take into account realities we do not see (Hebrews 11:1), these include the promised Kingdom of God here on earth (Mat 5:5; Dan 2:44; Isa 45:18). On the other hand, living by sight means that we pursue a course of life governed solely by what we perceive with our physical senses. This is dangerous because it can lead to our ignoring God's will altogether (Ps 81:12; Rom 1:24; Acts 7:42). So each of us should take to heart the admonition to live by faith and not by sight (Luke 12:32).

Let us see how falling victim to the temporary enjoyment of sin, from the snare of materialism and from losing sight of the end of this system of things. Think of Moses. Imagine the life that Moses could have led. Raised among the royal offspring in Egypt, Moses had within his grasp power, wealth and influence. Moses could have reasoned, 'I have been well educated in all the Egyptian wisdom, and I am powerful in word and deed. If I stay attached to the royal household I can use my position to benefit my oppressed Hebrew brothers' (Acts 7:22-25). Instead, Moses chose to be ill-treated for the people of God. Why? What moved Moses to turn his back on all that Egypt had to offer? The inspired word of God answers, by faith Moses refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger, he persevered because he saw Him (God) who is invisible (Hebrews 11:24-27). Moses' faith in God's sure reward for righteousness helped him to resist sin and indulgence and their fleeting pleasure.

We too are faced with the need to make difficult decisions on such issues as these. What we need to do is just to take Bible advice and to continue setting our hopes on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2). And when Jesus comes we shall enjoy being with him in the Kingdom of God. May the good Lord God strengthen and help us all to reach that destiny.

Bro Paul Chembe (Lusaka, Zambia)

Point to ponder - Essentials for Marriage

Two things are essential for true marriage: a total devotion of both to God, and total devotion to each other. These things guarantee its success

Success

SUCCESS is simply a matter of pleasing: happiness is simply a matter of God manifesting His pleasure in our hearts. All else is illusion and delusion: all else is vanity, and - finally – sorrow and death. Life can be *all* deep, quiet, trustful pleasure, even in pain. Life can be all empty tragedy and failure, even in its glitter of ‘success,’ Don’t build anything on anything but solid rock. If there is no eternal foundation beneath it, then the better we build and harder we labour, the greater the ultimate loss and remorse. God is the rock, the only rock. Build everything you do on Him. It will then stand firm to all eternity.

Questions and Answers

Irene and Lorton have asked many questions as they followed the daily readings and Bro Leon and Sis Joan Shuker, South Africa, have kindly commented upon them so that we can all benefit from their interesting answers

Genesis 4:14 Who did Cain think would kill him?

An important point to consider in this chapter is the lack of information as to how much time is going by. The narrative is concerned only with Cain and Abel and it sounds as though these were the only children Adam and Eve had at this time. We do not know how old Adam and Eve were when Cain and Abel were born, but we do know from Chapter 5 v 3 – 5, that they were 130 years old when Seth (seems to have been seen as a ‘replacement’ for Abel) was born, and that they ‘had other sons and daughters’ – no mention of how many. Also it is not absolutely clear whether they were born before or after Seth.

At this period in human history there is no prohibition against brothers and sisters marrying (that came later in the law through Moses) so it is assumed that Cain married one of his sisters (ch. 4: 17) and therefore that he feared that someone from his own family, knowing that Cain had killed their brother, would kill him in retribution.

Genesis 4:19-24 Please explain – especially who Lamech killed?

Lamech is the seventh generation from Adam, through the God-despising line descended from Cain – ch. 4: 17, 18. In Chapter 5 we are given the God-fearing line descended from Adam,

through Seth. If we add up the years given in ch. 5 we can see that roughly 700 years had gone by from the creation of Adam to the seventh generation and we are told that each of the men mentioned had 'other sons and daughters', so there could have been a fair number of people on the earth by this time. So there could have been many people whom Lamech had the choice of killing.

Lamech is the first polygamist, contrary to God's intention for marriage – Gen. 2 v 24 'a man will be united to his wife (not 'wives'). Lamech is also a braggart and an excessively violent and vengeful man – he has murdered a man and a youth who have only injured him.

Genesis 4:4 and Hebrews 11:4. Please explain

Genesis makes it clear that Cain's offering did not please God whereas Abel's did. V. 3 tells us that Cain brought some of the produce of the ground for God. The emphasis is on 'some' or as we might say 'any old fruits'. By contrast Abel brought the best to God – the fat (best) and the first born (best). Abel offered the first and the best to God. This is a theme throughout Scripture – especially in the law through Moses; all first born domestic animals had to be offered to God and they had to be perfect and without blemish. In Exodus 23:19 the Israelites were told, "Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God". Cain, being only the second generation of human beings, should have been aware of this approach to his Creator. The difference in the characters of Cain and Abel comes out clearly here. Abel has respect for God. Cain, instead of humbly accepting God's correction, has a temper tantrum, and later murders Abel and then whinges sullenly and exaggerates his punishment – no contrition here.

Cain is the archetypal wicked man who disobeys God, and hates and maltreats those who love God (see 1 John 3: 12). Abel is exemplified as a model of righteous and faithful behaviour toward God and in that sense, even though he is long dead, his example still speaks to us of acceptable behaviour.

Genesis 5:1 Why did people live so long compared to today?

I guess because God decided that they should. However, it is noticeable that after the flood, lives began to be shorter and by the time we get to Moses we are told (Psalm 90: 10) that the 'length of our days is seventy years – or eighty if we have the strength'. Moses himself lived to 120 years – but the fact remains that our average life-span is now around 70 – 80 years.

Genesis 5:24. Where did God take him - Enoch? (Please discuss/ lots of questions!)

We are not told where God took Enoch. However, we are told in Hebrews ch.11: 13 that 'all these people (including Enoch – v. 5) were living by faith *when they died*. They did not receive the things promised'. So evidently Enoch died. God took him away from the world which was becoming wicked and corrupt (see ch. 6: 5, 6), just as God took righteous Lot out of corrupt Sodom and Gomorrah.

Similarly with Elijah – God took him away 2 Kings 2, but Elijah wrote a letter to a later king, 2 Chronicles 21: 12 – 15 and so was very much alive on the earth after being 'taken away'.

Enoch and Elijah are often spoken of together in the same breath, as going up to heaven but there is no Biblical evidence to support this.

It is interesting to compare what happened to Moses – God told him to go up Mount Nebo and that he would die there (Deuteronomy 32: 48 – 50), then we are told that God buried him there and no-one knows where his grave is (Deuteronomy 34: 5, 6).

So, I would conclude that God took Enoch away from a corrupt world and that he died peacefully and that God buried him. Enoch now awaits the resurrection when the Lord Jesus returns.

Genesis 6:1-4 Interesting – open for discussion

The expressions ‘sons of God’ and ‘daughters of men’ are initially puzzling. ‘Sons of God’ in other parts of Scripture describes those who are godly – see 1 John 3: 2 ‘Dear friends, now we are children (sons) of God’; see also Matthew 5: 9; Romans 8: 14, 19; Galatians 3: 26.

Another expression that is used is ‘sons of light’ (those who are Godly) and ‘children of the devil’ (those who are worldly, fleshly, carnal). Using those concepts, the passage can be understood as: Godly men married ungodly women – (men are suckers for beautiful women, regardless of their character!). The result of the intermarrying of the Godly and ungodly was that ‘The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become’ (v5).

Genesis 8:1. Was this wind or the Holy Spirit?

Strong’s Concordance says that the word for wind (‘ruwach’ in Hebrew) can also mean ‘spirit’. (It can also mean: breath, exhalation, life, anger. In the KJV it is also translated as: air, anger, breath, courage, wind, tempest, (whirl)wind – quite a choice!)

All power is of God – ie. it is all God’s spirit at work. In Genesis 1: 2 the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters and subsequently went to work on creation. So the wind in ch.8:1 was the means by which God was drying the earth. Generally speaking, the term ‘spirit of God’ denotes God’s power in keeping the universe going, whereas the term Holy Spirit is used to denote God’s power working on his special work of redemption of mankind.

Genesis 8:20, 21: Are we irreverent by not sacrificing to God? When did the practice stop? No, we are not irreverent by not sacrificing animals. The practice stopped with the death of Jesus. The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were only a temporary institution – a shadow – to teach that sin causes death and that sin must be atoned for. The animals sacrificed had to be perfect and were accepted as atonement by God in the place of the offerer. But what God really wanted was perfection (sinlessness) in mankind and only Jesus provided that. The animal sacrifices were accepted in the prospect of Jesus’ sacrifice. However, even though God commanded the Israelites to offer sacrifices, He made it quite plain that they gave Him no pleasure if they were offered casually, thoughtlessly or with the wrong attitude: see 1 Samuel 15: 22 – 24; Psalm 40: 6 – 8; Psalm 51: 16, 17; Isaiah 1: 11 – 20; Jeremiah 7: 21 – 23; Micah 6: 6 – 8; Mark 12: 32 – 34.

Christians still have to sacrifice – see Romans 12: 1 ‘...offer your bodies as *living sacrifices*, holy and pleasing to God’. Our whole lives have to be an offering to God.

Bro Leon and Sis Joan Shuker

The True Religion: James 1:26,27

Our religious image as Christians is viewed by two aspects which may be either “vain” (v 26) or “pure” (v27). We can tell the kind of religion, vain or pure, one has by certain apparent practices

that portray the reality of one's faith, in behaviour and speech. Following the acts of sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21) betrays the religious faith as "vain".

True religion is marked by showing sympathy, very practical services from the bottom of the heart to one's fellow human beings, especially to the vulnerable in the community regardless of religious affiliations. Such service is in true harmony with Christian love.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). A Christian must not peep gleefully through a political window grasping the practices of a world's political system that is an adversary against God's will.

Let us as Christadelphians put what we know about God into practice in love and separation from this passing-away world (1 Corinthians 7:31). Let all brothers and sisters world wide heed Paul's words to: "Come out from them and be separate," says Yahweh. "Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:17,18). And we will be brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

Bro Elvin Muntamba (Kitwe, Zambia)

Live by faith

In applying any lesson to ourselves, we have to learn to face our fears and not allow them to degenerate into nagging worries, like true men and women of God, we are to be brave for God. There is a saying, "Worry is a thin trickle of fear passing through the mind into which all other thoughts are drained."

We all have fears and worries at different stages of life, even the most spiritual man or woman is affected this way, and it includes all the great men of God. The apostle John said that "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). The Psalmist David offers a concluding thought when he had fallen into Philistine hands in one of their main cities – Gath. Things looked bad for him, until he lifted up his head to pray to God, and took courage. This is how he summed up that experience:

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God (I will praise his word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? All day they twist my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps, when they lie in wait for my life ... When I cry out to you, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me... In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:3-11).

Bro Colin Bwire (Kigandalo, Uganda)