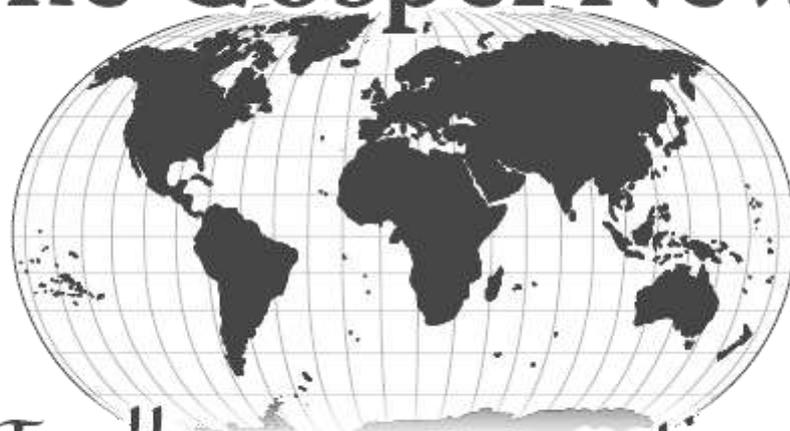


# The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

## **The Tragedy of God**

The prophets saw the love of God, but saw too how Israel spurned it and refused to understand it. It must have been a tragic and awful experience. The prophets weren't satisfied just because a minority responded to their message of God's love. They were heartbroken because the majority rejected it. I suspect we tend to think that 1 response in 1000 is good, 1 in 10,000 isn't bad. But what about the other 999, or 9,999, who receive our tracts, hit our web-sites, hear our witness - and don't respond? Is our witness in the spirit of the prophets? Are we happy that the tiny minority respond, not sparing a thought for the tragedy of the majority who don't? Not only their tragedy, but the tragedy for God?

### **Tragedy**

The deathless love of Hosea for Gomer, the very intensity and height of it, in itself highlights the tragedy of God. That His love, yes, the passion and longing of God Himself, was rejected by His people. Consider how Hosea names the child, 'Not my people'. Consider his hurt, to reject a child from his family. This was God's hurt. God, like Hosea, had no other children, no other people. For God to say to Israel 'You are not My people' would leave God without a people, as it were alone in the earth. Hosea shared the tragic loneliness of God.

### **God at Stake**

For Hebrew men like Hosea, the chastity of virgins and the faithfulness of wives were most important (cp. Dt. 22:13-30). And so, the point is being made, God values our faithfulness supremely. The man had a deep sense of shame before the whole world if the woman he trusted betrayed him (Jer. 2:37). The shame of God over Israel was before the whole cosmos, not just some village in Palestine. No wonder Jeremiah wept at the thought of what was being done to God in this way (Jer. 8:22-9:3). The image of the unfaithful wife played deeply on male fears of female sexuality. Hosea was a Hebrew male. They all feared their women in one way - that she might be unfaithful to them. And this was and is the fear of God for our sin, our unfaithfulness. The Jews who first heard Hosea and others would have been led into having sympathy with the man, agreeing that the punishment for the woman was appropriate to her sin (Jer. 2:30-37; 13:20-27). And yet, of course, the point was that it was *they* who were the woman in all of this. We've all seen jealous men in relationships, querying every one who calls their home number, wanting to know who the wife's been out with... and on a far, far higher and altogether non petty level, this is the kind of God with whom we are in relationship.

Hosea 2:7,12 reveals Hosea's hurt and anger that his wife considered other men to be the providers of her food and needs; for this was his honour, to provide for his wife, not for other men to do so. And so we could say that in our unfaithfulness, in our turning to other supports other than Him... no less that God Himself is at stake. God is at stake. That's how He sees it. That's how much He's risked Himself for us, when He need never have even gotten involved with us. No less than God Himself is at stake.

It's not only that God's essential 'Godhood' was at stake. Just as Hosea's great love for Gomer made him so obviously and tragically vulnerable, so God's love for us on this tiny planet has done the same for Him. A great lover is the most vulnerable of persons to hurt and depression. The tragedy of unrequited love is awful, biting in its tragedy. And the love of God, so infinitely above the dearest of human love, makes Him a vulnerable and potentially tragic figure, just as Hosea was. And yet Hosea's hope and fantasy will ultimately come true for God. The most broken of relationships, that between God and Israel, the deepest betrayal...will one day soon

be gloriously resolved in a new world. And we are playing our parts towards that end; for if nothing else, we are called to be God's faithful Israel, His dutiful wife... to make up for the mess His first woman made.

### **The Baal Cult: An Insult to God's Godhood and Hosea's Manhood**

By allowing her lovers to provide her food and clothing, she was insulting her husband Hosea (Hos. 2:3-7). Our lack of faith that God really will provide, our seeking of those things from others apart from Him, is a similar insult to Him at the most essential level of His being and our relationship. The parallel in the God / Israel relationship is clear. The Baal cult was a fertility cult. The idea was that by sleeping with the temple prostitutes, Baal would provide fertility in family life and also good harvests and fullness of bread. Yet Yahweh was the giver of bread to Israel (Ex. 16:29 cp. Dt. 8:18; Ps. 136:25; Ps. 146:7). For Israel to trust Baal for these things was a denial of Him. Hos. 2:8 implies that Israel even called Yahweh "my Baal". And so when Gomer participated in these fertility rituals, she was living out the very picture of Israel's unfaithfulness to their God.

Israel's mixture of Yahweh worship with Baal worship is demonstrated by the reference to their being "lovers of raisin cakes" (Hos. 3:1). According to 2 Sam. 6:19, these cakes appear to have been part of the legitimate worship of Yahweh - and yet in Song 2:5 they are referred to as an aphrodisiac. There was a heady mix of Yahweh worship with participation in the sexual rituals of the Baal cult. It was this mixture which was so abhorrent to God- and time and again, in essence, we likewise mix flesh and spirit. A brother may express the most awful hatred and spite in 'upholding the faith' against one whom he perceives as apostate and thus show the same mixture of flesh and spirit. A sister may indulge in gossip, kidding herself it's all for the cause of Christian love and concern... and the examples multiply, hour by hour, in daily Christian experience. We see it again in Hos. 3:4: the people were using "cult pillars... ephods" in their Baal worship. The patriarchs set up pillars in faith; and an ephod was part of Yahweh worship. But yet again, the same external things were used in a wrong context with wrong motives.

### **The Pain of God**

The Canaanite tribes spoke of how their gods were married to their *land* and would defend it. But the prophets, especially Hosea, reveal Yahweh as married to His *people*. "Thus says the Lord, O my dear people [*bath 'ami*- as if they are God's partner]... make mourning... for suddenly the destroyer will come upon *us*" (Jer. 6:22,26). God delicately speaks as if He is married to Israel and that even in their sufferings He would suffer with them, as a husband suffers with his wife. "The destroyer will come upon *us*".

God left Himself as a mighty man that cannot save, as a wayfaring man wandering through His own deserted land (Jer. 14:8,9). "The Lord of hosts" even calls the mourning women to come "and raise a lament over *us*" (Jer. 9:17,18). The "us" is God and Israel. The tragedy is awful, beyond words. All commentary is bathos. His love is wondrous. "Thy love is better than life", David said (Ps. 63:3)- 'more than my own life do I value God's love, *hesed*, covenant love, for me'. Indeed, Hosea's reference to *daath elohim*, the knowledge of God, has been observed as strikingly intimate, hinting as it does of God 'knowing' His people and them knowing Him. It was that very "knowledge of God" which He desired, rather than burnt offerings (Hos. 6:6). For as Amos put it, "You only have I known..." (Am. 3:2). No wonder the prophets needed psychological strengthening to be able to share in these tragic feelings of God. But this was part of their spirit, and it is to be the spirit of our urgent appeal to men to respond in faithfulness to God's love.

## Struggle of God

Not only was God on the side of Israel's enemies; yet through all that, He somehow was with Israel; quite simply, "God is with us", even though it is He who encamps against them too (Is. 8:9,10; 18:4). The God of Auschwitz is somehow still the God of Israel. The very torment, even torture, of understanding that was etched clearly in the prophets, and it will be in us too, as we struggle with our understanding of the God of love who causes such awful tragedies in human experience.

Some of the finest descriptions of God's coming Kingdom on earth, based around Jerusalem and the land of Israel, are to be found wedged between the most angry predictions of God's wrath and judgment against His people. This in itself reflects the 'two minds' of God toward His people and the resulting tension within the prophet's personality too; the 'struggle' between law and grace, between justice and mercy. Hosea especially mixes such prophecies, e.g. that God will "slay her with thirst", rend her like a lion, with declarations that God passionately loves Israel as a lover who'll forgive anything. The wrath of God, His grief at sin and being rejected, is intertwined with His amazing grace and love. That the extent of God's anger arises from the degree of His love is perhaps reflected in the way the Hebrew words for "lover" and "hater" are so closely related - *oheb* and *oyeb*. Hos. 2:9 appears to make a word play based around this. The gravity and emotional enormity of each 'side' of the total equation, the huge tension of the equilibrium that keeps them in perfect balance in God's character and words, was reflected in the prophets personally; and it will be in us too.

But when Lo-ammi was born and named "ye are not my people", *immediately* the prophet is inspired to make a tender prophecy of Israel's final glory: "Ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea...it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God" (Hos. 1:9,10; another example is in 12:8,9; 13:8,9). The word to circle in our Bibles is "yet". In the face of all Israel's sin, in the face of the inevitable judgment which this attracted, in the very moment when it is declared, God goes on to speak of His loving salvation. This is so hard for humans to take on board, called as we are to manifest this same grace of God. In the heat of the moment of others' sin against us, we rarely find it in us to think, let alone speak, of their ultimate hope of salvation by grace. But this is the challenge of Hosea.

The tension within God is apparent, Hosea's is the clearest on this. God wants nothing more to do with His adulterous people and then He pleads with them to come back to Him, breaking His own law, that a put-away woman can't return to her first husband. "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?... mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together" (Hos. 11:8). And Jeremiah has more of the same: "How can I pardon you... shall I avenge myself on a nation such as this? Shall I not punish them for these things?" (Jer. 5:7-9,28,29). God reveals Himself as oscillating between punishing and redeeming, judging sin and overlooking it. God is open to changing His stated plans (e.g. to destroy Nineveh within forty days, to destroy Israel and make of Moses a new nation). He isn't like the Allah of Islam, who conducts a monologue with his followers; the one true God of Israel earnestly seeks dialogue with His people, and as such He enters into all the contradictory feelings and internal debates which dialogue involves. 'God loves the sinner and hates the sin' has always seemed to me problematic, logically and practically. Love is in the end a personal thing; in the end love and hate are appropriate to persons, not abstractions. And the person can't so easily be separated from their actions. Ultimately, it is persons who will be saved or condemned. The prophets reveal both the wrath

and love of God towards His people, in the same way as a parent can feel both wrath and love towards their beloved.

### **Reflecting the Struggle of God**

God's threats to punish His people and His desire to forgive them don't somehow cancel each other out as in an equation. They exist within the mind of God in a terrible tension. He cries out through Hosea of how His many 'repentings' are "kindled together" as He struggles within Himself to give up His people as He has threatened (Hos. 11:8). And this struggle was reflected within the emotions and through the speeches / writings / poetry of Hosea. Hosea's speeches have an air of turbulence and struggle about them, which reflected the spirit / mind of the God who inspired him. The very way he was told to marry, in marked contrast to Jeremiah who was told not to marry (Jer. 16), perhaps indicates the duality of God's feelings toward Israel - a desire to marry them and yet not to do so. The extent of God's wrath with Israel, and His harsh, angry language against her, was an outcome of His love for her. "For the wrath of God is the love of God", wrote Emil Brunner long ago. It's like when we see a child run out in front of a car and narrowly escape death; the mother is angry and shouts at the child, whilst we the, unlookers, breathe a prayer of thanks to God in much calmer terms. And this may help explain to us what appears the harder side of God at times.

Let's remember that God's own law was pretty clear about adultery. The adulterous woman was to be punished with death - for one act of adultery. Even if she repented. And in any case, it was a defiling abomination [according to the Mosaic Law] to remarry a divorced wife. But here in Hosea, Hosea doesn't keep the law. He lets his wife commit multiple acts of adultery, and he still loves her and pleads with her - even though he was a man in love with God's law. And this reflects the turmoil of God in dealing with human sin, and His sinful people. Hosea outlines his plan in Hosea 2. He will hamper her movements so she can't find her lovers; if she does find them, he will take away her food and clothing, so she appreciates his generosity to her; and if she still doesn't return, he will expose her naked and shamed in front of her lovers. But there's no evidence Hosea ever did that. He just... loved her, was angry with her as an expression of that love, loved her yet more, yet more... And this perhaps, too, reflects God's mind - devising and declaring judgments for Israel, which are themselves far less than what He has earlier stated in His own law, and yet the power of His love means He somehow keeps bearing with His people. Even in the context of speaking of His marriage to Israel, God says that He will punish them "as women that break wedlock are judged" (Ez. 16:38; 23:45). And yet, He didn't. His love was too great, His passion for them too strong; and He even shamed Himself by doing what His own law forbade, the remarriage to a divorced and defiled wife. Perhaps all love involves a degree of paradox and self-contradiction; and a jealous, Almighty God in love was no different. This, to me, is why some Bible verses indicate God has forsaken Israel; and others imply He hasn't and never will. Somehow, even right now, the Jews you meet... are loved still by their God. And he still fantasizes, in a way, over their return to Him. Imagine His utter joy when even one of them does in fact turn to Him! That alone motivates me to preach to Israel today.

There is within every valid relationship an element of love/hate, patience/frustration, anger and yet also the tenderest love. And so it really was and is in God's relationship with Israel. His love, patience and tenderness are, however, the dominant emotions; and it is these which are brought together in that wonderful final chapter of Hosea. There as we read,, we feel caught up in the passion of God's love for His people. He has expressed the love and anger, the justice and grace, the truth and mercy, throughout the book. And now He pours out that love, contradicting His former angry judgments, picking up the words He has used and turning them right around.

He has told them He won't love them any more, but then concludes, that He will love them freely. He would give them the valley of Achor - symbol and epitome of their miserable failure toward Him, a place best forgotten in their history - as a door of hope. And she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, when she came up out of Egypt (2:15).

And so as you cough and hack your way through the routines of this monotonous life, know that there is a God above who passionately watches for your every move towards Him, who woos you to Him, as He seeks to allure Israel back to Him (2:14). When you decide, or don't decide, to make that effort to get up earlier to pray more, to read, to meditate; when you weigh up whether or not to give something of 'yours' to Him; He is there watching as it were on the edge of His seat. This is the thrill of a living relationship with Him.

### **The Pain of our Sin**

The reality was that Gomer was sexually addicted. She was a prostitute before her marriage, after her marriage she was an adulteress. Consider the language used about her / Israel: "committed whoredom continually" (4:18), "the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them" (5:4), "adulterers as an oven... hot as an oven" (7:4,7), a woman even paying lovers to sleep with her, using Hosea's money (8:9 cp. 2:8), although she had other lovers who gave her gifts to sleep with them (2:12), "they sin more and more" (13:2). This is the language of addiction. Gomer was a sex addict. Like Israel, she didn't consider in her heart that Hosea / God remembered / felt all her wickedness (7:2). She thought, as addicts do, that others are as insensitive as they are. Like addicts, she came to hate Hosea, the very one who enabled her as a person, who alone had loved her truly (9:7,8). And yet Hosea loved her to the end.

All this is, of course, a simple warning against sexual addiction, which is one of the most untabulated and significant addictions in our society. But for a man to *love* a woman like this is a marvellous picture of God's love for His Israel, both then and now. Indeed, 9:10 seems to imply that in the same way as God fell in love with Israel in the wilderness, although they were worshipping idols even then, so Hosea did actually find Gomer attractive initially. God's lament through Hosea, "but me she forgot" (Hos. 2:13) is an insight into His broken heart. And how many hours of our days slip by with no conscious thought of Him... does He feel the same?

Hosea did everything for this worthless woman. He gave her "corn, wine, oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they [her lovers] prepared for Baal" (2:8). He was presumably a wealthy man, and yet gave it all to his wife, who in turn blew it all with her boyfriends on Baal worship. It's like the millionaire marrying a worthless woman who manipulates him into giving her his money, which she blows at the casino day by day, and sleeps with the guys she hangs out with down there. But "she did not know that I gave her..." all these things (2:8) - i.e. she didn't appreciate it one bit. And so Hosea decides that he will withdraw this generosity from her, and then, he surmises, "she shall say, I will go and return to my first husband" (2:7). This was Hosea's hope, and in his own mind he put these words in her mouth. The hopefulness of Hosea was a reflection of the love he had for her.

And all this speaks eloquently of the hopefulness of the Almighty Father who thought "*surely* they will reverence my Son" when He sent Him. And the purposeful anticlimax of the parable is that, no, they did not and will not reverence His Son, and even worse, they killed Him. In the same way as Hosea had this plan to get Gomer to "return" to him, so God likewise planned that "afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God" (3:5).

Both God and Hosea thought, “I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence... in their affliction they will seek me early” (5:15). But it didn’t work out like that. Both God with Israel and Hosea with Gomer ended up *pleading* with her to return (14:1); “and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him for all this” (7:10). It was and is a tragedy. In our preaching to Israel, indeed to mankind generally, we are pleading with them to accept this most unusual love. The pain of God, the way He is left as it were standing there as a tragic figure, like Hosea was, itself inspires us to plead with people all the more passionately.

### **The Fantasy of God**

In Hos. 2:16-23 we appear to have a fantasy of Hosea about his family. After nostalgic dreaming about the early days of their relationship, Hosea fantasizes about once again wooing Gomer, becoming betrothed to her, marrying her in some sort of outdoor wedding ceremony in which the animals and physical creation witness the vows and participate in the joy, entering a new covenant with her, and renaming their children from ‘Not my people’ to ‘My people’. As the children were to be renamed, (Lo-ammi becoming Ammi) so the valley of Achor would become a door of hope (Hos. 2:15), and Jezreel, (scene of Israel’s rebellions), would become the place of joyful reconciliation between God and His people. The valley of Achor had previously been a block to Israel’s entry to the land; now it becomes the entrance to it. In that awful place, God wants to stage an outdoor wedding ceremony with His re-married people. Is. 65:10 mentions Achor as a place of special blessing in the Kingdom of God on earth - it’s as if God’s grace rejoices in inverting things, pouring out His richest blessing upon the places of our darkest failures. And we in daily life, in the interactions we have with others, are asked to reflect this same kind of grace.

This fantasy was, and is, the fantasy of God for His people. For doesn’t love involve an element of fantasy, imagination, wild hope? If God loves His people with passion, is it so inappropriate that He should have such fantasy about them? And this God is our God! Although He may appear silent, our response to the new covenant must give Him great joy, although this doesn’t cancel out the sorrow and tragedy of all His other rejected love. It makes me, for one, want to preach the harder to persuade men and women of His love. Let’s remember that the events in Hosea’s life, according to the information in Hos. 1:1, occurred over a span of at least 30, and perhaps even 50 years. His love for Gomer was the love of a lifetime, the hope and pain of a lifetime. And this, in its turn, reflects the long term love of the eternal God for His people. Hosea’s fantasy for Gomer was unbounded. He fantasized of how when she returned to him with all her heart, with the children renamed, actually the whole of creation would join with him and her in some sort of ceremony of renewal (Hos. 2:16-23). The heavens would echo back the earth’s joy. The wonderful thing is that this will happen when finally the Lord Jesus returns and Israel returns to their God. Hosea’s fantasy was also God’s. And God’s fantasy for His people will in the end come true. And yet the whole language of Israel’s rejection and then a *new* covenant being made between God and her is, in essence marriage language. Jeremiah 31 speaks of how Rachel weeps for her slain children, but also, as a virgin, takes her tambourine in hand and dances, entering a new covenant with her *ba’al*, her Lord, her husband, who has obliterated the memory of all her sins in a way that only a Divine being could do. Women in love are stereotypically associated with emotions of giddiness, hysteria, excitement, joy... and this is the language applied to weeping Rachel, weeping over the children God had taken from her. And yet - according to the New Testament quotations and expositions of Jer. 31 -, this is the very same 'new covenant' into which we enter in baptism. This is God's joy over us, and it should be ours over Him.

## Hosea's Fantasy

Hosea's prophecy ends with God protesting His eternal love for Israel and a description of them in the Kingdom, when they will have 'returned' to Him: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely... His beauty shall be as the olive tree... they... shall return... Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols?" (14:4-8). Remember that the God / Israel relationship was a reflection of the Hosea / Gomer situation. I take this final, majestic section to be a reflection of Hosea's fantasy, his day dream, that one day Gomer would return to him and blossom as a person. For fantasies are all a part of true love. "From me is thy fruit found [Heb. 'acquired']" (14:8) is perhaps his fantasy that this worn out woman with a miscarrying womb, dry breasts and (9:14) would *somehow* one day still bear him children of their own and that in him "the fatherless [a reference to Gomer's illegitimate children] findeth mercy" (14:3).

This fantasy of Hosea's, rooted in his amazing love for Gomer - love that was partly in pure and amazing obedience to God's *command* that he love her (3:1) - is a reflection of God's dream for Israel. Hosea died with his dream unfulfilled. We are left with the question as to whether this similar loving intention of God for Israel will, in fact, be fulfilled, or whether it was what was potentially possible for Israel; or whether His fantasy for them will be fulfilled through a new Israel. If the latter, (and we are that new Israel) then we can imagine what passionate joy the Father finds in our humble attempts to respond to Him and be His loyal and faithful wife. Whatever, the simple fact is that it all reflects an amazing grace, an ineffable love... and this God is our God and Hosea, who reflected all this, is truly a pattern for ourselves in daily life. The very existence of such passionate love for us, love beyond reason, carries with it an inevitable warning as to our responsibilities: "Who is wise, that he may understand these things? prudent, that he may know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them; but transgressors shall fall therein" (Hos. 14:9). Faced as we are by a love like this, we simply can't be passive to it.

*Duncan Heaster*

## News from Africa

### news from cameroon

Brother, accept my loveing greetings in the faith and the hope we have in our Lord. We should stay fast for success in the hope we have in him. May we continue to stay fast prayerfully and patiently awaiting his coming. I wish to thank all for your prayers, and pray that all over there will continue to fight the good fight in the Lord.

*Bro Kum Donatus*

Before joining the Christadelphians I was a member of the Catholic Church where I learned that after death your soul goes to heaven or after purgatory. I learned so many things, which I did not understand. But when the Christadelphian Church came to Muyuka I attended for some time and came to learn that after death our soul goes no where but we remain resting waiting for the judgement day. This was my point of confusion but Bro Martin gave me a clue and some biblical quotations where one could find the full truth. This made me very happy and interested in finding

the truth, I then decided to continue to investigate the doctrines until I became ripe for baptism. We are seven in number and we were baptised by Bro Moses from Tole; Bro Alain and Sis Glory from Kumba and Sis Grace from Muyenge on Sunday the 2nd of July 2006. After the baptism we had the Breaking of Bread meeting and we were given a right hand of fellowship. In fact this has been my favourite day when I became a true child of God.

*Bro Azemanyi Tazoacha Ken*

We are now printing the 40 lessons basic truth in NW Cameroon and we have about 40,000 copies in stock. We have distributed the first aid material in the remote area of Buweh where the book 'Where There Is No Doctor' is proving very valuable. This is the most valuable instrument as the Government has given the CBM air time for the wonderful assistance to the envy of other denominations. In Bamenda there are about 17 preparing for baptism, God Willing in November. during the visit of the UK brethren. Medical help is what we need and will welcome your help, if you can, to the greater community.

*Bro Emmanuel, Nanji*

### **MENJI**

Hi young friends world wide. Do you go to Sunday School? In our Sunday School Bro. Oliver has gone through the Lord's prayer with us many times. We are very happy. In our different schools, like primary or secondary, which are non-denominational. the leaders have noticed that we are Christadelphian children. Why? I was asked to give a morning prayer and I said the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:9-13). From that day other children learned not to end the Lord's prayer at verse 13 (half way) without completing the whole to the word "Amen". Let us all study the Bible as we have been blessed with parents who have their Bibles open daily.

*John Atem Nkeng*

### **MUTENGENE**

I was at a funeral where I heard someone say, 'Where do the dead go?' His friend said that the dead go to heaven, hell or purgatory. I told them that the dead are buried and return to dust; some will be resurrected when Jesus returns to the earth. They asked, Will Jesus come back? I said, Yes, and told them to go to the Bible and look at Acts 1:11 and Rev. 22:12 etc. They asked, Why has Jesus not come? I told them that Jesus had not come yet because God wants all to repent (2 Peter 3:9). I asked them whether they know about the resurrection and they said, Yes. I asked them, If the dead go to heaven or hell or purgatory, (as they alleged), then who is the resurrection for. They could not answer and said their priest or pastor, who has studied the Bible for many years, told them the dead go to one of the places mentioned above. I told them that none of those places is mentioned in the Bible. I asked them, What is purgatory?. They said it is a place where the soul of the dead is purified before entering heaven.

Mutengene ecclesia is back in the home of Bro. Nicolas while we look for a cheaper hall. Members have dropped from nine to four as some have gone to other towns due to employment opportunities.

*Bro. Nicolas Menjauh*

Photo: Menji ecclesia Sunday School, Fontem, Cameroon: Acha, John, Nancy, Christy and Walter and Bro. Oliver Mbiaoh, teacher (sitting).



## **MUYUKA**

We were delighted to have the company of Bro Moses Bua of Tole Ecclesia Bro Alain Leke and Sis Glory from Kumba ecclesia and Sis Grace Tanyi from Muyenge ecclesia. They visited us and we had a very enjoyable and unforgettable time. They interviewed and baptised seven contacts from our Muyuka Ecclesia and we studied ecclesial unity.

*Bro Martin Atabong & Bro Emmanul, Nanji*

A Brother generally has only one opportunity to find a wife for himself and having done this we must stay with her always. If he makes a foolish choice he may have to pay for his mistake being unhappy for the rest of his life. The Bible often warns us of this; here are three passages, using the RSV: "It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a contentious woman. It is better to live in a desert land than with a fretful woman" (Prov. 21:9,19). "Like a gold ring in a swine's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion" (Prov. 11:22). "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Prov. 31:30). All over the world men admire beautiful women. In countries where bride price has to be paid, a woman's beauty determines her price. After all, it is a very natural thing for a man to want a beautiful wife. Natural, yes, but also dangerous. If a man is concerned only with a woman's beauty, he may find himself married to an unsuitable wife. Look back at the three Proverbs quoted above; the first tells us that life with the wrong sort of wife can be utterly miserable. The last two tell us that beauty alone is not enough. What really matters is that a woman should have "discretion and fear the Lord".

*Bro. Akamin Romanus*

## **PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF CONVERSION**

I am so glad that I have accepted baptism and I know that I have changed becoming a new person because of my new relationship with God. This has all been because of the help of my brothers and sisters in our ecclesia. I now read the Bible often and keep on striving to follow the commandments of Christ. We all know Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"(Matt 5:6)

*Sis Agatha*

It is a wonderful thing to become a child of God. I have lived in the past in ignorance of God's words and in darkness. But when I came across the Christadelphians I was enlightened by Bro Martin and other brothers of my ecclesia until this great Day, Sunday the 2nd July 2006, I was baptised by Bre Moses and Alain. I have seen the truth and will never relent in my efforts.

*Bro Thomas T. Njang*

I understood that nothing is better than to be in Jesus Christ. I had never liked to hear about God's words until Bro Martin started visiting me and giving me some biblical pamphlets, I then became interested. - Baby baptism, heaven going after death, and sprinkling of water on somebody in the name of baptism were all wrong. I learned many other new things and I was always referred to the Bible. After being baptised on 2nd July 2006 I have become a moderate man and I feel peaceful when reading the Bible, in fact nothing is better than to be in Jesus

Christ.

*Bro Mathiew Zilefac*

I am very happy and feel glorious having been baptised into Christ and becoming part of the Christadelphian family world-wide. This is a free gift and we must admit that we are sinners. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). When my husband, Thomas Njang, who was another contact like myself, gave me encouragement, I joined Sis Lucy who gave me some clues and some Biblical quotations which made me change my lifestyle. For the Bible says, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

*Sis Honorine Tazoache*

I have always lived believing that Mary was the mother of God who went to heaven both body and soul - according to the Catholic doctrine. But when I came closer to Bro Romanus, another brother, He wiped away this idea and defended it using the Bible. This made me know the truth, then I became a Christadelphian.

*Sis Theresia Anyi Njang*

I used to be attracted by the Christadelphian Hymnals. When I came nearer them I found that they know a lot of Biblical realities which I have always failed to understand. When I knew enough, I became ripe for baptism and was baptised by Bre Alain and Moses.

*Sis Juliana Fondong*

#### news from congo



Photo: Buroia / Masisi Ecclesia, Congo

#### news from ghana

##### **SUBRI-WASSA**

It has been a long time since you heard from me. I have only received *Gospel News* occasionally. Since I left Subri for Koforidua, in the Eastern Region of Ghana, little did I contemplate on the consequences of my action, but after two unfruitful years it has not been possible to start another Ecclesia in that region. I have returned to Subri, where after struggling in vain for 16 years in Lord finally granted my request and an ecclesia was formed. Many brethren from the UK helped in all ways to see to the spiritual growth and the CBM built a meeting hall for the Subri ecclesia. As it is in all establishments, there are always teething problems. My only success in Koforidua station was teaching a Sister who was baptised into the Accra ecclesia. "I have embarked on many preaching tours in the Western Region of Ghana; this has paid off and last year there were five baptisms in Moseaso and four in Subri, the four in Subri being products of our Youth classes, they are: Bro. Duncan Okai Kotei (son of Bro. Odiko), Bro. Dacosta Larbi Amo (son of Bro. Amo), Sis. Justina Ansah (daughter of Bro. Ansah) and Bro. David

Cobbinah. May brethren and sisters write to encourage them in their journey to the Kingdom. We have revived the Western fraternal, the first being in Adjuom from May 25th-28th 2006. It was successful, as it has created awareness in the village. Our second, God willing, is to be August 31st to Sept. 3, and the third, God willing, from 30th Nov.-3rd. Dec. Our Post Office at Ateiku has been closed down, so we travel to Tarkwah for our letters which are sometimes tampered with, some, we think, never reach their destination.. I therefore decided to have a new Post Box, which by God's grace I now have at Twifo Praso where a Sister attends market twice a week Please notify Brethren and Sisters about this change of address in our medium. My new address, which is also the ecclesial, one is: The Christadelphians, Subri-Wasa, P.O. Box TW 194, Twifo Praso, Central Region, Ghana. Last Easter while I was away to Moseaso on a preaching tour at the request of Bro. Sykes, I returned only to see the entire roof of my house ripped off by a rain storm. As a result all our belongings, including my precious books, were soaked.

*Bro Francis Odiko*



Photo: Brethren and Sisters of Subri ecclesia after the baptisms of the four new members (Dec. 20th 2005).

#### news from kenya

##### **BULIMBO**

I would like to request *Gospel News*. Since I have no access to it, I have been having a hard time borrowing one before I can study the local information in them. I also request a copy of the *Kiswahili Bible Basics*, a *Bible Companion* for next year and the *Good Company* copies.

*Bro Laban Sirengo Kisaka*



A picture taken of Bro Laban Kisaka a year ago at school, with stuffed lion capturing its prey

##### **BUNGOMA**

We are grateful for your recent letter which introduces and connects us with the international non-governmental and non-profit making organization "Swedish Co-operative Centre" (SCC) that offers support to self-help development initiatives to co-operatives, farmers' organizations and informal groups. It has its regional headquarters in Nairobi, capital of Kenya. We also received three books, namely:

- Principles of Planning Vegetable Production
- Root Crop Production

- Conservation Farming

We have contacted them through the internet and we are still corresponding. Since the work started is not ours but the Lord's, we are still pushing the gospel forward though sometimes through hardships. We believe that the Lord has prepared our pay and that He will pay everyone accordingly at his appearing. Many friends are being changed to our faith and even leaders are joining us. It is our joy that the number of workers in our Lord's vineyard is increasing. Due to this, we shall not be tired of requesting more Bible materials, eg *Key to Understanding the Bible*, *Introducing Bible Basics* and others; also, *Where There Is No Doctor*, and *Where Women Have No Doctor*, if available please.

*Bro Nimrod and Sis Caren Masika*

The wicked shall be turned into *sheol*. The wicked are those "who know not God, and obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ". Of these there are three classes:

1. Sinners that have never heard of the one true God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel; others who are incapable of faith and obedience
2. Those who have come to an understanding of the gospel but have rejected it.
3. Those who have obeyed it, but do not hold fast the beginning of their confidence steadfast to the end, nor walk according to its precepts but walk after the flesh.

The first die and perish as the beasts.

The second also die, but comes forth from the grave to encounter the indignation of Christ.

The third experience judgment day, to come forth and be judged, then undergo condemnation with "sorer punishment". However, those who try to serve the Lord, howbeit with many failings, will, by grace enter into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord.

*Bro Francis Mayen*

You have done wonders in giving me *Gospel News*. I have learnt more about people's lives, learning through our Lord Jesus Christ. I also study *Introducing Bible Basics*, and try to answer questions. It gives exactly the divine way to the Kingdom of God.

*Bro Emmanuel Kumbu*



PHOTO : Bro Emmanuel (with the watch), with friends Phostine and Daniel.

I'm very pleased to receive your letter and *Bible Basics for Moslems*. I will share these with my brothers and sisters who are in fellowship, also with the friends and the surrounding ecclesias.

I am very happy at receiving *Gospel News*; it lets me know that some of our brothers and sisters are also doing the will of God. It is heart warming to let us know what brothers and sisters in other countries are also doing, and moving on, with the word of God like me.

You are a good link for us with the brothers and sisters who are all going towards the Kingdom of God. I am very happy to know the difference between Christians and Moslems through *Bible*

*Basics for Moslems.*

*Bro Aggrey K Muyila*



Photo: Bro Aggrey K Muyila

God knows and searches our hearts.

Psalms 139:23,24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts."

Isaiah 43:18,19: "Remember not the former things nor consider the former things of old."

Exodus 23:20,21: "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared. Give heed to him and hearken to his voice, do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him." And the Name is God so don't rebel against Him.

Exodus 24:9-11: "Then Moses and Aaron, Nabad and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank".

Acts 17:30,31: "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead".

*Bro George Maina Wabwile*

### **CHWELE**

Elderly people should be helped during this weak and tiring time to enjoy their lives. They need love, care and support. In so doing, young people should show appreciation for the good work they did when they themselves were still little children, and also please God. There are important steps to follow to make older men and women happy in their lives:

1. Preserve their dignity – "Do not sharply rebuke an older man but be appealing to him as a father ... (to) an older woman as a mother" (1 Timothy 5:1,2).
2. Listen to them carefully – "Be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath" (James 1:19).
3. Show empathy - "All of you be like-minded, showing fellow feelings, having brotherly affection, tenderly compassionate, humble in mind, not paying injury for injury or reviling for reviling" (1 Peter 3:8,9).
4. Discern when encouragement is needed - "As apples of gold in silver carvings is a word spoken at the right time for it" (Proverbs 25:11).
5. Involve them in your work - "Follow the course of hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

6. Offer practical assistance - “Whoever has the world’s means for supporting life and beholding his brother having need and yet shuts the door of his tender compassion upon him, in what way does the love of God remain in him? Little children, let us love, neither in word or tongue, but in deeds and truth” (1 John 3:17,18).
7. Be long-suffering: - “Clothe yourself with the tender affection of compassion, kindness, lowliness of mind, and long suffering” (Colossians 3:12).
8. By caring for and loving the elderly, we show respect for God’s own standards because His word states: - “You must show consideration for the person of an old man or old woman” (Leviticus 19:32).

*Bro Manasseh Wamamili and Sis Doricus Manasseh*

Greetings to you in the shared hope of Israel. I write to congratulate you for the good work you are doing by preaching the word of God to reach every corner of the world by supplying *Gospel News* magazine and *Bible Basics*. Truly this is the work that Jesus commissioned his disciples to do to go into the whole world and preach the word to every creature so that whoever believes will be saved but whoever does not will be condemned. However, I used to get *Gospel News* but stopped receiving it at the start of this year. How I wish, brother, that you supply me with it as it encourages and strengthens me.

*Bro Patrick Sawa*



Photo on Left - from left: Bro George Maina, Bro Remmy Wekesa Nyongesa during his baptism at Kabuchai, and Bro Anzetus Khoremba.

Photo on Right - from left: Bro George Maina, Sis Bridgit Nabwile Wanyama during her baptism at Kabuchia, and Bro Anazetus.



Photo: Bro Patrick and his wife Sis Joina Sawa

I was baptised in the year 2000 by elder brothers in western Kenya. I have been enjoying lessons from you and others around the world. I would like to thank you for sending brothers and sisters in our ecclesia books such as “*Where There Is No Doctor*” and “*Bible Basics*” which have been of very great importance to us in spiritual growth. Having basic knowledge from the book “*Where There Is No Doctor*” has been of very, very great importance to me.

I was allergic to penicillin, but the knowledge contained in “*Where There Is No Doctor*” has kept me alive up to the time I am writing this letter. I pray that God will bless you abundantly so that you may again help us in getting a first aid kit so that we can continue saving other people’s lives.

*Bro Daniel Wakhabu*



Photo: Bro Daniel Wakhabu

### **GISAMBAI**

I am happy to hear that you are sending us some *Bible Basics* and one book asked for *Where There Is No Doctor*. The other book I forgot to include in my letter is *How To Grow A Balanced Diet*. This will assist us in our planting and the type of plants for our diet. I have passed all this information to the ecclesia and they are happy and look forward to receiving them. As I have written to you, my ecclesia is young and growing so we need your support by sending us books and any other literature for preaching. Please send us some *Bible Companions*. We have only two copies and right now we are ten members, eight brothers and two sisters.

*Bro Ernest Lavuna*

### **KINANGOP**

I am proud of being a Christadelphian. I have come to discover many biblical writings which have not been expounded by many who call themselves 'Christians'. Indeed to be an ordinary 'Christian', not much is expected, apart from faith in God through His only son, our Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 11:6). Having been a Catholic from birth, I have discovered a lot that had been hidden from me and this has brought me to a state of almost hating the Catholic faith. My emphasis here is for true Christians to adhere to the true *doctrines* of the Bible of humility, stressing much on peace and arming themselves with the shield of faith.

Though sure of our faith, we have a great task of preaching to the present world of hypocrisy, corruption and freedom of worship. Many people don't like to prepare before going into the field of 'evangelism' which entails difficulties and faith in the Lord Jesus. Thanks for the Christadelphians who, though not famous worldwide have the faith which is based on biblical truth.

Let us all look forward fro the coming of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ who is coming this time as a King and every eye shall see. Israel shall look with remorse on the one they ignored, betrayed and killed.

*Bro Peter Njuguna*

### **KITALE**

Here in Kitale I'm quite okay in the Lord, enjoying the precious grace of God which has kept me in the faith. I have been helped to see and read about how many are continuing in the faith. Also, I have understood and been encouraged by the topics that are published. I request *Bible Basic* in Kiswahili because I have some friends who are studying with me and they cannot understand English. Some people have stopped appreciating God for His faithfulness and who He is in their lives. For me not to lose focus in my Christian walk, I have decided to fix my eyes on the Lord and please Him alone. This reminds me of Jesus, who died that we might be saved, that whosoever believes in him should not perish. Alas, a lot of people are dying in sin, they are not recognising God as their Maker and the source of everything existing on this earth. Expect ingratitude. My advise is to realize that some people will not appreciate you. Do things for the joy of doing them, and give for the joy of giving; help the needy for the sake of helping

them. Ingratitude is a universal sin, therefore we must do our best to avoid it. People will always talk and complain but our attitude should be a positive one. Praise should be the habit pattern of our life, regardless of the cold, even cruel, treatment received from some whom we have helped.

*Sis Lydia Nekesa Fuchaka*



Photo: Sis Lydia Fuchaka and her two daughters Eliza and Vicky.

### **LUUYA**

I'm happy to send this letter to you and inform you that I am proud of your assistance to my fellow brothers in Luuya ecclesia. You have assisted us with books like *Bible Basics*, which makes me more excited in my belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. I am a Sister with the name Brigid N Kasili, baptised on 22-12-2005 at Kabuchai during the Bible School. I beg you to kindly assist me with *Bible Basics* study so that I can make more effort in the word of God. Actually your books are very good guidance in the word of God. Here is my photograph during the time of baptism. I am 14 years old

*Sis Brigid Kasili*

### **MAKHONE**

Marriage as an institution should be revered by husbands and wives. And this honour must be indicated through being faithful to each other. It follows that anyone who deviates from this moral conduct will be punished savagely by God during judgment, because God does not condone immorality and vice, like adultery (Hebrews 13:4). So, brethren, let us refrain from lust which can tarnish this holy institution. And as we detest lust, we should put on an armour which is the word of God.

*Husband and wife should live in harmony (Ecclesiastes 9:9. As you enjoy life, that enjoyment has to encompass the love of our wife. In this context, Ecclesiastes points out that our joy will be meaningless if it excludes our wife.*

*A wife is precious (Proverbs 18:22)' To find a wife is something good and it shows that God is good to us. We should be grateful to Him for helping us to achieve this. We are cautioned by God that we should not dare to make any divorce (Malachi 2:14,15).*

We should try to abide by this directive given to us by God. *be faithful to your wives*. Not being faithful to our wife is denying her our love (Proverbs 5:15-18). Therefore we should stick to our wives and give them sufficient care with all our focus on them. That way we consolidate our families, thereby creates harmony. It is absolutely dangerous to sleep with another man's wife (Proverbs 6:29). Doing so is like carrying fire against your chest and you are certain of burning yourself (Proverbs 6:27); also, it is like walking on hot charcoal with bare feet: it is inevitable that those who attempt it will get burnt.

*Bro Emmanuel Sikuku Sichangi*

I am very happy with your concern about my baptism and other details. It reminds me of way back in 1995 when one day seven of us from Makhonge Ecclesia gathered ay at Chwele River

Ecclesia for interviews. We were interviewed by Bros: Joshya Kisuya (former Western Area Representative), Tom Kituyi, John Mulongo (Chwele River Ecclesia) and Richard Simiyu (Nalondo Ecclesia). Only one candidate failed, but six passed and were baptised by Bros Tom Kituyi and Joshya Kisuya in the River Chwele. It was such a fine Sunday morning. I will never forget it because of the great multitude of brethren and sisters from seven ecclesias gathered around to witness.

I must say that it was a long journey from my infancy in Sunday School to join a congregation of baptised brothers and sisters, not only in ecclesias in Kenya but world wide.

I find the Bible literature about legalism very interesting in my Bible study and would welcome comments on world events. May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks for the great work you are doing in God's vineyard. May you be blessed in your efforts in supplying the *Gospel News* worldwide. Indeed the time we are living in is full of many evil things here and there, but we pray God to keep us on the right path towards His kingdom which is imminent.

Thank you very much for the book '*Where Women Have No Doctor*' and the encouraging information about the on-going events in the Middle East. We are certainly living in the last days, full of evil things happening all over the world. Recently the media were full of the news about the *Da Vinci Code* with fictions ridiculing the life of Jesus Christ and the wonderful ministry in the Bible. It claims that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had many children who he intended to lead the church. While millions of copies are being circulated everywhere convincing many people, it means that true Christians/believers must be alert, reading our Bibles seriously and prayerfully to resist this influence against the Gospel. May the Lord come even now! *(Should any require material refuting the DaVince Code, please write to Gospel news for it. MH)*

I am preparing my piece of land to plant beans and groundnuts for the next season. I depend wholly upon farming for my livelihood. In addition, I am receiving 5-8 men and women every day at my home. A few are brothers and sisters while the majority are villagers within the community, seeking some pieces of advice on their health problems. I appreciate the up-dated help in the book you sent, which adds to the little I learnt on a course some few years ago.

The community prefers me to the nurses in the Health Centre in many ways: nurses can be very harsh, full of don't-care attitudes towards the patients/clients. Last month the Public Health Officer (PHO) came to my house incognito to see for himself the good service I am delivering to people, after he had heard that my work is excellent. He then recommended me to start getting some drugs at low cost to serve the community and my ecclesia from October this year – but on condition that I should build a house with good accommodation and proper storage of the drugs. It is a habit for people in this area to burn bushes while preparing their fields for planting crops in February and March, which means that my house could be burnt down as its roof is grass-thatched, or it could leak during heavy rains. I am unable to meet the expense in this time frame.

*Bro Manasseh and Sis Doricus Wamamili*



Photo: Bro Manasseh and Sis Doricus Wamamili (The photo is of Sister Doricus and myself taken in February, 2000 during our new life in marriage)

### **MAKHONGE**

It is our firm faith that you are still forging ahead with the preparation of *Gospel News* magazine that reflects the views of brothers and sisters worldwide. Your support in supplying important books has been really profitable in terms of life-saving and even reducing medical cost. We have managed to help many brothers, sisters and other people in our village. Some have been coming to read from medical colleges, others have read to find the medicines to use. For example, a friend of ours who had ear problems managed to get the correct drugs which has helped him very much. He can now hear properly. We also helped our Bro Daniel who had been injected with procaine penicillin which resulted in allergic shock. As soon as we were informed, we rushed him to the nearest Health Centre about 30 km away using our bicycle at 8 pm, where we informed the nurse to give him an adrenaline injection as instructed by the book '*Where There Is No Doctor*'.

Even though the villagers are deep-rooted in their cultural beliefs, they are finding the book very helpful in solving their health problems. Therefore, brother, your help has been very important to us, and to many other people around. You have shown how kind and loving you are to brothers, sisters and friends. Concerning the

English language, we wonder if it is possible, and if God wills it, that you help us with some books of English grammar so that we can help brothers and sisters who cannot read and write the English language very well.

God bless us all while we await the Lord's return.  
*Bro David and Sis Jacklyne Wanjala*

### **MBITA (SUBA)**

I thank God for the work He has done for His people especially our brothers and sisters in the UK for getting food during the famine in Kenya. We are happy to congratulate them on their good work and for volunteering to help us. I know that when people are sure in God, God will be sure with them. We were made even more sure when the brothers and sisters from UK visited us in Kenya.

When they came to the meeting in Nairobi, they promised us they would visit our ecclesia in Nelisi and I was very proud of them. And they taught us many things. We now have three new members: Paul Ndige, Soffy Achieng Otho and Apollo Mgundu. Bro Jared Owuor Oketch

### **NAKURU**

I'm writing to let you know that I really recognise the way you handle and consider me, even though I am an African. We share the one faith, and in particular I appreciate the books: *God's Visible Hands*, *Understanding the Bible*, the book about Muslims – and *Gospel News*, of course. I have just collected from the Post Office the leaflets of the book, '*What is the Gospel?*' in Luhya; now Luo, Kiswahili and Kikuyu will follow, God willing. Thanks a lot. (I was charged before collecting the parcel from the Post Office.)

If you gather or come across any information on how one can emigrate to a green pasture in another country, please pass it on to me.

Say “Tambo” (hallo) to your family members and all the members of your ecclesia as we wait for our Lord to come and reign for ever.

*Bro Samuel Wanga Watako*



Photo: Bro Samuel Wanga Watako

### **NDHIWA**

I am Brother Mike, a sinner saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1994 I realized how selfish desires made me fail with so many sins before the Lord, just as is written in Paul’s letter to the Galatians 5:19-21. After that I found that only confession and repentance and going to God’s throne of grace is the major theme of life. I have not won but am still in the battle each and every day.

I am married with three children with which the Lord has blessed us. I joined the Christadelphian group in September 1996 and had spiritual growth under the supervision of my tutor, Sis Joice M Roe. I did the lessons for nine years because I wanted to be rooted in Christadelphian teachings. I was baptised in Sept 2005. I had before been attending

Okumbo Ecclesia for six years as a friend, but now I am proud to be a member. I contacted you through Bro John D Kine, who encouraged me to write to you. I have read some of your material such as *Living With Alcoholism* and *Gospel News* and I would like to receive more from you.

*Bro Mike Gerald D Juma*

I thank the Almighty God for the love He has shown His people, and give much thanks also for the blessing of CAT and their aim to preach the truth, also to encourage brethren and sisters to grow spiritually in the TRUTH. I want to praise the Lord. Psalm 138:1-3: I will praise you, O Lord with all my heart; before the ‘gods’ I will sing your praise. I will bow down towards your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and word. When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stout-hearted.

We women should be wise.

a) Ecc7:26-28.

b) Romans 16:1,2 help others;

c) Luke 10:38-42, don’t be worried, choose Jesus as your saviour;

d) Matthew 26:7-13, Your deeds will be remembered. To the widows; read 1 Cor 7:39-40; 1 Tim 5:9-12,14-16. James 1:19-27.

I request the book: ‘How To Grow A Balanced Diet’, All I say is through God’s will.

*Sis Dorine A Mboya*



*Comment; Our Bro Leonard Mboya fell asleep in Christ in May.*

#### news from madagascar

*It was a pleasure to baptize the first Christadelphians here: Brothers ARMAND, JOSE, HONORE, RIZA, FAIROMEZANE, THOMAS, RADO, LOVA, HOBY and TSIMBA; and Sisters LALA, SYLVIA and CLAUDETTE. May God bless them and the new community here to His glory.*

I am anxious to signal you dear brother that at the time of our meeting last Saturday the members passed 80 people already. We need to buy 40 Bibles so that at least the visitors will have one Bible between two people. We all here appreciate so much the visit of Duncan and Cindy to us.

*Bro Riza*

#### news from malawi

##### **BLANTYRE**

In my gentile life when I was still young, I was full of rage and resentment. My quick temper led me to stormy anger; this as an end result made me impatient, disrespectful and violent. Though I never drank nor smoked (drug intake) my attitude seemed no different from those who did it: One funny thing was a strange silence which, if anyone wronged me, I would burst out to strike which ever person was stronger than me.

The reason for this temper was the way of life we lived in, a life of bullying each other to show who was strongest. As time went on, things started changing in me. I started going to church. Later on I was introduced to the Christadelphians by my cousin. The avoidance of fights and quarrels started appearing little by little.

The daily reading (although I missed them some days) of God's word and occasional prayers were factors in understanding myself, - who I was and what people expected of me. I shunned some of my previous friends and started controlling my temper (Proverbs 16:32).

Thanks to God (Psalm 7:17; Philippians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 3:14), my growing knowledge of the Bible had a good effect on me and my conscience. It helped me to subdue my quick temper and to develop self-control, as James says, "Draw close to God and he will draw close to you (4:8). My personality dramatically changed and I was more and more interested in knowing God's word (Hebrews 4:12,13; Matthew 6:33). My baptism in 2003 brought so many differences. By this time I had vowed not to go back to my old life but to try and understand God's word fully.

So I would like to encourage all brethren and sisters either in similar situations, or in different ones, to pray and read the word of God for guidance. God doesn't hate anyone, that is why He

rains rain everywhere, both on sinners and the righteous. I especially thank my tutor who has always been there for me in times when I felt low or distressed, for her help and encouragement.  
*Bro Oliver Chilefu*

### **BOLERO**

Could you please send me some copper bracelets for arthritis relief. Arthritis is a painful disease of the joints which is very common in the part of the world where I live.  
*Bro Lukanga Nyomiro*

### **BUA**

I thank you for always thinking about me. May God bless you for ever and ever more. The idea that I should be among those who may be keeping goats to have something for their living is most welcome. I am so thankful to Almighty God, for He provides something for me out of nothing. I always say, 'What shall I give back to God for whatever He provides through His loved ones'. I will try if possible to make contact with the animal husbandry assistant who helps other people who are in clubs keeping chickens, goats, pigs and cattle. Then I will have knowledge on how to keep them. I will try very hard to have a good house for the goats.  
*Sis Bertha Khonje*

### **CHILEKA**

My name is Kenneth Maganger, the first born son of Mr Moses Maganger here in Zomba, Malawi. We all belong to the Chileka Christadelphian Ecclesia. I would like to let you know that if possible, you send me 'Gospel News' and the book 'Bible Basics' as you have done to my father, Bro Maganger. I have a problem occasionally in the Bible New Testament. There are some verses missing in the Chichewa Bibles and in some English Bibles: Mark 15, verse 28; John 5:4; Acts 15:34. In the English Bible from Bro David Rennson these verses are present. Which version is correct? Please help me over this point.

I'm married and have a baby called Frank. I have provided my photo for you to recognize me.  
*Bro Kenneth Maganger*

### **CHINANI**

Thanks for the good study from the Holy Bible. I was ignorant but now I know the scriptures, please send me more studies. I know little about the English language. Don't you have more books which can help me to know more about English? Help me if possible. I was using a Chichewa language Bible; may you send me an English Bible.  
*Bro Michael B R Chinangwa*



Photo: Bro Michael B R Chinangwa

### **CHITALA**

I have just come in from Mulanje where my wife was admitted two weeks for suspected TB. The sputum smear and Xray results were silent. However, the hospital authorities gave her enough drugs for the coming eight months. In Malawi, respiratory disorders are so common that it is difficult to recognize TB cases.

Recently one of our secular weekend papers had an article in which it sought the views of various religious leaders on whether the end of the world was near. Three quarters agreed that it was, citing wars, famines, pestilences (Matthew 24:7) lawlessness (v12, 1 Timothy 1:9,10; 4:1,2). So far, so good. Scriptures say that all these are the beginning of sorrows (Matthew 24:8). One encouraging thing is that humanity has begun taking interest in the immediate future because “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and THEN the end WILL COME”.

None of the respondents pointed out the Middle East as one of the indicators. I am glad that in your letter you did dwell on the importance of looking out for the events in the Middle East

Recently Sister Muriel Whittaker sent me a videotape “Conflict in the Middle East (to be resolved by God)”. I plan to circulate it to our sister ecclesias at Senga Bay (where Brothers George Maimba Nkhoma and Nyitenda stay) and Chapita (45 km south of here) where there is a flourishing young ecclesia. Such topics on the Middle East are timely because most preaching discounts them as earthly stories without spiritual application.

Our five small ecclesias sent elderly Sister representatives to attend the course sponsored by the CAT. The course took place at the ecclesia where our Brother George Nkoma stays and it greatly benefited the participants. Which brings me to the concern you have brought forward on trying to find out a sustainable project which could benefit brothers and sisters in Malawi not only during hard times but also other times. I salute you for your proposal of a goats project because (as an agriculturalist):

- 1, They need minimal care
- 2, They are tolerant of most animal diseases
- 3, They can be housed easily
- 4, They are not easily pinched by thieves
- 5, They produce excellent milk and meat
- 6, Their droppings facilitate the making of compost manure.

To avoid jealousy and murmuring the recipients should be arranged in teams as we did with the European Union-sponsored animals in my work last year. The first team got two female goats per family (we started with 10 families). The first female kid born to a family in team A would be given to a family in team B until every family in team B got two female kids. These would repeat the procedure by giving to families in team C so that at the end of five years the majority of the beneficiaries would have she-goats. We purchased hybrid goats for circulation (one he-goat to 10 does) to avoid in-breeding. I am sure such a project would reduce the moral burden of our UK-based brethren and sisters to send cash to buy maize in times of famine (because I can't see any end to these famines). While they happen owing to natural causes beyond our control, most of them are aggravated by human mismanagement. To crown it all, during the past 10 years, we have developed a culture which is dependent on “*Donor*” countries. In simple language, I pray to the Heavenly Father to financially assist you so that such a project can come to maturity because, as you have said, it is better to give a man a fishing rod and teach him to catch fish for a long time, than giving him a fish which is consumed in one day.

*Bro Ignatius Maluwa*

### **JALI**

I am a member of the Christadelphians and I was baptised in 1996, on October 6 as were some other brothers and sisters including Bro George Benjamin Nightingale, Bro Wahera Church Consullors and many sisters. During the past time, I used to attend the Bible School and Chiramwate in Tomba using my late father's bicycle which got stolen. But as of now I do not attend because of transport; but I last went there when Bro Nightingale was handing over to Bro Arne Roberts

*Bro Lucky J Mbalale*

### **JALI**

I want to thank you very much for sending me the entire book dealing with *Revelation* printed by Logos. Following my last questions I beg you to continue sending me gospel books and many more. I know the kingdom of God is just around the corner. And, my brother, I want a book called *Who are the Christadelphians?* and when you find it, please send it me.

*Bro S Maseya John*

### **KASUNGU**

I think that you have heard that we had the baptisms of four students. So our number has gone up to 16. This shows that God is still blessing our work in the truth. Bro Marcus, the changing weather pattern in Kasungu has put us into fear. We don't know what comes next. It was on the air by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture that 95% of the people of Kasungu Central and Northern Region plus the east of Kasungu will not harvest anything this year due to the longest drought that we have had. Our crops dried up after we had applied fertiliser twice. The Government has accepted to help people until the next growing season; that is next year's harvest. 50 kg of maize is shared between two families. And it takes one month before another distribution. Not all receive what the Government is distributing.

*Bro Harmony Ntchalachala*

### **MZIMBA**

I thank CAT for enabling the meeting we had in Mzuzu. Thank you for your willingness, because nothing can be done from nothing. But action must first be taken. Thank you again for being with us in this action of offering for a meeting. We had a good meeting. There were brothers and sisters from Zambia at Lundazi ecclesia at Mzembe town and some isolated brothers at Mgamatchuwa School and from Khata-Bay. Baptisms conducted for two new brothers. We didn't have many non-Christadelphians. Thank you for letting us hear how the work of God goes on in many parts of the world. Thank you for sending me a book entitled, "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit". It will help me to increase my knowledge of the subject. In the *Gospel News* No 1, vol 19, Oct-Dec, I read concerning the bracelets for arthritis relief. Now, I would ask you to send me several for myself and for other brothers and sisters. In January my younger brother, who was working in South Africa, died. It's my pleasure to have the precious time waiting for the promise Jesus made of his return. I have to thank our Heavenly Father for revealing everything that He wants His followers to do and that He has expressed the blessings that we as Christians are to receive at Christ's return (everlasting life), when we do according to His will (Romans 6:23).

*Bro Humphrey M Banda*

### **MZUZU**

The fraternal meeting was held here in Mzuzu and despite the hunger in this country, the brethren and sisters managed to travel long distances. Some came from as far as Lunkazi in Zambia, Salima and many more from Mzimba. This meeting was organized locally by the

brethren here. I feel this was a very good test of our strength in the faith. Please find enclosed herewith three snaps which show what transpired during our meeting.

Concerning our great period of hunger, one of the contributing factors was the price of fertilizer. To an ordinary man, this was unaffordable. However, with the present change of government there was a bill in Parliament to reduce the price and it was passed. This year in some parts of the country crops are very promising despite climate changes. If what the government has done continues, in two years' time Malawi will be self-reliant in food as before in the reign of Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda. Our first President stressed very much the importance of food for his people. He said that he did not want his people to go on empty stomachs. That is why during his reign the prices of food and fertilizer were under strict control by the government.

*Bro Sylvester Tembo*



Photo: Mzuzu Fraternal Top: The Brethren, Centre: The Sisters Bottom: Group Photo - The two without shirts recently baptized.

### **NGABU**

We thank you and we are very happy to have the booklets you send to us. We believe these will help us in our ministry for Sunday School use. Slowly by slowly we have managed to do something for our families. We have managed to start our ministry of Christadelphia here with seven families. 19 members were baptised and we were serving our God under a tree. Our concern is teaching materials like Bibles, Sunday School books, etc. Our vision is to build a church so we need iron sheets; the bricks we have already made ourselves through the power of God. So we need help from well-wishers all over the world in order to finish our church of 10 X 30 metres with a capacity for 30 members. So it's our plea again to you and your friends to come to Malawi to preach the word of God and assess the situation here.

*Sis and Bro Mc Micky DS Mbawe*

### **NSANJE**

I was baptised by a Christadelphian, Bro Emanuel in Usanje district in 2002. I am very happy with the encouragement of your letters and summary sheet which you sent me. And now my knowledge of the Bible is quite open. In adding to that, I ask that you remember me, in your daily prayers so that our Lord may seal His perfection in my life.

*Bro G P M'ngundeni*

### **SINYALA**

We are greatly encouraged by your enthusiasm and the work that you are doing. I hope this letter finds you well and thriving.

1. I should be pleased if you would send me copies of notes on the daily readings (with the help of Bro Blackstone?)

2. Also send me Bibles, two in Chichewa and two in English for brothers and sisters who are poor and can't get money to buy them.

3. I would also like to receive some study material from you. My aim is to keep on preaching and I desire to establish another new ecclesia 30 km from Mtentaela, for the truth in Malawi. Already three brothers and three sisters were baptised on 12 March 2006 and there are about thirty followers. It will be called Mbweza Christadelphian Ecclesia. I will let you know what happens. So let us sit at Jesus' feet, the greatest Preacher, and cultivate a Christ-like mind that will not forget God's laws. We must remember that Israel has had a tortured history in many segments – and another foreboding segment looks set to open.

*Bro Henderson Sosola*

### **ULONGWE**

I thank you for all spiritual encouragement. These days things, as well as people's behaviour, are becoming worse and worse like Sodom and Gomorrah. As Christians, we must remember that when the darkness becomes very great, then light is near. All the signs encourage us that the coming of Jesus is at hand. Brother, I would like to inform you that most people here speak Chichewa, so can you please send us more Chichewa books.

*Bro Harry Benito*



Photo: Bro M'ngundeni and his family

### **news from mozambique**

#### **ESPUNGABERA**

We are delighted to record the baptisms of Arone Muchanga and Average Madhuku, both of Espungabera, who came to the Truth as a result of our Bible reading Seminar. We pray that they will be happy in our fellowship and that the Lord will bless them in their walk to the Kingdom.

*Bre. Admire Museba & Moses Dhlakama*



Photo, left to right: newly baptised Bro. Average Madhuku; Bro. Moses Dhlakama; newly baptised Bro. Arone Muchanga and Bro. Admire Museba.

#### **MARATANE**

We here are in a bad way in this refugee camp but we wish to spread the gospel further, therefore we would appreciate any copies of *Bible Basics* in French or Swahili.

*Bro. Ramazan Juma*

## news from nigeria

### **ABA**

By God's grace we held our CYC gathering at Enugu state when six people were baptised. I need the books you mentioned in your letter, including any others that will help me in the Kingdom race. I am glad you have sent the English Bible Basics to me.

*Bro. Elijah Eze (Jnr)*

### **IKWUANO**

I have received the parcel containing, 'Where Women Have No Doctor' and 'Eureka at a Glance', which I appreciate. When I see that trials come from my Creator I give myself to prayer (Ps. 25:2-3). By God's grace I love to work and earn a living. I try and see where I can earn a bit extra to increase the number of boxes toward my bee-keeping project. It may interest you to know that Bro. Friday Umesi and myself were both baptised into the 'household' on May 31 1991; we work together in the newly opened Ikwueke ecclesia, carved out from Okwe ecclesia in February, 2004. As we are approaching the last days we know that it is a 'must' to make our calling and election sure. I have been receiving PDE for years from Bro. Charles French. I pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all the hands that help us in our understanding of the Word. God has blessed the newly opened ecclesia with baptised members and we now are ten in number. May our Lord's coming be swift for our relief. In Him who is our peace and security,  
*Bro Friday and Sis. Janet Enyiogu*

### **OKWE**

Bro. Friday Enyiogu is a brother in Christ and we worship together in the same ecclesia, Ikwuano. As you know, he keeps bees and they have, at times, stung him, but this does not scare him away. It is a difficult help-scheme for me, but as a trained bee farmer he finds it easy and interesting. I rear goats for a livelihood and it is my intention to expand when I can afford to do so. Regarding the new book, 'Wrested Scripture', I would like to get a copy and other Scriptural literature. I enclose two photographs.

*Bro. F.E. Umesi*



Photos: Sis. Glory A. Umasi, after her baptism on May 14th 2006. Part of Okwe and Ikwueke who watched the baptism of Sis. Glory



### **KANO**

I wish to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of the well-packaged parcel which arrived unscathed. I had a motorcycle accident which kept me on a hospital sick bed for three

weeks which hindered me writing earlier. I have just been discharged, though still nursing some of the wounds sustained in the course of the accident. Above all, I thank God for averting what could have been a fatal accident to mere injuries. I am indeed recuperating, to the glory of His Name..

*Bro. Christian M. Anyanwy*

### news from south africa

#### **CANDU**

We are pleased to announce two more baptisms: Sis Dorothy Mbuqe and Sis Nomfuneko Nzingane. Sister Nomfuneko lives in the village of Candu and has been attending the meetings for some time now. Sister Dorothy is a cripple and lives 208km from Candu; her address is Seventh Day Adventist School, Cancele, Mt. Frere, Eastern Cape, S.Africa. She is fluent in English and would appreciate letters. The creche at Candu is now running well and is keeping the Sisters very busy.

*Bro. Norman Durk*

#### **LESOTHO**

I am happy to tell you that I have received the reading glasses which help me greatly in my Bible reading and in understanding more of the things God said would happen before Jesus comes back. Not only do we see the signs in Israel but also in the breakdown of society, as Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:2,3: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

*Bro Bernard Lintsa*



Photo: Inside the Ipinda [Tanzania] ecclesial hall, l. to r: Bro. Harley Mwasimba, Bro. Justin Mwakasege (contact), Bro Wakati Maleza and Bro. Ford Mwangama

### news from tanzania

#### **IPINDA**

We thank you for the effort put into ensuring that *Gospel News* is produced and sent to us on time. What a privilege we have to receive such a wonderful source of supplementary Scripture knowledge, the cost of which we would never be able to meet at this end of the world! Ipinda ecclesia was started in 1992 when a brother who was baptised in Morogoro (a town some 1000kms away) came to live in this area. Ipinda was the first ecclesia to be established in this vast region of Southern Tanzania. Since then the ecclesia has been actively engaged in spreading the gospel to neighbours and outlying villages. The struggle has resulted in the formation of four other ecclesias namely Kanga, Tenende, Kyela and Makwale.

Over the years we have been receiving a considerable number of *CIL* exhortations, lectures and Bible studies, Sunday School material, etc.. They all are a good source of learning and teaching which many a brother and sister here at Ipinda and neighbouring ecclesias would like to read for themselves were it not for the language barrier. It is our view that if translated into Swahili the underprivileged many would be able to study them and increase their understanding of the scriptures. The trouble is we do not have the equipment to enable us to accomplish this ourselves. We would be glad and grateful if any brother, sister or ecclesia in our entire brotherhood, who are thinking of getting rid of their well-used computer, scanner and printer would let us have the same so that we could begin implementing the task of translating into Swahili. We have a good hall at Ipinda, fitted with running water and installed with electricity. We hope the hall will offer a suitable place for carrying out the task we would like to embark upon.

*Bro. Justin Mwakasege*

### **KASULU**

Those of us at the Nyarugusu camp recently received a photo of the late Bro. Arthur East and Sis. Muriel East of beloved memory. We were very glad to see the picture. Please is there a personal tutor for me who could further my Bible studies in the French language?

*Bro. Umandama Akulu*

### **KIGOMA**

I want to request the *Bible Companion* (daily reading tables). Let me thank you for sending me the magazines and books etc., which are so helpful in my spiritual life. The problem we have in our ecclesia is that since we started we do not have any support money for bread and wine for the Lord's supper, nor a Post Office box. I know after being baptised it is my right to get bread and wine. How can a son, born, grow without getting porridge and food? Bro. Obedi Joshua

### **MBEYA**

I hereby notify you that Ilomba ecclesia has got a new address: Ilomba Ecclesia, P.O. Box 1257, Mbeya, Tanzania, E.A. On behalf of the Sisters of Ilomba ecclesia I request a copy of '*Where Women Have No Doctor*'. When our Sisters saw this mentioned in *Gospel News* they were very excited, hoping that if they added that book to their library it would help them much, as some of them know English. They have promised to translate it for their fellow Sisters.

*Bro. James Mwangomo*

### **MBOZI MBEYA**

In June we were visited by our Linkman Bro Roger Wood. We talked a lot about the development of our ecclesia. We also discussed our proposals so that we may stop dependence on UK for even small things such as bread and wine. We are sure the projects we presented, especially a dispensary, could make us self reliant in the near future to the extent of building other ecclesial halls from the same source.

As you may recall, I once told you that it is better we start relying upon ourselves before you stop assisting us. I thought a dispensary, a tailoring mart and a Sunday school (kindergarten) would be able to achieve this objective. Bro Roger has directed that the Sunday School be conducted in the ecclesial halls we have built, together with kindergarten activities.

*Bro Raphael Mkeya.*



Photo: Bro. Joctor with his friend looking at their maize Shamba

### **MOROGORO**

All things here are OK, thanks to the mercy of God. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my great appreciation to you for sending me the book, '*Where There Is No Doctor*'; it is very useful for those in every walk of life.

*Bro. Nkonge Mwakatage*

### **RUVUMA**

We were glad to receive the *Bible Reader's Calendar*; it is a good witness to the Truth, one of the best preaching tools. Our address is still the same and we still need *Gospel News*. Letters etc. are received late, as we are far away from our capital city, Dar-es-Salaam. The roads are so very bad, but are the only means of transport that we remote people depend on. So, keep sending *Gospel News* as before – even more often if possible!

*Bro. Samwel Nindi*

### **UVINZA**

I still encourage you in the work you are doing in preaching the second coming of our Master and I hope that God Himself will pay you when His only-begotten Son comes to earth to rule over the whole world. I am very happy still receiving *Gospel News* which informs me of other brothers world wide. Here is my address Mr. Bernard Wabene w'Tkola, Box 132,Uvinza, Kigoma, Tanzania, E.A.

*Bro. Bernard Wabene w'Tkola*

## **news from uganda**

### **BUGIRI**

Since joining the Christadelphians I have brought many fellow friends to the Truth and we preach the word of the Lord. We were concerned as we increased in number and at the Uganda AGM it was decided to confirm us as an ecclesia in an area called Kitoda. We beg you to help us with books for teaching the Sunday School, '*Glad Tidings*' magazine, plus any other reading matter that will help us to grow spiritually. We are five in number.

*Bro. Shisia Benard*

### **BUSWALE**

Two most important words are 'faith' and 'hope'. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. So, brothers and sisters everywhere, let us work for the truly good life when Jesus comes (read Hebrews 11). This is not for leaders only, but all must do the work of God. Read James 2:1-5 and vs. 20-26. Consequently faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of God (Rom 10:17).

*Bro. Patrick Muboli*



Photo: Bro. Patrick Muboli

### **KASESE**

I was very grateful when I received the public debate that you sent – ‘Are the Miraculous Holy Spirit Gifts Possessed Today?’ (Bro. Duncan (Christadelphian) vs. Mr. Liliekas (Charismatic/Evangelical Christian), which reflected to the truth that the miraculous holy spirit gifts do not exist today. It is only the Bible, which is the breath of God, that is to say, God speaking directly to us through His Word which teaches us the way of salvation. I really learned much from the booklet which widened my understanding about the subject; we also shared it with other brothers and sisters, even some Bible students found it very useful because many people think that miraculous Holy Spirit gifts are still existing today. People are being misled by some evangelicals who say they have got the miraculous gifts, that they are able to heal the sick, but I have not seen them raising a dead person as Jesus did, including Lazarus.

*Bro. Isaac Bulea Cox*

### **KIGANDALO**

Jesus said that he who believes and is baptised shall be saved (Mark 16:16). But what exactly must we believe? The full text of Ephesians 2:11-13 is well worth considering, for it gives a comprehensive explanation of our position before God before we were baptised into Christ: “Therefore remember that you were once Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision made in the flesh by hands; that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now, in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ”.

*Bro. Colin Bwire*

### **MBALE**

I wish to request more copies of *Bible Basics* for brothers and sisters who have requested them from me. I am really interested in studying God’s work and extending it to those who really need the message. I want to inform you that I have had much help and spiritual correction on things I formerly believed. I was really worried about satan, but not now. I was not sure where heaven was, but now I am very sure. I have also understood properly about salvation and many other things. I have read *Bible Basics* and it has really helped me.

*Bro. Boniface Masakala*

### **MBARARA**

I am happy to have the magazine and your encouragement; all the articles are very good and build us up in the love of God and it brings together all the brethren world wide. I was glad to see, in the December issue, a picture of myself being baptised. My thanks go to my long-time tutor, Sister Anne Hutchison, before she retired from writing last year, and also to Sue Mathias who first introduced me to the Bible postal course when they were in Uganda. Brother, I don’t know if you can help me get a friend from UK, not necessarily a tutor, but just a pen-pal.

*Bro. Sunday Moses*

Comment: Since Brother Sunday wrote the above our Sister Anne has recently fallen asleep in Christ. One of the thrills of the Kingdom will be for you and her to meet face to face in all the splendour of Divine glory.

### **Mt ELGON**

I am glad to report that we are appreciative of the work you do in supplying *Gospel News* magazine together with other literature, especially the ones we received recently; we must admit that they are of great value and we have all grown in faith. The calendars have also been directing us to read daily from the Bible. There are also others who need to be put on your list for receiving magazines etc.

*Bro. Shibita Robert*

### **news from zambia**

#### **CHINSALI**

When we say we want to be a missionary we must be willing to take the word of God where it has not been preached before, to follow the work that Jesus left for us. Let us look at what Jesus said about the Apostle Paul. He sent Ananias to put his hands on Paul, "Go thy way for he is a chosen vessel unto me". (Acts 9:15). We are chosen vessels. Let us go into the world and preach as Jesus is with us all the time. We should not relax in preaching the gospel because it should be like the mustard seed in us.

*Bro. Edward Mutale*

#### **CHIPATA**

Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, for whom we are waiting patiently to bring peace on this evil and violent world. Come Lord. Thank you very much for the tapes which are full of good news because my wife, Diana, and kids and I love to hear the exhortations. Please try to send anything interesting. Last week when I started thinking about Romans ch. 14, I came to find out that what the Bible says is somehow different from what human beings think. If we study Romans 14 and 15 carefully strong ought to take care of the weak, not the other way round. The gardener takes more care of the weak plants so that they can be strong. The thing we need to realize is that each one of us has his own time and season for spiritual growth just as the plant does. Each one of us has gone through a stage of being fed on milk and maybe in some ways some of us are still there. Please let us just encourage each other because the Saviour is coming. Romans 15:1-8 says encouragingly that the strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak and not to please themselves.

*Bro. Alfred Bwalya*

#### **KABOMPO**

I seem to have some difficulties in my life. I am not managing to look after my children and myself. My wife separated from my home leaving me with three children. The eldest girl is being looked after by my cousin in another district, the boy is with me and the other one is with her grandma. I don't like my children to be like this.

*Bro. Amos Chikanda*

On behalf of Kabompo ecclesia we are very grateful to receive the tapes and *Bible Basics*. The idea of goat keeping is very helpful because the labour required for the animals is less and profitable to the needs of the ecclesia. Kabompo ecclesia is sad to announce the disfellowship of Bro. Reuben Kambeu who was the founder of our ecclesia. We are praying that the light of

the Lord will shine in his heart that he may return to the true way.

*Bro. Charles Muhupu*

May the Lord our God, God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Israel bless you in the good work you are doing on His behalf and continue to sustain you to be suitable in His eternal purposes at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you for the book, "*Bible Basics for Moslems*". I am a happy man when I defend the word of God truthfully. For example, on the subject of Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12-14. Almost everyone in our country thinks that this is Satan except for the Christadelphians. I was challenged by a Seventh Day Adventist Church member over this. I took it up boldly and confidently knowing very well that the information given to me through *Bible Basics* was very true. My opposer had it that Lucifer was the fallen angel (Satan) but I plainly told him that it was speaking of the King of Babylon (v4). With my small missile, the ordinary New International Version, without concordance, read through the chapter. He happened to be convinced. He consulted his big King James Version, with a concordance, and I saw him look down quietly and disappointingly. His action told me that he realized that some people have erroneously thought of Lucifer as Satan. Then he said he would visit me at our church. Some people base their facts on the doctrines of their church because of their big congregations. He said, 'O.K, you are true about Satan but we still differ about where we will be when Jesus comes.' He said then that they would go to heaven. But since now we are in different towns I am sending him messages about where we will be when Jesus comes. Indeed, some people have derived their doctrines by copying other books, such as that for Moslems, without carefully studying the Bible. Some don't want to be taken aback about the truth because false doctrines have established them in big monies. Let us all afford to the word of God the truth it deserves. Brothers over there, you set us in the right direction and you can't leave us just at baptismal level, but assist us with more and more material. We have received some books from you and they are right up in our library and I have gone through some of them and they are marvellous.

*Bro. Francis Mukabe*

### **KASAMA**

Thank you for your literature and advice; they will be of great help to me especially and many other people within and outside my community. May the Lord bless this giving hand. Your literature is a light to most of us new preachers for it helps in the preparation of tapes for discussion. I have committed my daughter into the great good hands of the Lord my God and His Son Jesus to handle the matter for me in these trying moments, especially in the time of joblessness. Thank you for Bro. Levin's "*Legalism and Faith*, it has cleared my doubts regarding a lot of (then) unknown issues. I can now see why I can take a Moslem as a fitting example of John's epistles concerning denial of the Name of Jesus as the Son of God – sign of an anti-Christ. My experience during the nine years that I stayed and worked and passed most of the time with them on different occasions, also sidelines with this literature. I thank God for their conversion I read about in *Gospel News*.

*Bro. Boniface Simpanzye*

The special booklet about the eyes is indeed an eye-opener – not only to me but also to many hypertension people around here. People, including health workers, made photocopies of the pamphlet. Thanks once again. I experience most of these symptoms mentioned in the papers. It is very difficult to keep up a special diet because to start with we are in employment as casuals. The pay we get at the month end is a mockery. If you have not seen total suffering of people who are merely surviving by the grace of God you can experience it here. In Zambia

today, when a person receives a visitor it is a burden. It is very, very saddening to learn of Nelson's death. He is the one who informed me of Sister Joyce Mwangi and her husband's deaths. When I rang his home I received the sad news. He will be very difficult to replace. He was an honest and a down-to-earth brother. We shall live to remember his peace-loving voice and passion for humanity. Through his works and honesty he managed to build a very strong Kitwe ecclesia. I wish our other brothers could see that there is more sense in team work than in leadership works. We have confusions in some ecclesias because brothers are only interested in leading the ecclesia blindly. Brother Nelson Bwalya had time to listen, help build and encourage our brothers and sisters. Others have no time. I am encouraging our Sister Mrs. Nelson Bwalya, to be strong and to be encouraged by Jesus' promise that "I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also". We have a problem of AIDS. In every place you go 2 out of 5 persons are HIV positive. People are so ignorant about going for V.C.T. (voluntary counseling and testing), and are simply dying in their homes. My daughter is very keen to read the book, "*Where There Is No Doctor*". She is good at sciences. On 5 June 2006 she was 15. Time flies. Keep on sending me books. I only read for 30 minutes or less, then I stop because my vision just goes white and I stop seeing anything. Of course news from the Middle East is worrying us all - suicide bombers, assassinations etc. Yes, if we don't open up our Bibles then we will not even know why these people are fighting over a small piece of land. As Africans, we have also started to value land. There has been controversy over the topics, the gift of the Holy Spirit and Satan, people don't really understand them and seem to be in great difficulty. I am humbly begging you to send me more books, especially those that extensively discuss the Holy Spirit and Satan.

*Sis. Jane Daka*

### **KAZEMBE**

Greetings to you in the Master's name. How are you there, together with brothers and sisters in Christ? With us here it's only me who is feeling some pains in the chest. I am leaving everything in the hands of our Almighty God. I am glad to have read the newly introduced goat project. I am interested and willing to have that project as an individual. The project is fantastic and promising because our families will be direct beneficiaries in the sense that once goats are slaughtered they will be given meat for protein gain and as a mixed diet, while the community will be indirect beneficiaries by selling them the very meat and even to sell the whole animal. This project will enable our children to grow healthy and eradicate malnutrition in family members. The project will also enable our children to go to school (to pay school monies), pay medical fees, since this is a very big problem in our country. Most people are dying due to lack of medical fees and buying some home necessities. Clothing is a very big problem and food provision. All those mentioned can be solved once goats are sold. Goats are disease resistant and they multiply so rapidly, for instance, if you have 2-3 female goats you will find that in two years' time you may have 12-18 goats (young ones) and these young ones (females) will be on heat within 24 weeks after birth and also give birth after 24 weeks again, which is very encouraging. Once you have farmed goats, automatically you have the bank, for us who are not in employment goat farming is a very good asset which is a perpetual developing project. I hope and trust my name will be highly considered.

We are very joyous to announce the baptisms of the following brethren: David Monta, Bernard Kabwe, Bempo H. Mupim, Paul Mukonda, Phillip Chikange and Mwaso Titus. These brethren were baptized by Brother John Kasanda in the presence of Bro David Nicholls of U.K. Our late Brother Nelson Bwalya gave a few words of encouragement to our brothers and sisters. This is not to say that once we are baptized we are saved, unless we continue in the faith we will not be

saved. All believers are members of the church of God and are helping to build it. Everyone has an effect or influence on everyone else in the assembly. This influence may be good or bad. We may help others spiritually or sometimes be a hindrance to them. The now late Bro. Nelson Bwalya was industrious as far as the Word of God was concerned and he was a brother who used to understand the basic teaching of the Bible and he was a philanthropist, so to speak. Every believer has some gift from the Lord and has opportunity to earn a reward but some waste their time, do more harm than good in the church, or seek glory for themselves. These will lose the reward they might have had.

*Bro. James Kambobe*

### ***KITWE***

I felt very pleased to find a parcel of books at the Post Office, "*Bible Basics*", "*Where Women Have No Doctor*" and recently "*Legalism Vs Faith*". Thank you very much for these very expensive books, they will be a treasure to the brothers and sisters here. I am also very pleased to learn that Bro. Blackstone has produced a series of notes on the daily readings. These notes are really helpful. The world is indeed moving fast and with extremes. The rains in Zambia this year have been so heavy that springs of water in some places are gushing out, breaking walls, and many people have lost houses. My house has developed multiple heavy cracks and it is quite dangerous to continue living in it. The rains are often accompanied by very strong winds which are destructive to the weak foundations of most homes. Many fields have been washed away which means shortage of food. While these sad things are happening there are also good things taking place. My son, Elvin Muntemba Jnr. was baptized into the saving name by our Bro. Nelson Bwalya in Kitwe on 12th March 2006. I am happy because this now makes us two in this area. In yesterday's third reading we see the Lord appointed seventy others and divided them into twos ahead of him. Two is a good number for witnessing (Luke 10:1).

*Bro. Elvin P. Muntemba*



Photo: Bro. Elvin Muntemba Jnr.

### ***LIVINGSTONE***

The Livingstone ecclesia is well. Some parts of the province were hit by the floods which left people homeless. The government and organizations are doing a wonderful work to save people. This happened before in 1950. I give thanks to God for the wonderful work you are doing in the mission field in spreading with Word of God worldwide. May the grace of God be with you all the time. Please send me the literature and reading materials – "*Where There Is No Doctor*", "*Glad Tidings*", "*Have You Read The Book Of Jonah*", "*Christ In The Old Testament*" and any other books. "*Where There Is No Doctor*" will help me and the community as our homes are 7kms away from a clinic.

*Bro. Caphes Sikanyika*

I am sorry to inform you that I had a double impact funeral: my mother fell asleep, and after 13 days my daughter fell asleep at the same place. This kind of state gives me pain, but when we go to the Bible there are these kinds of tragedies, e.g. Job lost all he had, children and wealth at the same time. The key to all the problems is prayer. Since God is the one who does all things we should pray to Him so that He can cover our problems.

*Bro. Ben Matale*

I want to thank you for the audio tapes, *Bible Companion* and "*Where There Is No Doctor*". These materials have also helped the people around my community, especially "*Where There Is No Doctor*"; even some health workers at our small health center are benefiting from it. That is why I am sending this request to you if you can consider sending me the book "*How To Grow A Balanced Diet*". I know that here in Africa, and Zambia in particular, the reason why most deaths occur is because people are not healthy. This is most in children under five years old and is due to an inadequate balanced diet. If people are taught how to grow their own food in a well manageable way I think this can help reduce some deaths. Again I say so because a person cannot get well with good medicine and without good food; these two move together. I have enclosed a photo which I took with a brother in which I am holding the book which you sent me, "*Where There Is No Doctor*".

*Bro. John Kakinga*



Photo: Bro. John Kakinga holding the book and Bro. Ben Matale of Livingstone

**LUSAKA**

Thank you very much for your letter with good news about the signs of the times which are pointing forward to the second coming of our Lord and Redeemer. It is unwise to ignore these signs which are alerting us every day showing the nearness of his coming. It has been researched and discovered that out of 10 million people in Zambia, 1.5m. are HIV and AIDS positive and only a fraction of them takes ARVs. This is a great commission you are doing updating us with such information, because ignorance will never be a defence in the great Day. Brother Blackstone sent me the daily reading notes for April, May and June. I hope he will remember to send me the complete notes so that I may re-use them next year, God willing. As you may know, in the southern hemisphere we are experiencing long nights and short days. I do piece work for an Indian and the same has affected my ecclesial attendance because we usually knock off very late. I always ask God to send Jesus Christ to come and establish the ever joyful Kingdom. I thank you so much for the literature you always send me for it enlightens and strengthens me in my lonely life. Please keep it up. Therefore I request the newly printed book "*Wrested Scriptures*" which gives the answers to many misunderstood Bible verses. Brethren in Australia always send me "*The Present Day Events*", it is just that I am not exposed to computers. They say postage is more expensive.

*Bro. Jaxon Kalumba Jnr.*

I was baptized on 3rd September 2000 by Bro. Arnold Kunda. Bro. Herbert is the one who taught me the lessons. I was interviewed by Bro. Martin Tembo, Bro. Fred Kayata and Bro. Arnold Kunda. Afterwards I applied for a correspondence course and I was given a tutor. I did up to 25

lessons and my tutor stopped sending them. It is now almost 2 years since I received any lessons. I tried to ask some brethren who are responsible for this issue and was told that my tutor was very and unable to continue teaching me. Yes, okay, but, please, if possible help me, I want to carry on learning, I can't stay without learning the Word of God just because my tutor he/she is old.

*Bro. Ephraim Mwanje Mambwe*

I have received the pair of bifocal glasses you arranged with Sis Jackie Banford and I have written to her thanking her for them. I received the 'Present Day Events' and 'New Israel Politics'. I also received the reading glasses for which I thank CAT.

*Bro. Davies S. Nthara*

### **MUFULIRA**

Luke 16:13/ God and Money – I have a friend who said “I have the world in my pocket.” What he meant was that he has a lot of money in his pocket or in his bank account, and can go anywhere he wishes to go, he can buy and eat everything he wants to eat, he can marry many women, forgetting that he cannot buy or bribe salvation. He is like the rich fool we read about in Luke ch. 12 who forgot to prepare his life. Psalm 20:7 declares, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses.” “If you win the whole world and then lose your life, what will you gain?” Nothing.” (Luke 9:25). Jeremiah wrote, “Blessed is the man that trusteth in Yahweh and whose hope Yahweh is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit” (Jer. 17:7-8). Everyday when we get up from our bed, the first thing we think is about what we are going to eat, what we are going to drink, what we are going to wear. Philippians 3:19 says “Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach and their glory is in their shame.” They forget their God is their Provider. In conclusion Matthew 6:31-33, “So do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? Or, What shall we wear? For the pagans run after all these things and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

*Bro. Fred Mumba*

Thank you so much for your advice on a further step to do with my Motor Mechanics course. I very much agree with you that the world is moving faster and the momentum of events increasing. People are acquiring more and more knowledge and 'fleshly desires' getting more and more strong. We have been hearing of dreadful events, watching all kinds of pictures on televisions and hearing on radio news of so many events in the Middle East and surrounding areas and Israel being in most headlines in every news. We are now hearing of the banning of importing of birds (any kind) from any country, into Zambia, due to the bird flu pandemic. We have also heard of various diseases/illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, especially here in Africa, and quite a number of diseases in other countries. I was reading Leviticus 26 and I noticed from v. 14 going down, that “the Lord will bring upon men and women wasting diseases, that would even affect their sight...”. I had to think of the current situation and because that punishment was due to 'disobedience' could it be true that the prophecy has seen its fulfillment in our days?

I have recently received from Bro. Ken Miles the pack containing another set of studies on 'What we Believe' – to do with YAHWEH and other names of the Deity. I really enjoyed the lessons and last time we had one on GOD MANIFESTATION. It was so nice and I hope all the brethren and sisters who receive them do enjoy them too. He enclosed all of them in one big envelope to minimize the postage costs. He used to send quite a lot to individuals but is now sending them

to me to distribute. Instead of £2 to each person, x 20 people, now he is spending less than £10 to all of us. His lessons are so uplifting and we hope to be receiving nine of each from him. We all look forward to receiving the *Gospel News* magazine. Some brethren/sisters were complaining of not receiving the magazine but I told them that they needed to write to you, so that they can be included on the waiting list. I hope by now they have sent you letters – let me know.

*Bro. Silas K. Chishimba*

I am happy to tell you Phaides, our daughter, has a baby girl. This is my first grand-daughter from my son-in-law, who is a student in Christ. We have been walking from Kankoyo to Kamuchanga for ten years, so now we have found a place at Mutamba High School, just for a classroom for our meeting on Sundays for myself and Bro. Kantongo Davies plus those brothers who have stopped coming for breaking of bread on Sunday because of the distance. The head of this school said we have to pay k.38,000 per month. We have been paying from our own for two months (6 pounds, the equivalent of a weeks wages). Bro. Katongo and Sis. Elizabeth, myself and my wife Cathrine, plus students and our children all go to this class. One bad thing which Zambia Electricity, (ZESCO), has done is to switch off power from our house because we had nothing to pay them. As we are all aware troubles in the world still continue this year. With all our hope depending upon the coming of our Lord to put things right we therefore must support each other on our walk to the Kingdom.

*Bro. Charles and Sis. Cathrine Daka*

### **MWINILUNGA**

Tour of North-western Province, in particular Solwezi, via Mwinilunga. to see the students. I met up with our late Bro. Nelson for the journey to Mwinilunga, a 9-hour journey. We went to the nearest guest house where we spent a night. Our student came to meet us at the guest house as Bro. Nelson Bwalya had arranged. Thanks to our Lord the interview took place and went well, but the baptism did not take place then due to the flooding of the river and had to be postpone. We had some discussion on the book of Genesis. Ou late Bro. Nelson was the speaker and explained. He also quoted 1 Peter 1:10-12 and he also explained who the Christadelphians are (Matt 23:1-10) and what they believe and we ended up with a prayer and our student left. Next day we left Mwinilunga at 7:25 hrs for Solwezi and arrived at 14.43 hrs and went straight to see Bro. Lotala and in the evening we had our daily readings. Next day with Bro. Lotala we left to meet our brethren so that we could break bread and after that we left Solwezi for Kitwe via Ndola.

*Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha*



Photo: Bro. Harris N. Nulongesha

### **NAKONDE**

Loving greetings in our Master's Name. I hope and trust this letter will find you in good health. Here everyone is fine. Well, I have written this letter to you because I want you to assist me with the book "Principles of Christian Marriage". I am really in need of this book but I don't

know where to get it and that is why I have asked you so that you can send me one.

*Sister Esther Muntete*

### **NCHALLENGE**

A few thoughts on how to treat the elderly.

*Have respect to them* – “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father... older women as mothers” (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

*Pay much attention to them when they are speaking.* - “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger” (James 1:19).

*Be sympathetic* – “Live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult” (1 Peter 3:8-9).

*Let them be involved in whatever you are doing* – “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality” (Romans 12:13).

*Help them* – “If any one has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:17-18).

*Be patient* – “...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Col. 3:12).

If we look after older people as in the above statement it means that we have totally respected the higher measures that are being outlined in God’s Word, the Bible, as it is stated in Leviticus 19:32.

*Bro. Evans Mwansa*

### **NDOLA**

The word of the Lord says blessed are the hands that give and I pray that the Lord’s good hands be open to you in everything you are doing. I always pray for our brothers and sisters who are on the run from their country due to persecution. May the Lord God’s good hands be with you all the time as the Lord says in Joshua 1:5-7 “I will be with you, I will not leave you or forsake you.” Thanks be to the Lord for what He has done in your life wherever you are. In the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Corinthians he shows the Corinthians the example towards the Word of God. Ask yourself, Am I a letter to others like Paul was? 2 Cor. 3:2 says, “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need like some people letters of recommendation to you or from you?” “You yourselves are our letters, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody”. 1 Cor. 9:2, “Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord”. Brothers and sisters, count yourself, wherever you may be to be a letter to others.” Brothers and sisters, if we do not follow the Lord’s commands then we must not count ourselves with the Apostle Paul.

*Bro. Harris N. Mulongesha*

I am fine and I read a lot of God’s book including the books which you send me. I have learnt a lot of things by reading and studying the Word of God and I try to understand it and preach it to others so that at the end no one could say they didn’t hear the message. With everything that surpasses our understanding let us use it to try and acquire more knowledge about the power and character of God and the fulfillment of prophecy. If we are in great pain or problems let us call on Jesus because we are no longer called servants of Jesus Christ. We are friends of Jesus

if we keep on following his ways; because he died for us, he alone is our mediator. Brothers and sisters there is a time for everything. Read Eccl 3:1-8, "A time to be born and a time to die". Read also Luke 12:23. Jesus Christ gave us a command to love each other and we must not quarrel with anyone and avoid fault-finding. We must also practice self control and avoid unprofitable arguments. When troubles come we must not be shaken or moved. We must put everything in prayer. Read Psalm 33:16-22. "No king is saved by the size of his army, no warrior escapes by his great strength. But the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. May the Name of our Lord be exalted, let us exalt his Name together." Thanks brothers, for sending me "*Bible Basics for Moslems*".

I am looking forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to judge this world, "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with a loud voice of an archangel and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first" 1 Thess. 4:16-18. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we must encourage one another with the Word of God every day. We must read the Bible daily. "God will bring justice to the elect who cry day and night." Luke 18:7-8. I would also like more of the Moslem books for brethren and sisters, please send me some. I also thank you for Christadelphian Logos magazine published in Australia, I will write to them, so then they might send me a regular free copy. Thanks to Duncan Heaster, who has been to China and baptized ten students. Let us keep on sowing, we should not feel discouraged because we are the light of the world. I also thank him for his educative, informative editorial: Spiritual growth. We are asked to die with our Lord Jesus Christ through baptism, to share something of his death, the type and nature of death which he had. In our daily lives, what you can really do for a person who is dying is to die with him. Remembering how he refused the pain killer, I have remembered nursing my blood brother who passed away when he was telling me to bring him some water to drink, I died with him. That is a very good teaching to us today, to die with our Lord Jesus Christ, let us copy our Lord Jesus Christ, read John 15:13-14, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

I enclose a photo taken at the Ndola meeting, while singing our favorite song- 'God is so good, is so good to me'.

*Bro. James Mwanza*



Photo: At Ndola ecclesia left to right – Bre. Overseas Mwangase, Kelly Simayumbula (Kafue eccl.), Denis Kombe, Harry Mulongesha and James Mwanza

### **PEMBA**

I am writing to thank you for making more copies of *Conservation Farming Methods*. I have just distributed some copies locally and sent some to Kafue/Kasaka ecclesias for the brethren and sisters there. I only hope they will find these very useful and beneficial. I am yet to send some to Kalomo as well as Mazabuka as soon as I get the addresses, and will send to others that might need them.

*Bro. Wilfred Chimbomba*

I have now received the parcel of my leaflets, which you have managed to have printed in Tonga language. God is great who has enabled you to finish such hard work within a short period of time; may His Name be praised. Soon I will start sending some copies of leaflets to my brothers and sisters in Kafue, Monze, Goma, Kalomo and Livingstone ecclesias. Some I will be distributing to students and other interested people in our community. I was very pleased to receive the book “*Where There Is No Doctor*” and a copy of the “*Current Present Day Events*”. I wrote to the Gospel Publicity League in Australia and I am happy to inform you that I have now received four copies of “*Present Day Events*” from Australia. I believe they may be sending me other interesting preaching leaflets. On the HIV/AIDS problem in Zambia, what you hear is true. The government is trying to assist the sick people by bringing things into the country from donor countries, church organizations and N.G.O.s to sensitise people to the dangers of this killer disease. We could have joined the race as an ecclesia to organize some gatherings on both spreading the good news concerning the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as well as preaching some hints on HIV/AIDS prevention; this kind of task requires money that is why we are unable to join the move. The book that you have just printed called ‘*Wrested Scriptures*’ I am sure will be of great help and interest. I should love to have a copy of this when you start mailing to brothers and sisters. I believe Duncan had a big job in Asia where he managed to have a good number of contacts some of whom are expected to be baptized – that is great; praise the Lord. I also now have six contacts whom I have started teaching 1-12 Bible course lessons.

*Bro. Joseph Mulawo*

## news from zimbabwe

### **BULAWAYO**

The name Jeshuran means ‘the upright one’ and is a poetic variant of the name Israel (Deut.32.15; 33.5). The tendency of the flesh in times of prosperity is to become self-sufficient and self-reliant and so indifferent to its spiritual responsibilities. The Israel of God, both literal and spiritual, can wax fat and so become indifferent to God’s ways “Jeshuran grew fat and kicked; filled with food, he became heavy and sleek He abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Saviour” (Deut.32:15). As we follow the Jews’ history, soon after leaving Egypt they rebelled – even worshipping a golden calf – in spite of God’s wonderful deliverance from Egypt. Joshua had cause to reprove them and warn them that if they followed other gods, God would cause them to perish from the land (Joshua 23:14-16). After Joshua’s death everyone did what was right in their own eyes and consequently they fell into the hands of their enemies (Judges 3:7-8). The same fate awaits spiritual Israel if they do not seriously take heed of God’s word.

Let us try to escape from the family of Adam to the family of God by faith and obedience. Many people ask themselves why or what is wrong with the world? All these things are happening because of Adam. When Adam sinned he did not know that great trouble was starting from him for the generations to come. When God said “Look, man is like us knowing good and evil”, the word *evil* means bad or trouble. We see this when God promised Adam suffering in Gen. 3:17-18. This was because of disobedience. In addition to that, on Adam’s family God put a big punishment not a reward as others think. God gave Adam and Eve a simple law that led to death. (Gen.2:16-17). So how can we escape from the death (of Adam’s family)? When God saw that man had done wrong he was filled with pity and love. He did not leave man to die for ever. He solved things by the hard way of sending His only son, Jesus (John 3:16). Everyone who

believes in him and is baptised can be saved. This grace by God is given freely and openly to any who put themselves into the family of God by this means. By being born we are in Adam's family that dies and perishes. When we are baptized we die to the family of Adam and rise to the family of God. When we say we believe in the doctor do we sit and look upon the child who is sick. Can that child be healed or die? We have to do something, and it is the same to us; we say we believe in Christ, we must do our best with our powers and abilities. My brother and sister let us escape the family of Adam and be grafted into the family of God and we will be saved from dying for ever (Rev.5:9-10).

*Bro. Dzingai Sumberera*

Many thanks for your letter, the notes and the book '*Judgment to Come: A Biblical Discussion*'. Also the '*Present Day Events*' leaflet. I hope and pray that you and the entire family are in good health. We held a very good South Zimbabwe, Sub-Committee meeting at the Bulawayo Hall. It was a good time of fellowship as we had time to discuss matters about how we can make the truth known in our areas. If the book '*The Last Days*' is still available or a secondhand one, could you try to send me one?

*Bro. Ambrose Tanyepana*

I would first of all like to thank my Heavenly Father for His compassion on me during my illness. I started to be ill during 1999 when I was pregnant and the illness persisted until the second child, Pinky, was born on 21 November 2002. During the birth of this child I nearly died and also during the pregnancy I couldn't find rest. So I would like to thank my husband and God's help; he was so kind to me paying all the fees for the private doctors and for the government clinics. Sometimes I was speaking by myself saying 'May God take my soul', so that I should find rest, but just because He knows the day it couldn't be done, now I am alive I praise God for that. I delivered at a local clinic, Pelandaba, and on the second day I was taken to Mpilo half dead and I was in intensive care. Ailan also was ill during his birth; he was on and off to Mpilo until he turned six years, but now he is a fit seven-year-old. I struggled with this child and so I am thankful for the help of his father and for God's help because he is alive. Pinky has no problems; she is a fit and fine 4 year old. So may God be with my family until Jesus comes.

*Sister Memory Mukarati Tshuma*

### **BINDURA**

I have enjoyed the content of the text, "*What is the Bible?*" I have learnt a lot about the Bible which is God's word. This includes the Bible definition and a clear picture of how it originated. However, this text is manna (gift) from heaven and I hadn't expected such appropriate notes and they are very educative. It actually serves to explain the Bible to a newly converted Christian. Please will you kindly give me more notes from Bro. Stanley Blackstone, UK His notes are helpful to us believers of the word. Furthermore, life seems to be getting complicated, i.e. some manufacturing industries and firms are closing down. It is also an indication that denotes the signs of the times. The taxes are getting higher each time and jobs are difficult to get. It seems that we are heading for a depression i.e. a hard nut to crack. In addition to all that, I rely on a self job (shoe repairing) project and it is not paying very much for the family. The capital is very insufficient to run such an industry at home. However, it requires a bit of promotion to boost the business transaction. The same applies to Christianity, it requires the daily Bible-reading, that is Christianity cultivation. Christianity is enriched by putting Scriptures into practice, for an example, "Love your neighbour as you love yourself." Will you kindly help me with the following- "Jesus is the Son of God".

*Bro. Josphe Mucheri*

### **CHEGUTU**

For we don't know the hour, minute or even the second, but Jesus is coming very soon. We must be prepared and always alert. So brothers and sisters I urge you to be faithful, obedient, righteous, humble and not lovers of worthless things, but lovers of the word and good works for God, love each other wholeheartedly and above all follow all the commandments. Read Mark 13:32-37. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sister Legina Mbewe who fell asleep in Christ. Legina will be sadly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing her. Our only comfort is that, by God's grace, we will meet her when Jesus Christ returns. "The Lord gave and now He has taken away, may His Name be praised". (Job 1:21).

*Sis. Memory Lunando*



Photo: Sis. Memory Lunando and family

### **CHIPINGE**

Thank you for the book "*Speaking about Jesus*". In fact I was in Mozambique and I talked about introducing a class for English for beginners and quite a number of people were interested but the condition will be that we will only register those who are on our Bible correspondence course, to reduce the work. Quite a number of people are so keen to read and to listen to our preaching. As I am writing I am visiting a group of students at Maronga and I managed to give a talk about baptism and our salvation and I am pleased because 10 people attended and the number requesting our Bible correspondence has been increased. P.S. Please send me notes on the daily readings.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama

### **CHISAPE**

Thank you very much for your letter which I received five days ago and for the return envelope that keeps me in touch with you as often as possible. Thank you also for the enclosed magazines which I like very much. Keep on with the good work whenever possible. If you have some more magazines that you are willing to give may I please have them. I also have received the "*Present Day Events*" magazine, which is a good one. If you have the book on "*How To Grow A Balanced Diet*" may you please help me with it, that is if some of its chapters are not covered in the book, "*Where There Is No Doctor*". Please all brethren around the world let us pray so that we do not see more blood being shed in the Iran issue for in most wars the poor are the ones who die, so let us pray for the precious lives of these people. God's will may save them from a possible war.

*Bro. Marison Tafirenyika*

Thank you for your letter, I was so happy receiving it. No more words can explain my joy and peace at this time. I am amazed at how you keep going in the work of leading people like me to Jesus and caring for us, despite all opposition. I am simply very grateful and pray for God's blessings upon you. I have received all that you sent, "*Where women have no doctor*", the book of the Moslems and self study material for vegetable production for drought mitigation in rural communities, very good indeed, thank you. My wife and I sang together hymn 335, 'God be with

you till we meet again! neath his wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you, keep love's banner floating o'er you, smite death's threatening wave before you, God be with you till we meet again' Amen. I am working hard in the vineyard, preaching with the help of *Bible Basics*. Some younger people are responding very well. I thank God for His guidance in my preaching effort. The language used in the *Shona Bible Basics* language is new from the old Bible, so I have asked for new translation Shona Bibles to help my students in their study of *Bible Basics* and answering questions at the end of each subject. These Books will be easily understood in their study of the Bible. If they finish the course they return them back to me for others to study from them.

*Bro. Stanford Kuuzha*



Photo: Bro. Standford Kuuzha

### **CHISHUMBA**

God called Abram to leave Ur and to go to a place he was to be shown. He left his city life and entered into a wandering life. He had faith. The spirit of God was with Abram. We were also called from worldly things. We were chosen to carry His word to the ends of the earth and to reveal it to every hidden corner. We are supposed to carry the word in a Jesus-like manner. If we look back, as Lot's wife did, we will fail. Romans 6:1-6, "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" Paul asked. v. 6, because: "Knowing this, that our old man died with him on the cross that the corruptible body would be done away with and get freed from the bondage of sin." Let us put on the newness and walk in it – till the end of time. Jesus' return is nearing. We are in an era where signs of his return are happening – so keep the hold tight.

*Bro. Steven Tedza*

Last year Bro. Waston Kamota and I sat down to discuss about interviews to be carried out in Kariba. We boarded the bus at Magunje. On the way to Kariba through the game park we saw some wild animals moving in groups. The question which came to my mind was: Why do different types of animals move in groups together? but they are all animals? But those animals which fear carnivore animals were grazing near elephants for protection. It is just the same for brethren and sisters of every ecclesia to work for the coming King and by doing so will have heavenly protection. The following day we carried out our interviews. Student Naomi Mhondiwa passed and was baptized on the Sunday morning and given the right hand of fellowship. For success, trust in God. As with the call of Cyrus, the way was prepared by God who said He would give him the treasures of darkness and riches stored in secret places (Isa 45:3). So when we have chosen to work for the Lord, let us do it sincerely, for if it is not wholehearted it will be to no avail..

*Bro. Ngoni Chikwata*

With the hope and same faith we share - which I trust is what we are wearing to enter the Kingdom of God - greetings also to every brother and sister striving to spread the Word to every far corner of the world. Thank you for the books. I also received *Glad Tidings* and a newsletter. I am in isolation, so I find these books encouraging and they also revive my fellowship. I enjoy reading *Gospel News* and writing some articles. I also ask for "*How To Grow a Balanced Diet*". I

have, “*Where There Is No Doctor.*” The book is so helpful to many since it tells the diseases and the remedy. I stay a distance, of 23 km. from the nearest hospital, Karoi, so you see the importance of such books to the isolated. I also want to send greetings to all brethren and sisters around the world and to remind everyone of the signs of the times which tell us the Son of God is near. Are you singing the songs of preparation to receive Jesus Christ? If yes, my friend, sing loud with joy, Show it on your face and labour to serve Jesus Christ only. We were ‘called’ for a purpose to serve Him so don’t let us hide the light under the table, let it shine in the house. The Word (the Bible) was given to us and now we have the Way. It is crucial to take others with us; to teach this Gospel to this corrupt world. Pray for them, God will bless our work. I also encourage the baptized not to turn back. We have heard of Lot’s wife and the turn that was fatal to her life and the salt that she later became. Yes, we are in the safest hands of a Good Shepherd so never look back. All our sins have been forgiven. We are as an infant feeding on new food and will grow fast. Learn the Word of God and you will see how it works, Amen.

*Bro. Steven Tedza*

I am saddened to hear of the falling asleep of Sis. Cecelia Oppong, (Bro. Joseph’s Sister wife). Though she fell asleep in Christ it is still a great loss to the Christadelphian community. I came to know Bro. Joseph and his family through the exhortations and letters of encouragement that he has written in *Gospel News*. I first look for and read everything by Bro. Joseph Oppong, which has drawn me very close to him. I send Bro. Joseph my condolences let him know that he is not alone in his time of loss. His Sister wife who has fought the good fight, has finished the race and has kept the faith. There is now one thing in store for her, that is, the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award her on that day, not only to her alone but also to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all who have longed for his appearing, Paul of Tarsus included. What now is left is to see those faithful servants in the very soon coming Kingdom of God, that is if we follow their footsteps. These walked with God, they spoke to God and lived a righteous life. Paul laying down his facts about the dead being raised wrote to the Corinthians, (1 Cor. 15:12-20) saying, “For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (vs16-17). The Christian faith is that the dead in Christ will be raised when Jesus comes back to set up God’s Kingdom. When this Kingdom is set, we will see the dead in Christ, provided we have walked in their footsteps. Luke 12:32, Jesus says “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom.” It is in this Kingdom where we are going to see his dead servants but also all who have longed for his appearing.

*Bro. Norman Kamutikaoma*

### **CHIVI**

Brother I beg you to send me ‘*Introducing to Bible Basics*’. I have got 37 students and in the UK they are running short of tutors. You will know that Chivi has collapsed as an ecclesia for a long time but I am trying my best to re-establish it. So far we have four Sisters and I, one brother. If you have other books like ‘*Speaking about Jesus*’ which is a very good book for my Sunday School, I would be grateful. I am preparing to send you some photos of the students and the Sunday School.

*Bro. Vheremu Ngara*

### **HARARE**

Loving people is not easy. Such people as back-stabbers, truth-benders, money-grabbers and vow-breakers are even harder to trust, let alone love. A wise writer says, “The secret to loving is living loved’. Following are some thoughts on love that I know some will appreciate:

God loves you personally, powerfully, passionately.

Others have promised and failed.

But God has promised and succeeded.

He loves you with an unfailing love.

And His love, if you will let it, can fill you

And leave you with a love worth giving.

God offers authentic love.

His devotion is the real deal.

But He won't give you the genuine

Until you surrender the limitations.

Get yourself out of your eye

By getting your eye off yourself.

Quit starting at that little self

And focus on your great Saviour

Today's thoughts are tomorrow's actions.

Today's jealousy is tomorrow's temper tantrum.

Today's bigotry is tomorrow's hate crime.

Today's anger is tomorrow's abuse.

Today's lust is tomorrow's adultery.

Today's greed is tomorrow's embezzlement.

Today's guilt is tomorrow's fear.

*Bro. James Zvitete*

### **KADOMA**

Please publish my new postal address – Telex One Exchange, Box 358, Kadoma, Zimbabwe. I have just moved to Kadoma with my family due to work transfers and commitments and hope to start up a new ecclesia, God willing. Because of your worldwide distribution I hope it will be of great help if you publish the address. My old address was – 23780/4 Umvovo, Box 642, Chegutu. I will always cherish the support and the overall work you are putting up with in the Lord's vineyard and hope we shall be with him whose right it is – Jesus Christ when he returns.

*Bro. Itai P. Tembo*



Photo: Chegutu ecclesia a few years ago, minus two brothers who have since fallen asleep in the Lord



Above: The fruits of fishing for men, the Chegutu ecclesia now (2006) less our Sister Legina who fell asleep in Christ 24 Dec,2005

Below: Bro. Chakumanda Kondowe, Bro. Itai Tembo, holding son, Lemmington and Sis. Esnath Bro. Itai's wife.



### **KARIBA**

I am delighted to report the baptisms of Innocent, Faith and Susan and this has seen Kariba ecclesia grow as more and more people are accepting the truth. Kariba has a high number of students doing Bible lessons and I hope most of them, if not all, will find their way to the truth before the return of our Lord.

*Bro. Witness Majecha*

Photos:-



Above the Kariba ecclesia

Below; Taken soon after the baptism of Naome in Lake Kariba. Standing left to right: Naome's mother, Sis. Naome, Bro. Witness and Emmanuel Kneeling left to right: Bro. Ngoni and Weston



I advise you that God has given to his ecclesia, Kariba, four more members, three Sisters and one Brother. John 17, the Lord Jesus' prayer. I also ask for your prayers in our endeavour to do the Lord's work (Matt. 10). But I fear the pride of human nature that whenever God calls those, He has called more disciples to spread the gospel of the Kingdom of God who are proud of what is not their power. Whenever I read Luke 10:17 and verse 20 - "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your name is written in heaven", I think, please brother, what can I do to fully know that my name is written in heaven? My loving brother, warm greetings in the same hope of the Lord Jesus Christ coming with his Kingdom for which we are labouring that we may be in it. We are praying that this day will be to us not of destruction but of joy. I still look forward that I and the ecclesia may get all the spiritual encouragement, but each one of us

must work for our names to be written in the Book of Life. Also loving greetings to the brothers in the name of our Lord Jesus.

*Bro. David Mhondiwa*

### **KWEKWE**

As a farmer I produce vegetables pumping water from a dip well. The bucket pump was donated by Plan International. My family get a living from selling vegetables every two weeks at Nkayi Business Centre. Life was hard in 2005, there was no grain in the country and we received grain from the World Food Program.

*Bro. Melusi Ndlovu*

### **MASVINGO**

I am writing to let you know that the big box of literature has arrived safely and the reading glasses and I did find my size and have given the others to those who needed them and they send many thanks. On one trip to Mozambique we had some difficulties in crossing some of the river, where Bro. Moses Dklakama lost his glasses.

Our journey was very successful and fruitful and I am expecting one or two baptisms. It was a wonderful time at our seminar which was attended by five ecclesias – Rimbi, Mutema, Triangle, Masvingo Town and host Masvingo Rural. We spent the whole weekend studying the book of Hebrews. There were five speakers and Bro. Moses gave a talk on preaching which high-lighted many.

*Bro. Admire M. Museba*

### **MUTARE**

Pharisees are a group of Jews of Christ's day who were very careful to keep the small points of the Law without really understanding what God was teaching in the Law. They thought they were very righteous. Publicans were people who collected taxes for the Roman rulers and who were hated and looked on adversely by all their fellows. Pharisees thought they were not like all the wicked men and not like the Publicans. They listed all the good things they thought they did. The Publicans knew they were sinners. Jesus said we should do what the Pharisees teach but not do their deeds. Read Luke 18:9-14 about the Pharisee's prayer and the Publican's prayer. The Publican asked for mercy from God as he was a sinner but the Pharisee thought he was righteous, but was not righteous in God's eyes. Today we have our friends who think they are righteous and don't want to connect friendship with others because they are not pure Christians.

*Bro. Gilbert Tevere*

### **RIMBI**

Our Heavenly Father graciously provided us with a double portion of joy on 12th June when Chioniso Saina and Progress Saina were baptized during our memorial service. Chioniso and Progress are sisters and we pray to our gracious Father for their safe journey to His Kingdom. We also welcomed the following brethren to the Lord's table for the month of May. Bro. Arone Muchanga (Mozambique), Bro. Patrick Mandivinga (Mutema), Bro. Rhobson Sithole (Bulawayo) and for the month of June Bro. Dzingai Sumburera (Bulawayo), Bro. Patrick Mandivinga (Mutema) and Bro. Rhobson Sithole (Bulawayo) and several Bible students plus friends. Our hall was full. On 10th June we held a memorial service for Sister Joyce Dhlakama, who recently fell asleep in Christ. On this occasion we had an opportunity to distribute 113 leaflets and give two talks, the first one was, "Who are the Christadelphians and what are their beliefs?" and the second was, "Who caused death and what will be the hope of the saints?" I want to thank

Brothers Patrick and Freddy for a job well done. I also want to take this chance to thank the Christadelphian Advancement Trust for the literature received which finds its way into different homes and who knows what may come of this in future. All of us involved are extremely grateful for the help we receive from you. God willing, next week we are going to visit Mozambique with Sister Evelyn to establish a class for English for beginners, based on the book "Talking about Jesus". Praying always that more will be moved to accept the true gospel before the return of our Master. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Bro. Moses Dhlakama*

## **News from Europe / Eurasia**

### **news from belarus**

#### **BARANOVICHI**

We were sorry not to get an invitation to a recent meeting held in Belarus by visitors. But we are preaching still, and I have Brother Maksim staying at my place over the summer.

*Sis. Larisa*

#### **DOBOVITSY**

We really are looking forward to receiving wheelchairs from Bro Duncan as we find it now impossible to get around; we keep on reading and hoping that Jesus will return soon.

*Bro Valerij & Bro Sasha*

*Comment: Our two brethren are invalids as a result of nuclear radiation.*

#### **LUNINETS**

Please pray for us here as things are so hard. We live on the 5th and top floor of our block, and we have such aggressive neighbours who threaten to kill us. The children are scared to go out and go down the stairs to get outside. We have just so many problems, it's hard to explain, but please pray for us. In addition, my health is weak, as you know I am an invalid from the atomic radiation.

*Bro. Aleksandr*

#### **MOGILEV Obl.**

I break bread, but I think much of the great responsibility that comes from eating the symbol of His body and blood, and being called upon to partake of this! I feel very sober about it.

*Bro. Edik*

#### **STAI**

I am eagerly looking forward to starting on the Carelinks chicken project here and also raising rabbits. I am preparing everything. I want to publicly complement Sister Cindy on how well and how quickly she has learnt our Russian language! God bless you all for taking such concern with a small farmer like me.

*Bro. Ivan*

#### **VYAZMICHI**

Things are as usual for us here, but I am so busy with our land, trying to grow as much as

possible so that I and the grandchildren can survive over the winter. We think and talk of you often and I try to teach them from the daily reading of the Bible.

*Sis Nina*

### news from bosnia

#### **SARAJEVO**

We are OK here and our new baby is fine but, as before, I have problems with my job, and we are trying to raise chickens again. Please pray for us and support us.

*Bro. Mustafa*

We remain here working towards the coming of the Kingdom. Bro. Renato got a job in Dubrovnik as a waiter, so we are missing him here.

*Bro. Dzenan*

### news from estonia

*We are delighted to report the baptism of IVAN and the acceptance of the new ecclesia in Tallinn by the CBM.*

I eagerly look forward to coming to the Bible weekend in Jurmala!

*Sis. Ege*



Photo: Bro Tiit Kabrits, Estonia

### news from finland

*We are delighted to report the baptism and receiving into fellowship of HENRIK and MARKU- our first brethren in far north Finland.*

There were eleven people yesterday at the meeting we held. Markku gave first a short witnessing speech. Then I spoke of the status of Christ. I compared Jesus and Constantine and spoke of the making of popular "Christianity". It gave much food for thought to the Lutheran and Adventist people who attended, so they told us!

*Bro. Henrik*

### news from israel

*We are delighted to report the baptism and receiving into fellowship of ZLATA - baptized during the recent bombardment in northern Israel.*

I was today in touch with Sasha, Raia and Natasha. All send greetings and support us in our desire to preach more. I will find details of more newspapers in which we might be able to advertise *Bible Basics*.

*Bro. Vladimir*

### news from italy

#### **ROME**

Finally I received my passport after three years' waiting. I hope I have learnt patience in this process, as I see from the Bible patience is a fruit of the spirit we have to have to be like Jesus.

*Bro. Naizghi*

### news from kazakhstan

#### **KOKCHETAU**

Life here is so hard with such low salaries, and I have to somehow provide for Olga as she is now finishing school and wanting to study further. Despite all that we are happy, above all because we know the Lord. We so want to come to the next Bible school in Poltava if we can possibly manage to.

*Sis Valya*

We warmly invite you to be with us here. We have had some small problems but some of us now have been baptized for some years and we trust we will endure to the end as Jesus said.

*Bro. Yuri*

I am so sad to have missed Bible Schools recently, my daughter came from Germany with the grandchildren, I've not seen them for some years since they went there. So it is a great agony not to see them and I am so glad they came to us. We continue gathering together for Bible reading with the Sisters. So many in our society are caught up with the struggle for survival that they're not interested when I tell them of God and the Bible. We so long for you to come to us.

*Sis. Svetlana B*

I am writing this note just after our breaking of bread, to say we pray for all brothers and sisters, and always for Duncan and Cindy, and we so welcome them to us if they can come. We are with you all.

*Sis Svetlana Kon.*

I am taking my 4-year-old grandson to the ecclesia here, I spend all my time looking after him and my invalid husband; his illness now affects him psychologically, so it is very hard. I am looking forward to having a breakthrough going to the Bible School. Only my prayers keep me sane through everything.

*Sis. Elvira*

I have recently got married but I am hoping my wife will be baptized soon. I very much await the coming here of Brother Duncan.

*Bro. Tolik*

I received more literature from you and I will try to distribute it. I pray and I hope that people will more seriously respond to the call of Jesus.

Sis. Tanya

### news from kyrgyzstan

#### **NOVO POKROVKA**

I am pleased to say that Brother Rashid was freed from prison and is now working building a house. I am so very happy for him. Things are very hard for us here and truly I rely only upon God.

Bro. Anvar

### news from latvia

*We're delighted to report the baptisms of the following deaf folk: DIANA, JANIS and MARYTE; and also ULDIS, OLGA and RUSLAN. May the Lord bless them in their somewhat isolated walk to His Kingdom.*



Photo: Bro Marcus with Sisters at Riga tea party, Latvian Summer Bible School

This three-day residential Bible School enabled some fifty Brethren and Sisters to enjoy fellowship together and to study and discuss a wide range of topics at the Jurmala University. In order to keep costs down Sis Cindy undertook to organize the self-catering with a number of other helpers.



Photos: some of the brethren and Sisters.

Below; the lecture theatre and literature table.



Above; Preparing for breakfast.

Below; enjoying a meal at the Latvian Bible School.



### **DAUGAVPILS**

Things are hard for me as my mother has died and I find myself constantly in tears. I am praying so much, God is my only refuge. I just believe more than ever that truly there is a God and that He has led me, through you, to the right understanding of Him.

*Bro Andrej*

I send greetings to all brothers and sisters. I am very depressed and suffering at this time, but I decided to make this effort to greet you all and say I love you all in Jesus Christ.

*Bro. Ruslan*

### **JELGAVA**

I see more and more that it is how we live our lives, rather than our understanding of theories within our brains, which is what God is especially eager to watch and reward. Also, I've been thinking that God loves it when we show initiative in loving and serving Him.

*Bro. Janis*

### **MADONAS Raj**

Here it is hard for me because my former friends from the JW organization are calling me an abomination and spreading such stories against me, as I am now telling more people about true doctrine. I miss you all, and feel lonely here.

*Sis. Sarmite*

### **REZEKNE**

My son Roman is now working in Cyprus and I am very worried for him, please pray for him.

*Sis. Anna*

### **RIGA**

As you know I can't move anywhere beyond my room. I am still able to read my large print Bible, I read the chapters from the *Companion* three times each day, because I am so forgetful and it worries me that I can't remember what I've read. I want to thank Sister Cindy for coming to see me so regularly and faithfully and caring for my health.

*Sis. Aleksandra*

### **TUKUMS**

I ask for your prayers as I am really not feeling well, and I need to be very fit to do my work as it involves heavy lifting. On one hand we must preserve our health, so we can serve God more, but on the other, we also have to provide for our families, so please pray for me.

*Sis. Anita*

I send greetings to all. I think of you all often despite being busy and also with some medical problems.

*Bro. Albinas*

#### news from moldova

*We're delighted to report the baptism of VITYA. May we all soon be gathered together in God's Kingdom.*

#### **CHISINAU**

I have now moved to a new apartment, it's been so hard to get used to it, after so long where I was. I am so grateful to God that things are just a little easier for me. I continue to work long hours, but today I have a day off and so I wanted to write and say I remember you all and remain always grateful to God for His grace.

*Sis. Elvira*

#### news from morocco

I am preaching to many people here mostly on internet (despite some problems). I enjoy listening to the audio talks on [www.carelinks.net](http://www.carelinks.net). Please pray that the Gospel of the Kingdom and the true nature of Jesus will spread here in our country.

*Bro. Salim*

#### news from norway

Thanks so much for the nice Bible School in Jurmala! It was so lovely to see you all. Three sisters from Australia were here for a visit. They stayed here two days. It was nice to meet them.

*Sis. Helena*



Photo: Sis Helena

#### news from russia

*We're delighted to announce the baptism of NINA, wife of Br Viktor, in Ulyanovskaya obl., and also VERA, wife of Br Alexei in Kazan. May they all come to God's Kingdom together.*

#### **IZHEVSK**

I went to Kazan recently to meet with the ecclesia. I am enjoying reading *Beyond Bible Basics* and resolve to try with all my strength to serve God in the time remaining.

*Bro Andrej*

### **KAZAN**

I have had some contact with Brother Frolov in a village far from here, he is doing well in his faith. I try to keep in touch with various Brothers and sisters around here. One of the problems is that some of the visitors from the West are giving money in an unwise manner. It's better to check these things with Brother Duncan or Marcus. Otherwise we are well here and think lovingly of you all.

*Sis. Ludmila*

I am happy to report I baptized my wife VERA. We are trying hard to preach but few are interested! We are reading the Scriptures all the time, and I have a lot of contact with Sister Ludmila from Ukraine, as editor of *Zvezda* magazine, which we so much enjoy.

*Bro. Aleksej*

I am sorry to tell you that Brother Valerij, his wife and two children were all taken to intensive care after eating poisonous mushrooms. It was even on Kazan TV. I made an announcement for blood donors for them and I was amazed how many calls I got. We here are really praying for them at the moment.

*Sis. Svetlana*

We are well here, but work keeps me so busy. I shall always be grateful to Brother Vladimir of Latvia who helped me to see the truth. It has changed me so much.

*Bro. Andrej*

### **KORKINO**

Sis Vika and I are planning a journey to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, we hope to place more advertisements there in the newspapers. Please pray for us!

*Bro. Alexei*

### **MUSLYUMOVO**

I was recently in Kazan and stayed with dear Sister Ludmila for a night. I had a very spiritually strengthening time just being with her. Although you passed me to the CBM to baptize, I am so grateful for your teaching of me and always consider you my spiritual teachers.

*Bro. Mikhail*

### **NIZHNIJ TAGIL**

I am sorry to report that I received the news here that my mother passed away. I am here still doing my alternative service in the factory so I don't have to go to the army. I was very sad. Then the next day some drunk youths attacked me at night and took my mobile phone away from me. I know that God gives and God takes away and that He loves us, but I am more sad because my mother was not a believer. I share a room now with 2 Jehovah's Witnesses and we have many discussions.

*Bro. Leonid*

### **RZHEV**

I enjoy very much the letters I get from old Sister Ludmila in Kazan, and I am eagerly looking forward to *Zvezda* magazine.

*Bro. Sasha*

### **ST. PETERSBURG**

I was very pleased to receive some books, especially *Miracles* by Brother Billelo. It inspired me

to write an article for our *Zvezda* magazine.

*Bro. Valerij*

### **SARATOV**

I was able to go to two Bible Schools this Summer and I was glad about that, I just want to keep on thanking you that you baptized me and also my children, and now grandchildren. Truly we have the one hope and it makes me so happy it moves me to tears that this hope transforms my family.

*Sis. Raisa*

### **SHANINO**

My health is still very bad, little things seem very big for me. I felt blessed by God to be able to celebrate another birthday, my daughter came to see me for it. I read the Bible more than ever before and the words all seem written just for me.

*Sis. Tamara*

### **SHAKHTY**

I enjoy working on producing the *Zvezda* magazine. Always there are some things to work on, type or edit.

*Bro. Andrej*

### **SHCHYOKINO**

I returned from my visit to Ukraine with our new Brother Shurik, who stayed with me a week. We had a wonderful time reading the Bible and discussing spiritual matters for a week, we also had good fellowship with Brother Oleg, it was a true spiritual Summer holiday for me.

*Bro. Boris*

### **TALITSA**

We here in our ecclesia really enjoy the exhortations we are emailed from Brother Duncan, we discuss them here each week and try to remain strong in faith.

*Sis. Vera*

### **news from serbia**

I am regularly receiving and enjoying *Gospel News* - thank you.

*Bro. Zoltan*

I am very depressed because I have lost my job, life is so hard here without work.

*Bro. William*

### **news from spain**

I'm feeling bad here, because members of my family in Kenya are suffering and one child needs a heart operation. I pray so much for them but feel such a distance from them.

*Sis. Gela*

### **news from turkey**

*We are delighted to announce the baptism of ERTAN - may the Lord bless his walk to the Kingdom.*

### **ISTANBUL**

Here life is very difficult for me, I am very much despised as a non-Moslem, so I think to return to Russia, but life is hard there too. I live in a very Moslem area and in all ways I differ from their culture, especially now I have been baptized. I am talking to a few people about the doctrines.  
*Sis. Anna*

### **news from ukraine**

*We are delighted to announce the baptisms of SHURIK, LENA, LUBA and SVETLANA may the Lord bless their walk to the Kingdom.*

### **KRIVIJ RIG**

I am hoping to come to the next Bible School despite many problems, knowing that we must love Jesus more than family, or else we are not worthy of Him.  
*Bro Misha*

### **POLTAVA**

We have big problems in that our house is falling down, other families live in it too, it is such a huge problem for us with such tiny pensions. We're planning on going to the next Bible School.  
*Bro. Gennady*

I am writing this from France, where I am temporarily working looking after an elderly Ukrainian woman who lives here. It is very nice here and I get time to read the Bible and feel really close to God. I am telling people here as best I can about the coming of the Kingdom.  
*Sis. Veronika*

There are people writing to me from Western Ukraine, wanting *Bible Basics* in Ukrainian language, I hope they respond further.  
*Sis. Ludmila*

## **News from Asia**

### **news from china**

We here have prepared more Chinese language pages for putting up on the carelinks website. We have more people here interested to be baptized. I listen to the Bible on audio files every day and it gives me strength each morning.  
*Bro Donald*

We now have holidays from the college, I am hoping to use the time I have free for God, to read the Bible more, to pray more.  
*Sis Huang*

I am finding Bible reading difficult because I have only English Bible. I really try to improve my English so I can catch better the words of God.

*Bro. Jing*

#### news from nepal

I am reading the Bible more than before, I feel many new things opening up for me about God and Jesus. Please pray for me and my family as things are still not at all calm here where we are.

*Bro. John*

#### news from thailand

I had a nice visit and fellowship with Bro Tim Galbraith of India. I received many copies of *Bible Basics* and I will try to distribute them.

*Bro. Prasobsuk*

#### **Bible Study Articles, October - December 2006 - Growing**

Blessed be the name of the Lord God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace, love and grace from our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with everyone that reads this short testimony from the Kabompo Ecclesia in Zambia in Central Africa.

Since its start in 2001, the Kabompo Ecclesia has been a group of men both married and those unmarried but no woman. The language used in the ecclesia had been only the English language. This, to the world, was interpreted to mean that the Christadelphians were only men who had fellowship and not their wives. This was so because most of them are men married to women who are not educated, women who cannot read or write the English language. Preaching was going on by every brother and each day we met people who were bold enough to ask us about our doctrine. They would tell us to our faces that 'your doctrine is strange and does not teach what churches in the world do'.

However, three sisters: were baptised, namely Jessie Mukabe, Meldah Kaamben and Sarah Kaamben by Brother Nelson Bwalya in the Kabompo River on 4 November, 2004. Two brothers, Kalinda Kapeshe and Francis Mukabe were also baptised, bringing the number to five baptisms since the visit of Bro Peter and Sis Hilary Osborn from Australia.

We are planning, as an ecclesia, to preach using a door-to-door campaign in nearby villages and even in the town if the Lord Jesus Christ allows us to do so. We are happy that Brother Godfrey Mbowela who went to the People's Republic of Angola is said to be returning to Kabompo this December.

Our Ecclesia now numbers 13 and we need world-wide prayers to give us encouragement to preach the truth fearlessly despite persecution arising from our doctrine. This is in stark contrast to that of the denominational or Protestant churches around us. We want to show to

the people of the world the true light, way and salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Our conduct should be that described in the Psalms 1:1-3. Please pray for the Kabompo ecclesia.

Not only do we preach in the English language but also in Luvale, Lunda, Beusa, Luchazi and Chokwe languages. This has silenced the conception that we are English preachers and that local villagers around Kabompo are begging to understand our doctrine. Many in the township receive 'Glad Tidings' magazine and postal Bible courses. Many have been coming to our homes to ask what we believe in and preach. We would love to have the Christadelphian Hymn Book translated into the Luvale, Lunda, Luchazi and Chokwe languages.

*Bro Reuben Kaambea (Kabompo, Zambia)*

### **Sunday School Crisis**

The UK *Christadelphian Sunday School Union* recently produced a dire report on the rapid decline of UK Sunday Schools: "We are increasingly hearing of ecclesias which used to have active Sunday Schools but which do so no longer, of ageing congregations and dwindling ecclesias".

In the last 100 years Sunday School attendances have dropped from 55% to below 4%. This, alas is the sad state of increasingly godless, decadent and materialistic Britain – but this is not the situation in the Mission areas where Sunday Schools are increasing at an alarming rate. However, hundreds of these children do not have the School materials available or a Bible of their own – a situation which needs rectifying. This is no criticism of the excellent Sunday School organizations available who do a tremendous job in working with some of the Mission Area Sunday Schools. The materials available have never been higher and the quality and appealing artwork unsurpassed in Christadelphian History. I really mean that, they need congratulating on their superb material and magazines. But somehow it needs to reach hundreds more of Christadelphian Children.

My view is that we also need to concentrate more on inter-Ecclesial young people's activities and youth camps for the older ones. Even when we have got good Sunday Schools and Youth activities there are, alas, far too many young people marrying out of the Truth. It is only natural of course that they will want partners, but what better places for them to meet in young peoples Bible camps. Whilst on this theme of suggestions could we not go one further and run a serious correspondence course designed to enable them to get a GCE or equivalent qualification in Religious Studies – this would not only increase their scriptural knowledge, but help them get a job. That's a suggestion I feel would have considerable long lasting benefits to the community. We have discussed this with the Examination Board and it could be done. Who is willing to get such a scheme off the ground? MH

**SAVE THE CHILDREN! YOU CAN GIVE THEM THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE**



The photo below is from Kenya and the one above from the Philippines, What a privilege to help them to become children of God.



### **The Joy of Forgiveness Stand Firm in the Lord**

Daniel was captured during a war and taken to Babylon. The Lord gave grace to Daniel and his friends before king Nebuchadnezzar and they served at the palace (Daniel 1:5-19).

The king set up a statue to be worshipped at a certain time. Daniel's friends were accused of not obeying this command and had to face the danger of losing their lives. They knew the value of their faith and told the king, "We will not worship the statue, for our God is greater than all things" (Daniel 3:8-18). They stood firm in their faith, and the Lord visited them in the fire (verses 23-25) to the amazement of the king. People will plan against you whatever the life you lead, but remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is with you - only have faith and stand firm. Such things happened to our Master, as well as to the disciples and the apostles.

Some people will concoct evil and damaging stories about you for their own selfish ends, or out of sheer jealousy. But the Lord will put their plans to shame. The Lord laughs at the meeting of your enemies (Psalm 2:1-4).

In the reign of king Darius, Daniel again gained favour in the eyes of the king until enemies started working. The enemy may be near you in a family or working with you. The Bible says regarding Daniel, that "They found no fault with him" "Then the president and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God" (Dan6:4-5).

They found fault through his faith. So he was thrown into the den of hungry lions - but the Lord closed their mouths (Daniel 6:13-22). Daniel stood firm in his faith and survived this threat to his life. He then prospered under the reign of two kings (verse 28). Are you facing similar problems? The Lord has put His angels in charge of you (Psalm 91:1-16) and will encourage us all in our walk in the Lord, if only we hold fast to our faith; and He will lay a table for you before your enemies (Psalm 23). "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death" (Psalm 48:14). So brethren and sisters, let us all stand firm and the Lord will give us victory.

*Bro. Joseph Oppong (Shama, Ghana)*

## **God's Glory, Real and Personal**

John 1:14-18: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

How do you see God's glory? Maybe you see it in the beauty of His creation; in a baby's smile or in the faces of those who lead in worship in your church. God's glory can be seen in many ways.

One of the best ways to see God's glory is to spend time with Him. Praising God should be a significant part of your personal time with Him. As you think of ways to tell God how wonderful you think He is, you see His glory. That is exciting. Look for God's glory all the time and expect to see it in the time you spend alone with him.

*Bro. Emmanuel Kondowe (Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe)*

## **Will We Ever Enjoy Real Security?**

Children happily playing with their loving parents – who does not enjoy watching such a scene? Children feel totally secure in the presence of caring parents. Yet for many young ones such moments of happiness hardly exist. Instead, some children have to worry every day about food and where they will find a place to sleep for the night. Is there any hope at all for such homeless children and others who live without security?

Although the future may look grim, God's word provides hope. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the day will come when all will live in total security. He wrote: "They will certainly build houses and have occupancy; and they will certainly plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and someone else have occupancy; they will not plant and someone else do the eating (Isaiah 65:21, 22). But is this hope well founded? After all, the word 'hope' does not always indicate certainty. However, the hope that the living God extends to us is *unique*, is real hope, a different sort of hope altogether. The apostle Paul wrote: "None that rests his faith on God will be disappointed" (Rom10:11). Bible prophecies that have already been fulfilled give us confidence that all other promises made by God will also come true. When those promises become realities, the conditions that force children to live in streets, without security, will be a thing of the past. In order to improve our lives and find true security we need to read our Bibles every day and enjoy God's counsel.

*Bro John Kasanda (Kasembe, Zimbabwe)*

## **The Youth Forum: How do you use your Leisure Time?**

Ecclesiastes 11:9 and 12:1

A French saying goes, "Idleness is the mother of all viciousness". The wise words recorded in the above-mentioned verses are very pertinent. Using leisure time gainfully has always been a difficult task for many young people. It has been found that during holidays or vacations, youths

are likely to indulge in injurious activities, such as drug abuse, banditry, outings for risky sexual relations.

It is noteworthy that youths mostly get involved in such misdemeanours as a result of the bad company they keep. Most of the mishaps that youths are prey to result from neglecting to make adequate plans for the use of their leisure time. One must never equate the absence of usual activities with actual rest. Time off has some great advantages, as far as it offers multiple choices in the use of one's free time. It is prudent not to consider recreational activities only, such as sport, travelling, reading, gardening. It would be advisable to include creative and challenging pursuits, like active participation in the affairs of the Ecclesia, volunteering to help the needy and visiting the sick, holding biblical discussions with brethren, sisters and/or interested friends.

To our young people I say, during your time off, always have a fixed destination every time you leave your household. Going out aimlessly with no particular destination is guaranteed to assure you a place on the deranged persons list! Driving or walking with no destination is like a lecture without a topic.

The Ecclesiastes verses, shown at the beginning, are relevant. Accept it or not, you will be young only once in your life. Therefore you will remember either joyfully or regretfully the way you spent that most precious age. The Bible stresses **“Remember your Creator”**. To achieve this, you have to observe the divine laws and regulations found in the Scriptures. It doesn't mean that you lead an extremely pious life so that you deprive yourself of all pleasure. To remember your Creator will itself bring you a lot of pleasure.

Just imagine, if you are offered a car and a driving licence, then you would be free to enjoy all the pleasure you may get from driving. However, in spite of the expected freedom, while driving you **must** comply with all the rules and regulations of using the road. These regulations do not prevent you from enjoyment, instead they are parapets for the safety of road users, yourself included.

In the same way, this applies to the freedom given to you by your Creator, God. Ungrudgingly, He has given you the free choice of how to conduct your youth (Deuteronomy 30:19; Proverbs 27:11). What a wonderful privilege! Nevertheless, God has set some 'road regulations' i.e. the standards He wants you to follow and which will spare you 'road accidents'. These are the **sorrows and the disappointments** befalling many young people.

The Bible says: “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth ...”. However, the same verse warns “...but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment”. Remember your Creator by using **wisely and cautiously** the freedom He has given you.

As a youth, always guard your personal integrity as a precious asset if you want to reap the benefits of successful living. Maintain acquaintance with morally upright people, especially those of your faith, for you will constantly infuse one another with new insights and attitudes. By doing so, you will keep the assurance that your Creator will remember you and give you pleasure abundantly (Proverbs 10:22).

*Brother Innocent E'engele (Kibera Ecclesia, Nairobi, Kenya)*

### **Help With Sisters Health Problems.**

It has been possible with the help of Bro David and Sis Jacklyne Wanjala to arrange a course at Makhonge, Kenya, to help Sisters with their health and general problems. A senior Midwife spent a day with them explaining how their body works and tips on healthy living, based upon the book “*Where Women have No Doctor*”

The course was of considerable benefit to them, some Sisters wrote, ‘It helped us to understand our reproductive health and discovered many important and interesting things, it was an eye opener to have answered the problems we have experienced, that have been hounding us for a very long time. —Since we got married we did not know most of the things and we relied very much upon what those around us said, some even using their traditional beliefs which are completely wrong, so we say thank you very much CAT for sponsoring this helpful programme’.



Photos:The Midwife giving a talk.



Above; The group of Sisters and below enjoying a meal during the Lunch break



### **Let Us Imitate Paul’s Way Of Life**

Whenever we read the account of the apostle Paul, or the servant of Jesus Christ, as he addresses himself in all his epistles, he teaches us one very important word, that is “ENDURANCE”. He goes on enlightening the world that only endurance makes a believer stand or fall. So he shows us to be as strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might as he was himself. He wants us to live a victorious life by taking the whole armour of God that we may wage battle and be able to withstand all the trials of life.

He said, “Stand therefore, having put on your loins with truth, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the Gospel of peace, above all taking the shield of faith with which you can quench all flaming darts of evil thoughts and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph 6:14-17). Obviously the armour talked about is not the material worn by the Roman soldiers of the time, but a spiritual armour which has to do with the mind and the heart rather than the body. Paul endured much, one time in chains, five times he received forty lashes but one, three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three

times he was shipwrecked. All these and others were more than enough to make any man depressed and slide back, but not for Paul, he went on saying that “For the sake of Christ I am content with weaknesses, insults, persecution and calamities”. So do not lose heart, though our nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. What a marvellous courage! This is the endurance sustained by absolute confidence in God, being sure of His love and guidance, which we ought to follow without fail. Taking the armour at hand we are sure of defeating our enemy.

*Truth* will give us certainty and help keep our thoughts aware. *Righteousness* will give us confidence and free us from fear. *Faith* will encourage us in all disappointments and hardships of life. *The Bible* will supply us with everything we need to enter into the Kingdom about to be established here on earth. We all have to walk in the boots of Paul’s set model so that we eventually enjoy Life with our Lord Jesus and help him rule. What hinders us? Should it be hunger, hardship of life or temptation? Our Lord has promised that “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and all powerful and He will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape that you may be able to bear it.” Let us then, with our confidence, draw near to the gates of grace that we may receive mercy.

*Bro. James Mwangomo (Mbeya, Tanzania)*

## **Jonah**

Jonah is no mythical figure (2 Kings 14:25). His effective preaching (note the change from the mariners’ paganism (Jonah 1:5) to their prayer to “God of Israel” (ch. 1:14). Why did the heathen Ninevites repent so quickly? Was it because Jonah had been beached by the fish’s digestive juices, or had the account gone on before him – ‘A man swallowed whole in the ocean’? the humility of the heathen Ninevites who believed God (3:5) and whose king humbled himself (3:6) and proclaimed a national fast (3:7-9)? Jonah’s wonderful prayer (2:1-9), goes from despair to confidence in God’s salvation and portrays God’s character: He is patient and the Creator (1:9), He hears prayer (2:2), He saves (2:9), He relents (3:9-10; 4:2), He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness (4:2).

Jonah willingly accepted his fate and acknowledged his sin (1:12) – Jesus was sinless but he, too, accepted his death willingly (Isa. 53:7; Matt. 20:28). Jonah was saved from corruption (2:6) – Jesus’ body saw no corruption and was resurrected (Ps. 16:10). By the sacrifice of one man (Jonah – 1:12) many were saved – by the death of Jesus many will also be saved (Rom. 5:19). Jesus mentions Jonah as a sign of his own death and resurrection (Matt. 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32), while Jonah’s preaching is compared to that of Jesus’ (Matt. 12:41).

God is everywhere, we cannot run away from Him. His compassion is for all people, everywhere. He wants them to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4), whether a failing Israelite prophet or heathen gentiles. Sometimes humility must come before a servant of God can be effective. Instead of standing before the king of Nineveh, Jonah found himself being challenged by the ship’s captain and the other mariners (1:10). Admitting wrong-doing is not enough, something must be done about sin. After Jonah’s confession and the continued raging (1:11,13), calm came once Jonah was thrown into it (1:15).

Prayer reaches God from everywhere, even from the prison of a fish's belly. Jonah repented, then got on with the job God had called him to. God seems to always give a second opportunity.

*Bro. Colin Bwire (Kigandalo, Uganda)*

### **"Christ Being raised from the Dead"**

"Christ Being raised from the Dead -- Death hath no more dominion over him" Rom. 6:9

Lazarus and others were raised from the dead...but there was a great difference in the case of Jesus: all others have been raised to a renewal of mortal life, but Jesus was raised to immortality. Death, the long sleep, still has dominion over all the children of Adam until they are raised (resurrected) by Christ at his second coming. Holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Jesus said, "I am the Way, Resurrection and Life, nobody comes to the Father before passing to me." Anyone filled with the spirit of Christ will discover a peace of mind and love for others that goes beyond human explanation. It is our honour to walk with you in this never-ending journey.

*Bro. Jacob Okoth, (Eldoret, Kenya)*

### **A personal call from God**

Rose Brett, a Catholic, was watching T.V. with her 3-year-old daughter Grace one day when a news clip came on about a prominent business man and politician who had died. Grace's immediate reaction was 'Is he going to heaven?' When her mom explained that he would go to heaven if he had asked Jesus to be his Saviour, Grace proceeded to ask the same question about every family member she could think of. Not to be left out, Grace added, 'You know what Mom? I talked to Jesus on the phone the other day, and I asked Him to come into my heart.' 'That's great!' Rose said. 'But how did you come to know His number?' Her reply was simple, yet profound. "He called me!" she declared.

Grace didn't know it, but her answer revealed a deep truth that distinguishes true Christianity from all other religions in the world. They require a man to try to get to God, but in the plan God devised for man He's the One who initiates the contact. He calls us to repent once. Everyone who has accepted Jesus as Saviour was prompted, or "called" by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:30).

What an honour to get a personal call from God! What blessing He gives to those who answer in the affirmative.

*Bro. E. Kagogodza, (Concession, Zimbabwe)*

## **An Open Letter**

To All Ecclesias, Groups and those in Isolation Worldwide

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The conditions of the world present the Christadelphians with both obstacles and opportunities for witnessing about the fulfilment of the warnings that the Bible contains.

Throughout the world Christadelphians should witness to attain success in the following:

- 1). Greater involvement of the faith in the life of human societies and the development of proper understanding and practice of communication skills for use in the home, family and work place.
- 2). Ensuring that the current Christadelphian literature reaches the majority of believers and friends in the locality.
- 3). Improving the quality and distribution of *Gospel News* magazine by sending letters, articles, photographs and so on to the Editor.
- 4). Developing and administer the Christadelphian postal courses for teaching and deepening contact by adopting teaching goals for all members individually.
- 5). Encouraging believers to make use of the Christadelphian literature and guiding them what to read and where to find/obtain it.
- 6). Develop systematic lesson plans and other materials for educating children of Christadelphians
- 7). Endeavouring at all times and in all conditions to balance the teaching and consolidation efforts and programmes in order to assist brothers and sisters in isolation.

We need to exercise great care for this is an age of opportunity in material advancement. Our eyes can be blind to the realities of the Truth and the limitations of the present age. We can so easily burden ourselves with worldly responsibilities and find it difficult to reserve sufficient time for our spiritual responsibilities, hindering our spiritual work. We need to set clearly before ourselves the facts of doctrinal truth not only as a matter of principle, but also in application and practice. This will create clear vision and sound judgment to endure to the end.

*Bro Moses M Wanami (Nalondo, Kenya)*

## **Science And The Bible**

In all the argument about whether science and the Bible are compatible, it must be remembered that some very basic questions can't be answered by science and yet they are by the Bible. For example, Who is God? Who am I? Why am I here? The scientific revolution of the last 200 years would surely have provided more and more evidence that there is no God, that the Bible is not true- if these things were actually factual truths. But in fact belief in the Bible, at least in the ex-USSR, has increased over that period, despite the great progress in science and knowledge. In fact it could be argued that the growth of both science and historical research has exploded many of the myths which stopped people from believing in the Bible before. Scientific

progress has also strengthened us because, due to it, we have come to see that parts of the Bible must be interpreted more symbolically, e.g. those passages which seem to say the earth is flat. Science hasn't disproved the Bible, rather has it helped us to interpret the Bible better. Instead of trying to read all in the Bible literally, scientific discovery has led us to understand that we must interpret metaphors, find the meaning of symbols etc, rather than read everything just as it is written. So all things have worked together for good so that people in our age can have a reasoned faith in God through the Bible - if they want it.

Scientists have been held to account by society. False science has been identified. People these days are more demanding before they believe things. There is less belief in myth than there previously was, and a greater interest in truth, as we live in a scientific age where facts must be proven before they can be built upon further. From our point of view, this scientific age is not a bad thing. Politically, in our part of the world, Marxism and Darwinism went together as brothers. The idea of the development and mutation of 'cells' was used politically by the Communist party, as a reflection of the evolutionary ideas of Darwinism in the context of life and biology. The failure of Marxism has led to doubts about Darwinism, and the scientific evidence against? atheistic evolution is now being recognized.

On the other hand, the Bible is full of descriptions of "the last days" which mean it will be a terrible struggle for us to maintain our faith. But God has given us the potential to maintain it. It all depends if we wish to accept the encouragement He gives us, or go the way of the world

*Bro. Gennady (Poltava, Ukraine)*

### **Self Sacrificing Love**

God is the source of life, light and joy to the universe like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. Wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessings. Our Saviour's joy was in the uplifting and redemption of fellow men. For this he counted not his life dear unto himself but endured the cross, despising the shame. So angels are ever engaged in work for the happiness of others.

This is the joy, that which selfish hearts would regard as humiliating service; ministering to those who are wretched and in every way inferior in character and rank is the work of sinless angels. The spirit of Christ's self-sacrificing love is the spirit that pervades heaven and is the very essence of its bliss. This is the spirit that Christ's followers will possess, the work that they will do, when the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart like sweet fragrance. It cannot be hidden. Its holy influence will be felt by all with whom we come into contact. The spirit of Christ in the heart is like a spring in the desert flowing to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish, eager to drink of the water of life. Read Matthew 20:28.

*Bro Fibion Ngoli (Banket, Zimbabwe)*

## **Lending a Hand to the Needy of Every Nation**

My country was recently declared among the poorest in the world. Hopes and expectations were high for other nations to help us attain a bright future – wonderful! Great! increased salaries! more jobs and other economic enhancements, debt abolition.. These high hopes remind us of the foolishness of relying on humans. The Israelites might have hoped to find a solace in Egypt on many occasions when famine and pestilence threatened their existence. However, it was a correcting rod from the Lord for their disobedience. Sometimes our trials and hardships are a test of our patience. Jesus, like us, was tempted yet without sin. He, too, was in need but prayed to God. He was perfectly obedient to the will of his Father and received the divine approval. "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, hear him". He therefore set an example for us all to be patient with the Lord. Jer 29:11 says that God's plan for the world is that of welfare and not evil; the present hard ship are just birth pangs and the joy of deliverance with the coming of the Lord surpasses the present hardships.

We thank all those whose behind-the-scene work has enabled the book '*Where There Is No Doctor*' to be sent to the needy in Africa. The Lord Jesus Christ demanded of us to give to the poor, visit the sick, and needy in prison. '*Where There Is No Doctor*', is an example of obedience to the Lord's command. We followed the example and quickly got some first aid drugs donated by the Bamenda Ecclesia to a remote village called Buweh where there is no health facility.

*Bro Emmanuel Nanji (Bamenda, Cameroon)*

## **Let's Pray, Pray Daily**

When the Almighty God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, He continued to show His love by creating a helper for him, Eve. After the fall of man, when they sinned, God still loved them and offered them the chance of living, but they had to work in order to eat. Since God is a loving Father, He offered mankind another opportunity of union with Him, through Jesus Christ, His only son. Since the Almighty God cannot be seen, Jesus taught us to pray. Through Jesus we can communicate with God. Consider this prayer in Luke 11:2-4:

- Our father who is in heaven: yes, the bible says clearly that heaven is God's dwelling place
- Hallowed be thy name: His name is holy and respected
- Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: whatever happens on earth should be pleasing to God
- Give us this day our daily bread: our everyday meals come from God our Father; He is our provider
- Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: God does not tempt anyone, and He delivers us from the evils of the world
- For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and for ever, Amen: both the kingdoms and the one to come belong to God; the coming one will be known very well as God's.

By praying, God listens to our problems, thanks, apologies and so on. Therefore if you ask God to give you something, do not give up for you may receive it after a long time. Don't ask for too many things at a time, and don't forget to thank God after your prayer has been answered. Please do not let us abandon the habit of praying at least twice a day. Amen.

*Bro Samuel Wanga Watako (Nakuru, Kenya)*

## **The Headship Issue**

The debate over headship in marriage and home is long-standing. Who is the head of the family? This debate has done much harm to home and family. "The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church" (ecclesia) (Eph 5:23). The scripture is clear in stating that the husband is the head of the wife. However, what does this mean and in what context is this meant to be? I think we sometimes misunderstand Eph 5:23 as meaning control, power, decision-making, authority, ownership and accountability to God for one's wife and children. Who is the head of the family and how does this headship issue play itself out in our family relationships?

### **The husband is the head of the family**

The headship of the husband speaks not about the wife being unequal to the husband. It speaks of willing submission of the wife to her husband in his exercise of authority and headship of the family. The great difference in the Christian home and marriage is that the wife submits to the husband's headship "as to the Lord".

There can only be one head in any one structure or organization. God has divinely appointed the husband to be the head of the family unit. It should be remembered as well that the husband as the head of the family unit is accountable as a servant of the Lord to fulfil the responsibilities which are his. He is head, but he is a man under divine orders. His family must live and serve the Lord.

### **The husband is not to rule over the family**

Even though the husband is the head of the family he should not rule over the family. This means he must not conduct himself as a king with servants to be beckoned by words of command. Family members (wife and children) are not subservient subjects. Relationships are based and built upon love and respect, not control by one member over the others. Therefore, all members of the family are to function within an atmosphere of mutual love, concern and respect.

Bro Tim Genders once exhorted "Headship is not dictatorship or lordship. It is loving relationships. In fact, both the husband and the wife must be submissive to the Lord and to each other (Ephesians 5:23). It is mutual respect under the Lordship of Jesus Christ". There must be order within the family but it must be a structure fitting and pleasing to the Lord. The family must be a godly structure. Notice in Eph 5:23 that wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord and (5:25), husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

### **The husband carries special responsibilities**

As the head, the husband carries special responsibilities for the family. “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church (ecclesia) and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and righteous” (Eph 5:25-27). The husband is to love his wife “just as Christ loved the church. He sacrificed his life for the church. He gave completely of himself for others. This is the type of relationship the husband is to have with his wife and his family. ‘The measure of man’s love for his wife is not seen in gifts, words, but in acts of sacrifice and concern for her happiness and welfare’.

The husband must set the tone of the house. He is to love with an ever-present love, one that does not control and manipulate, but one that sacrifices for the good of one another. The special responsibilities that the husband carries include nurturing, loving, protecting, providing, respecting and honouring. Just as Christ loves the church, the husband is to see that the family is cared for and protected. Just as Christ loves God, the husband is to see that the family loves, honours and serves God. The wife and children must be submissive to the headship of the husband and father in the family relationships. The husband must love his wife and children with a self-sacrificing love. Most important of all, the family must be united together in the Lord.

*Bro Richard Nganaga (Guruve, Zimbabwe)*

## **Weak**

Let us consider, and be concerned for, the weak brethren and sisters. God created us with different abilities to do things, some are weaker and some are stronger than others. We should exhort one another, brethren and sisters, admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak and be patient with them all.

But when we think of weak abilities, every one has areas of weakness. Even the main committee, link men and ecclesial elders are weak in some ways. And the ecclesia, too, may become weak in its daily running. The plight of small ecclesias may be analysed incorrectly by those who could help. In some ecclesias, members may leave because of weak leadership and the ecclesia faces desolation.

One possibility is that too great attention may be given to ecclesias in cities and towns, leaving the rural meetings decreasing in numbers. Link men and missionaries may sow the word of God in conducive and viable areas, leaving others in remote areas in isolation. Who will encourage these? Who will make them grow to be strong? Who will cultivate the sown word of God? Brethren and sisters, the word of God should be preached in every area (Mark 16:15). Therefore, let us lift our drooping hands and strengthen our weak knees and make straight paths for our feet. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. “It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power” (1 Corinthians 15:43). Paul said, “In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak” (Acts 20:35).

*Bro Patrick Mandivinga (Mutema, Zimbabwe)*

## **Fellowship**

Brethren, let us keep on responding to God. God is faithful, by whom we were called into fellowship with His son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through the name of our Lord Jesus we should all agree without dissension; we should be united, of the same mind and in the same judgement. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread we, who are many, are one body for we partake of one bread. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

*Bro Patrick Mandivinga (Mutema, Zimbabwe)*

## **How Well Do You Know Israel?**

See how many of the places listed on the map opposite you can place on the map. I guess that like me you will have been unable to place them all. Writing things down helps one to memorise things, so after you have answered all you can, then with the help of a map complete placing all the names in the right places. We will print a detailed map in the next issue.

*MH*

## **Repentance**

The term repentance means to reverse oneself completely, to have a change of heart. In this case, it means to quit sinning. For sure, one could not hope to be what the Lord would have him to be unless he was willing to lay down his sins and have a change of life.

Jesus Christ put it simply, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). In other words, repent or perish. Does this mean that it makes no difference with the Lord whether one repents or perishes? No, for it certainly does make a difference. Peter, said, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but if one refuses to repent, then he will perish". In the book of Ezekiel 18:32, the Lord said, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live ye."

Therefore, it is up to the individual. In speaking on Mars Hill (Acts 17:22) Paul said, "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious." (v. 30). Paul made it clear that God would have all men to repent. He said, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." One cannot say that the Lord has not asked him to repent, for he has. He has even commanded this of us.

One cannot be so good that he needs not repent and one cannot be so evil that he cannot repent if he so desires. All people, regardless of what kind of life they live, have sinned and are therefore in need of salvation. Paul declared, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom 3:23). And even as a Christian John writes, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

The article does not talk about Christians, but about what the sinner must do to be saved, who has found that he must repent of his sins, after he has gained faith in God. We have seen that one must hear the truth, and then believe the truth, it will be shown that he must confess in the Lord Jesus Christ and be baptized. But right now in the middle of all this, one must repent. To give an example, Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost that they should do this very thing. "Then Peter said unto them. Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). To another group of people he said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Now what do we have? We have this command being given to the people to repent, it was of God and therefore necessary for salvation.

In every case of conversion in the book of Acts you will find it stated either directly or implied, that before the people were baptized they repented of their sins. So it is today that before one is baptized he must repent. Of course one may be immersed without genuinely repenting but he is only fooling himself. The Lord knows his heart and if he doesn't repent, there is no forgiveness of sins and no salvation. One must be so sorry for their sins that they will want to quit them and live a better life. (2 Cor. 7:10) "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." But it is not enough just to be sorry about one's sins, one must actually leave them behind, replace them with righteous acts, otherwise the old sins will return. Kindly read Gal.5:19-24, Eph. 4:24-29.

Repentance alone will not save. One may quit sinning and live a good life, but unless he has obeyed the other commandments of God, he is still a sinner. One may repent of his sin, complete his obedience to the gospel and live the Christian life for a while but then slip back into sin. What will happen to him?

Unless he repents again and returns to the Lord through prayer he will be lost as though he never repented in the first place. (Read 2 Peter 2:20-22). It is easy to do right if you remember that by failing to do what the Lord says you are gambling with your soul. Sin will damn you, but righteousness will save you. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:23). Remember, too, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal.6:7-9).

"John the Baptist, came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt.3:1-2). "Likewise also Jesus from that time began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt.4:17). This is a very great warning to us all, so man ought to repent from his evil ways. Mark 1:14-15 says, "Jesus came into Galilee...and saying, The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand." Mark 6:12 says "And they went out and preached that men should repent. "

While the days are approaching for the Kingdom to be set up by the Lord Jesus Christ, there is time for each of us to repent so that we may be included in that Kingdom.

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

## **Love and Unity**

“The love of God and Jesus was shown, therefore, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “In this way, the love of God is revealed in that He sent His son to die for us” (1 John 4:9,10). The love of Jesus likewise was crystallized for us in his death: “Greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends. Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end” (John 15:13; 13:1). If we deny that God gave Jesus to die for us, we turn away from the height of love which God showed. In the sacrifice of Jesus we see the very essence of love, that God gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. This is the love of God towards us. “God sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God but He loved us, and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins” (John 3:16). “Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:32,38,39). The love of God is so infinitely passionate, gripping, tragic and thereby the more demanding of response.

We can become God’s sons, His own dear children (Romans 8:14-16). We do not demean God by speaking of Him as ‘Father’. He has instead elevated us nearer to His level, in that for those baptized into Christ, they too are sons of God. The love of God was revealed and is required of us, simply because Jesus was the son of God, given to die to enable us to reach up in the Lord “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another”. We also behave in that attitude and leave the attitude of segregation in our ecclesias. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient bearing with one another in love. We have to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2,3). Let us be one in Christ. How can we complete our journey without unity? We are all sinners through Adam, but we have to cope along the way with what Jesus was teaching.

*Bro Isaac Guzete (Craigmore, Zimbabwe)*

## **Point to ponder**

EXCEPT IT DIE

The wheat grain falling from the husk, the barley hidden in the field.

Each gives it’s all in sacrifice, a fuller, richer fruit to yield:

Except it die, it dwells alone: to bring forth life, each gives it’s all.

## **Your Foundations**

Lay your foundations in love and service and kindness. We are never going to help anyone to make a hard decision against the pull of their own animal desires, if we have already embittered

them against us by criticism and unconcern; rather in such a case we re-inforce their resistance. We may have gratified our ego by condemning them and achieved cheap self-satisfaction, but have done no service for God.



Above: Thelele Ecclesia, Malawi, and below their Sunday School



### **God Doubts His People (Genesis 27:22)**

When Isaac grew old, he decided to bless his son Esau as the firstborn son. Isaac gave all the procedures for the blessing. In Genesis 27 verse 3, Isaac told his son to go into the wilderness and look for an animal. In verse 4, Isaac's wife Rebecca hears what her husband tells his son Esau. She says to her son Jacob "I have heard your father talking to his son Esau saying, 'Bring me an animal and prepare delicious food so that I may bless you before I die.'" Going through the chapter, we read that Rachel encouraged Jacob to prepare food more quickly so that *he* could obtain the blessings first. In verse 22, Jacob has brought the food before Isaac. Isaac touched his body and discovered that the voice was that of Jacob but the arm was that of Esau. Here Isaac shows his disappointment with Jacob.

What does this tell us? Isaac in this chapter represents God, and Esau and Jacob, you and me. We are the children of God but the way we behave makes God disappointed with us. We serve God on one hand, and on the other we are so unfaithful and unworthy. Do you think God knows what our position is? Please be careful.

*Bro S W Wanyekheya*

### **Old Books, Pamphlets, Tapes, Videos, CDs and Magazines on the Truth**

Please do not throw them away, many in the Mission Field would be delighted to have them. Let us have a list of them and we will give you an address to send them to. MH