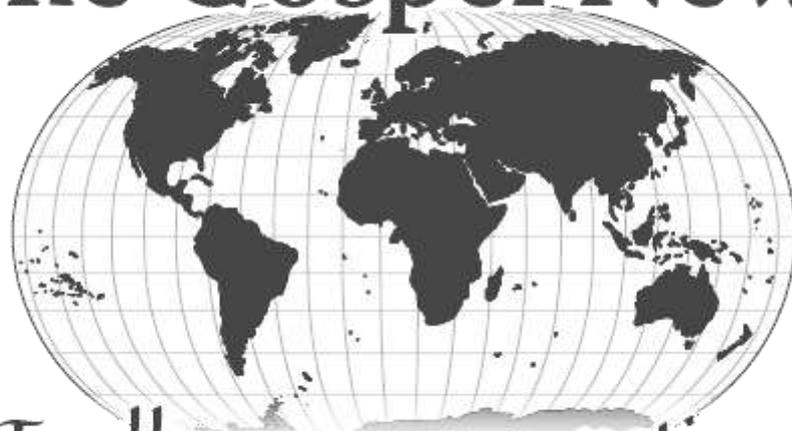


The Gospel News



“To all  nations”

Editorial: The Real Devil

We Christadelphians stand with our backs to the world when it comes to our unique understanding of Satan. We're the only denomination to reject the existence of a superhuman Devil, and to locate the blame for sin solely within the human heart, unflinchingly accepting that evil in its wider sense originates with God and not with any Satan figure. Ursula LeGuin wrote powerfully of "all the pain and suffering and waste and loss and injustice we will meet all our lives long, and must face and cope with over and over, and admit, and live with, in order to live human lives at all". This is indeed how it is: her cancer, the tragedy of his life, the tsunami here and the repression of human rights there, the deeply hidden regrets and secret sins of every human life... over and over we have to rise each day and live with it all.

It seems to me that the burden of it all, the sheer pain and difficulty of the struggle to understand, has led people to simply give up, and blame it all on a personal Satan who fell off the 99th floor and came down here to mess up our nice, good little lives. But simplistic ten cent answers to these million dollar questions aren't good enough for us. Quite rightly we've concluded that legitimate responses and understandings are not going to be found in a pagan myth, no matter how respectably it's been developed by bunk theology.

In this editorial I want to bring out the implications of our understanding of Satan, knowing that the whole purpose of true doctrine is the radical transformation of human life in practice. For if we leave all this at the level of mere ideas, lodged merely within some complex brain chemistry beneath our skulls, we will have totally missed the point. These 'ideas' must have real encounter with our whole personalities. I mean that reading the Bible, or this book or that book about the Bible as we ride to work or a few pages each night before sleep takes us... really should and can have a gripping effect upon human personality, upon our entire world-view, taking us far beyond our safe, sleepy little bedtime studies, out into the most fundamental issues of the cosmos, and into the real issues of the dirty lives we humans live out on the face of this spectacularly beautiful planet. The fruit of correct understanding of these issues will, in the end, be love, and walking humbly with our God. I urge you to take these reflections especially seriously; for I believe our community faces a huge danger in purely academic study of God's word which doesn't lead to any accepted practice.

When we are told: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7), we hardly imagine ourselves wrestling with a literal beast who runs away just because we put up a fight. To put any meaning into James words it must surely be apparent that he is speaking of the need to resist sin in our minds, and that very process of resistance will lead to the temptation receding. The fact that the Lord Jesus really conquered the Devil should mean for us that in our struggles against sin, victory is ultimately certain. If we grasp this, we will battle daily for control of the mind, we will strive to fill our mind with God's word, we will do our daily readings, we will be cynical of our motivations, we will examine ourselves, we will appreciate the latent liability to sin which we and all men have by nature. We won't take the weakness of others towards us so personally; we will see it as their 'devil'.

Belief in a personal Devil is so popular, because it takes the focus away from our struggle with our innermost nature and thoughts. Yet whilst we Christadelphians don't believe in a personal Devil, we can create the same thing in essence; we can create an external devil such as TV or Catholicism, and feel that our entire spiritual endeavour must be directed to doing battle with these things, rather than focusing on our own weaknesses. A lack of focus on personal sinfulness and the need for personal cleansing and growth, with the humility this will bring forth,

can so easily give place to a focus instead upon something external to us as the real enemy. Realizing who 'the devil' really is inspires us to more concretely fight against him.

We should not blame our nature for our moral failures in the way that some blame an external devil. We must hang our head over every sin. In this we will find the basis for a true appreciation of grace, a true motivation for works of humble response, a true flame of praise within us, a realistic basis for a genuine humility. We really can achieve some measure of self control; it cannot be that God is angry with us simply because we are human. It cannot be that our nature forces us to sin in a way which we can never counteract. The Lord Jesus shared our nature and yet didn't commit sin, and in this He is our ever- beckoning example and inspiration. The question, 'What would Jesus do...?' in this or that situation has all the more inspirational power once we accept that the Lord Jesus, tempted just as we are, managed to put the devil within Him to death, triumphing over it in the cross, even though He bore our nature. People tend to say parrot-fashion such things as, 'I'm a sinner', 'going to heaven', 'satan', without the faintest idea what they are really saying. And we can do just the same - we can speak of 'Sin' with no real idea what we ought to feel and understand by it.

If we truly perceive and believe that, in fact, 'the devil' and its power has been vanquished in Jesus, if we survey the wondrous cross and see there the power of the devil finally slaughtered in the perfect mind of the Lord Jesus, and that ultimate victory of victories shared with us who are in Him... the source, the root cause, of so much neurosis and dysfunction, is revealed to us as powerless. For we who have given in and do give in to temptation, who submit to 'the violence within' all too often, who are at times beaten in the fight, have been saved from the power of that defeat by grace and forgiveness, and are counted by the God of all Grace as being 'in Christ'. The Lord Jesus was the one who overcame that 'violence within' moment by moment, as well as in the more accentuated and obvious scenes of 'the violence within' which we see in the wilderness temptations and on the cross. And, by grace, we are counted as in Him. No wonder that to achieve this He had to share human nature in order to overcome it. Perfectly and seamlessly, one true aspect of Biblical interpretation thus leads to another, and becomes the basis for a transformed life in practice.

Self-talk

It would be fair to say that the Biblical devil refers to our self-talk - the very opposite of the external devil idea. Jesus pinpointed the crucial importance of self-talk in His parable of the rich fool, who said to himself that he had many goods, and discussed with his own "soul" the need for greater barns etc. (Lk. 12:17-19). If we at least realize that our self-talk is potentially our greatest adversary ['satan'], then we will find the strength to move towards genuine spiritual mindedness, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ".

In Deuteronomy 15:9 Moses was warning Israel: "Beware that there be not a word in thy wicked heart" - don't have self-talk that says because the year of release was coming soon, you would not lend your brother anything. Here we have the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament 'devil'. We can control our self-talk, but we must be aware that it takes place. Moses is basically saying: 'Beware of your own self-talk; see how you speak to yourself in unfinished sentences like "The year of release is at hand..."', resulting in you 'finishing the sentence' by unkind deeds. Perceiving the reality and power of our own self-talk is one outcome of truly comprehending who the devil is. Ps. 36:1 warns: "Sin speaks to the wicked man in his heart" (Heb.).

Our self-talk actually defines where we go in our relationships. If we have a certain 'self-talk' opinion of someone and yet speak and act nicely to them, sooner or later we won't be able to keep up the act. "An unconscious relationship is more powerful than a conscious one". What you say to yourself about your wife, how you analyze to yourself the actions of your child... this has the real power, far beyond any forms of words and outward behaviour we may show. Yet, sadly, this world thinks that how you say things is all important; it's a running away from the importance and crucial value of the real 'self' within.

Sin De-Emphasized and Minimized

It's commonly understood that human beings frequently practice 'projection' onto others of certain attitudes and behaviours with which they themselves struggle. It seems to me that the Satan concept is a classic case. People have taken all the aspects of God's personality with which we struggle - not least, that He brings evil into our lives - and they've also taken all the aspects of our own personality which we dislike, our sin, our unpleasantness... and projected them onto an external being called Satan. All this is not only a minimizing of our own sin; it's an attempt to remake 'God' into our image who we think He should be. It's blasphemous - as well as demeaning to Him, and reflects our huge barrier to accepting that we are not God, that we are sinners and need to work on self-improvement rather than projecting all our weakness away from ourselves and onto something or someone else. Conversely, an awareness of our sin is the basis for the joy and marvel we experience of God's grace, that energy to serve Him and love Him through thick and thin, which so many Christians privately admit that they lack.

Out of Denial

For a long time I was unwilling to give myself wholly to this idea that sin is solely rooted in the individual human heart. I would have gone along with Jeffrey Russell's comment that, "It is true that there is evil in each of us, but adding together even large numbers of individual evils does not enable anyone to explain an Auschwitz". Why did I have that impression, and why was it so strong and so intuitive? Because I simply didn't want to face up to what Paul calls, 'the exceeding sinfulness of sin' (Rom. 7:13). Paul speaks of how God had had to reveal 'sin as sin' to him. That process goes on in each of us. Instead of thinking that sin is an occasional 'whoopsy', we come to see that it really is the radical issue which the Bible presents it as.

The example of Auschwitz is personally significant for me. Living in Eastern Europe, I visited Auschwitz four times over a period of 16 years. It was only on the fourth visit that I came to disagree with Russell's comment. Quite simply we radically, seriously, majorly and above all dangerously under-estimate the power of human sin and the colossal influence for evil which our sinful actions, thoughts and decisions can have upon others. My intuitive desire to find some bigger source of evil to explain the Holocaust is probably typical of the struggle we all have to not only minimize our own sin, but also the sin of humanity. Paul Tournier's psychological study, *The Violence Within*, shows how within each person there is a huge battle between the right and the wrong, good and evil, temptation and resistance to temptation. This battle goes on constantly, over even the most insignificant things - e.g. the choice to take an instant dislike to another person, to get angry and aggressive because we feel a person in a restaurant is somehow laughing at us, etc. Levi-Strauss came to the same conclusions in *The Savage Mind* - a book whose title says it all. We must unflinchingly face our own huge capacity for evil. The same essential sinful tendencies are within us as within the most depraved rapist or sadist. Solzhenitsyn lamented: "If only it were all so simple! If only... it were necessary only to separate [evil people] from the rest of us and destroy them! But the line dividing good and evil

cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"

The 'Devil' remains an unexamined assumption in much of Christianity, and in most societies and religions. The presence of unexamined assumptions in our lives and hearts, as well as in societies, ought to be a red flag. Why, in this age of apparently fearless examination, eager toppling of examples, deconstruction of just about everything, rigorous research, trashing of tradition, brutal testing of assumptions... does the Devil idea remain an unexamined assumption? I suggest it's because to reject that tradition of a personal satan [for that's all it is - tradition] and get down to living out the Biblical position on the Devil demands just too much. It's hard to accept all negative experience in life as ultimately allowed and even sent by a loving God, it's humiliating to realize we're only tiny children, whose view of good and evil isn't fully that of our Father; and it's the call of a lifetime to recognize that our own personal, natural passions and desires are in fact the great satan / adversary.

The Value of Persons

The de-emphasis of sin by the personal Satan theory also results in a devaluing of personal salvation and the meaning of the individual. Grace means little on a personal level for any of us if our salvation was really an abstract transaction which occurred somewhere out in the cosmos between God and Satan. The Biblical picture is so much more personally gripping - salvation was achieved by a man, Jesus the Son of God, here on this earth, on a stake outside Jerusalem. He died in love for us, for the forgiveness of our personal sins, rather than to provide some payment to a cosmic creature called Satan. The essential failure is not of the cosmos - it is the failure in our individual response to God's love and grace.

Responsibility for Actions

Understanding that sin comes from within leads us to a far higher level of responsibility for our own actions - as well as teaching us to hold others the more responsible for theirs, too. Responsibility is something sadly and increasingly lacking in the modern world. We justify both ourselves and others, to the point that real feelings of contrition, humility, joy at the experience of forgiveness, realistic and victorious striving for self-improvement, all seem little known in the lives of many today.

Don't Demonize Others

There's a huge attraction to the idea that we here on earth are somehow on the side of God and Jesus, who are engaged in a cosmic conflict with the Devil in Heaven. It empowers us to assume that anyone against us on earth must therefore be somehow 'of the devil', and we are made to feel that any aggression towards them or description of them in Satanic terms is somehow legitimate. The real, Biblical understanding of Satan is so different, and calls us to personal self-control, self-examination, awareness of our weakness and Christ's strength - and this, in turn, affects our attitude to others. Rather than witch-hunting and demonizing, even within the ecclesia, we become understanding of human weakness and sensitive to the human condition.

I have on my computer a file of images of cartoons and posters which demonize people as the Devil. In the two world wars, each side 'demonized' the other. Since 1945, Soviets demonized their enemies with 'Satan' features even though they officially didn't believe in Satan nor God; Western powers likewise 'Satanized' the Soviets. More recently, the West has done the same in their cartoons of Islamic leaders and terrorists; and Islamic cartoonists have done likewise in representing Western and Israeli leaders as 'the great Satan'. Bosnian Moslems and Serbian Christians did the same to each other in the wars which wracked the former Yugoslavia...

flicking through those images on my hard drive is a depressing experience. Everyone is out to demonize the other, and drawing horns and tail on 'the other guy' is obviously so easy and attractive. And whilst most of us aren't into drawing cartoons, we effectively tend to do the same in conflicts great and small; in our minds we deface the image of others by scribbling horns and tail on them. This form of Dualism is very attractive to our judgmental human minds; it lends itself to categorizing life and society in a simplistic binary manner, into Us and Them, Cowboys and Indians, Hero and Villain, Friend and Foe... whilst all the time missing the point that the ultimate struggle is within the human mind.

Freedom from Fear

Psychologists suggest that there is something within the human psyche that needs to fear, that wants to fear. Just look at the huge success of terror stories, movies, images, Stephen King novels and the way that the media realizes that their global audience laps up fear and sensationalism about terror. One common thread throughout all the pagan forerunners of the 'personal satan' idea is that the pagan concepts all involved the generation of fear and terror. True Christianity "casts out" such fear (1 Jn. 4:18). So many control systems have played upon fear of the devil - to bring children into subdued obedience, flocks into submission to pastors, etc. This is not how God works; He isn't a psychological manipulator. "For fear has torment" (1 Jn. 4:18), and this is exactly what true understanding of the cross of Christ saves us from. And yet it could be said that humanity is increasingly addicted to fear. People may mock fearing a Loch Ness monster, werewolves, funny sounds at night... but they still buy in big time to fearing a personal Devil. There's something in people that wants to fear something; that just loves the popular idea of a personal Satan.

A Final Appeal

I would have failed my readership if I left you with an invitation to merely repress your sinful desires in a kind of clinical, legalistic way. By repressing our destructive feelings, we can end up creating a negative force within us which bursts out at times. An example would be the highly self-controlled Christian who at times gives vent to their aggression in screaming fits against their partner or co-worker, over a totally minor issue. Those repressed feelings don't just disappear because they're repressed- they can lead to anything from stomach ulcers to self-hatred. Solzhenitsyn again: "In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousandfold in the future".

The answer involves a complete submission to the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Master, and believing and acting as if we are "in Christ", with His righteousness and personality counted to us in what Paul calls 'imputed righteousness'. Our self-perception changes, so that, although we sin, we perceive ourselves as being "in Christ", acting as He acted, thinking as He thought. Paul speaks in Romans 7 of his miserable failure at self-control and repression of sin, explaining how he simply couldn't repress what was wrong because it was too strong... and he goes on in Romans 8 to thank God that the way of escape was through being "in Christ" and having the mind / spirit / indwelling personality of the Lord Jesus. And all this is in the context of his appeal in Romans 6 for us to understand baptism as a yielding of ourselves to Christ personally, "crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is justified [freed] from sin... even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ... for sin shall not have dominion over you... being then made free from sin, you come the servants of righteousness...

but now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, you have your fruit unto holiness, and the end - eternal life".

Duncan Heaster

Note: This is extracted from Duncan's forthcoming book, The Real Devil. You can read and order it online at www.realdevil.info.

News from Africa

news from cameroon

MUTENGE

Many thanks for updating Gospel News web-site, I find it very easy now to read the articles and news from Brethren and Sisters worldwide. More so Carelinks web-site helps me to get articles to prepare exhortations. Special encouragement goes to our Brethren in the Arab world, despite persecution they still remain strong.

Bro Constantine Fonkem

You are welcome to read Gospel News online at <http://www.carelinks.net/pastissues.htm> And you can see our French literature at <http://www.carelinks.net/French.html> You are welcome to translate anything into your local language to be posted on this site.

There are so many religions in the world because after the death of Jesus and his apostles wrong teaching entered the Christian congregations and drew believers to follow them instead of Christ (Matt.7v15-20, Act 20 v29-30). How can we identify a true religion? True religion is where the Christians of that group have real love among themselves (John 13v34-35.1John, ch.4 v20.21).They have deep respect for the Bible and they believe what it says (Jn 17v17, 2 Tim.3vs16-17).They treat God's words as being more important than human ideals or customs. They try to live by the Bible in their everyday life. They don't preach one thing and practice another (Titus ch.1v15-16).True religion must honour God's name (Matt.6v.9). True religion must preach about God's Kingdom (Luke .8v1). Jesus always talked about God's Kingdom. True religion must believe that only God's Kingdom will bring peace and security to this sinful world (Ps146).

Bro Nicolas Menjuah

The arrival of the parcel of books could not have been more timely. It arrived during the visit of the Brethren from the UK, Bre. Andrew Walker and Ian Fifield. They interviewed and found three people prepared for baptism in the remote village of Buweh where the books, Where There Is No Doctor and Where Women Have No Doctor are very valuable. We have three new babies there, by names Bro MUGEH and his wife Sis MONICA and Bro NGWA JOHN. Sadly we regret the falling asleep of Bro Nkeng Charles formerly of the CBM school for the Blind and Handicapped. He was a Brother indeed. May our Lord reunite us at his return.

MUYUKA

We are delighted to thank the Brethren and Sisters of the Muyenge ecclesia who visited us for our end of year mini Bible School. Everything went well. We had some talks from Bro Kenneth Mbah with the piggery he has built, but alas he can not afford to buy a pig for it.

Bre George, Martin and Thomas of Muyenge and Muyuka ecclesias. This day is marked as one of the greatest witnessed by our ecclesia.

Bro Romanus Akamin

news from ghana

AGOGO

I am still jobless even though I have been searching for employment ceaselessly, but all to no avail, and this problem makes life very difficult and uncertain for me. Even accommodation is becoming a problem since we were ejected from our late father's family house. I will appreciate it very much if you will not deny me your help and ecclesia's prayers. Bro. William Aboagye

WINNEBA

I have much pleasure in thanking you for the great love which you all have towards me in my walk in the Truth. I am sorry that I have delayed in writing to you for some time now, all due to my health and my eyesight. The Gospel News is interesting and gives me joy after reading through it. I hope the books will help me to increase my faith, I hope to have more such books etc. I am living in my home town Senya Beraku via Winneba in complete isolation and I am appealing to all to strengthen my lonely walk by writing uplifting, instructive letters to me and also sending me exhortations. May we all hold fast in the last days before our Lord's coming by fighting a good fight and running a good race and waiting patiently for the Lord, and hear from his lips those beautiful words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord." So come Lord. Until I hear from you it is goodbye, keep fit and may God bless you all.

Bro. John Dadzie

news from kenya

BONDO

In Kenya last year many people were blessed by the rains, giving us a good harvest which we hope will last until this year's harvest, should the Lord remain away. The rains of last year make me recall the book of Proverbs which says that the Lord brings rain as a blessing, but sometimes as a punishment. Recently we have seen war happenings in the Middle East between Israel and the surrounding countries of Lebanon and Palestine, and this causes me to think of the prophecies from Ezekiel chapters 36-38 and other chapters from the Scriptures. These are clear signs to us to watch, for our redemption draws nearer than when we were first baptised.

Bro. Raphael Joni Aimo

By the medium of this correspondence, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all brethren and sisters in our Master, Jesus Christ, whom we expect soon. I appreciate the Gospel News which is assisting so many, helping us to recognise the closeness and feeling of fellowship which we have. We had our area Bible School, it was really great, giving us many impressions which we

can't express in words – our hearts are full of happiness. The whole Bible School was amazing.
Bro. Vincent Odhiambo

BULIMBO

I salute you in the Name of our Lord Jesus, hoping that you are strong in our striving for salvation. Here in Kenya we are fine and fighting the good fight for our Saviour Jesus Christ in proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. The last Gospel News helped to strengthen my faith.

Bro. Emmanuel Joumer

BUNGOMA

We believe that with us you are striving to be counted among those saints who will be found worthy to reign with Christ when he comes to establish his kingdom on this earth. Bible Basics has shown people a right way to live and has turned many from their wrong ways to follow Christ. In Daniel 12:3 we see that the wise who lead others to righteousness will shine as the heavenly stars. By the work of preaching people have come to know the true living, Father and the Son Jesus, whom they should worship and praise during their lives. May this work continue, to bring many to salvation as we read in Rev. 22:12-14. Jesus is coming soon to reward each according to their works. May our Lord grant mercy upon you and all our brothers and sisters who help us by sending books and magazines.

Bro Boniface and Irene Juma

The picture shows: from right Bro. Boniface Juma, followed by his son Hamphrey Nyongesa, Mercylyne Juma and on left Mrs. Irene Juma.

I wish to thank you for your support in helping people to change their lives. Here in Kenya, especially in my division, many people have found the Truth because of the books you have been sending.

Bro. Anadetus Konje Khaemba

Loving greetings to all in the bonds of our One Hope in Christ Jesus. Many thanks for your letter, Gospel News and the two booklets that you sent me, which really encouraged me. I would like the Bible Reading Calendar for 2007 and the book of Revision Studies for the Baptism course. I possess a Bible which is not complete, so I would also appreciate your help with a Bible.

Another year has passed and has brought us one step closer to the appointed day when God will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained, who when he comes will not be alone. There will be a multitude who have become heirs of salvation, having walked in Jesus' ways and been given the honour that pertains to the saints of assisting with the judgements prophesied. As present days become more evil, those who love the Truth yearn more earnestly for Christ's return. The danger of these troubled times is of becoming weary and losing that ardent fervour – to count continued absence of the Lord as delay. It is not delay, for that day is appointed. A set time is decreed. We must bear patiently the remaining days, redeeming them in the pursuit of working out our salvation and not be caught unawares, for 'he that shall come, most assuredly will come'. God has 'fixed a day in which He will judge the whole world with justice by means of that man He has chosen, and He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:30-31) The apostle Peter helps us, 'What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming' (2Peter 3:11,12).

George Maina Wabwile

Above is the photograph of the Brethren at a meeting. Standing from left, Bro. Eric Wamalwa, Martin Sikuku, Solomon Simiyu,; Benson Wekesa, Gilbert Wanjala, Juliors Sangura, David Wekesa, Martin Barasa, Joch Barosa, Alex Wanjalar, George Mourio,. Sitting line from right: Wycliffe Wekesa, Aggrey Kasili, and two friends.

CHWELE

Thank you very much for sending us Gospel News and some pamphlets, they are really encouraging us. We learn about the Word of God and what is happening around the world. We wish also to let you know that we are very happy at the way you are doing this work.

Bro. Patrick and Join Sawa

GISAMBAI

I request you to kindly send me ten Kiswahili Bible Basics. As you know some Brothers and Sisters in our Ecclesia do not understand English, this is why I am making this request.

Bro. Solomon Abukira

We have received copies of Bible Basics and other literature. I and my Ecclesia are very thankful for your services. A book called "Where There Is No Doctor" would be of great use to us here, and we hope you will be able to send it. Please continue to send us any other useful literature for our Scriptural upbuilding.

Bro. Ernest Lavuna.

ISHIARA

I am fine here together with the rest of the family, hoping and looking above for we are aware that our Saviour Jesus Christ is near. He suffered on the cross for our sins, fulfilling Gen.3:15. to redeem the sinful flesh of man to everlasting life. This is why we are all standing in one hope (hope of Israel), waiting for Jesus to 'establish His Kingdom with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.' So we are praying our Lord God to remember all of us, that we may meet in that Kingdom. Finally, I am thankful to have received reading glasses which have helped me greatly, and the King James Bible which also helped us, for we had a problem. May you continue to remember us in prayers.

Sis. Caroline K. Aphaxard

KAKAMEGA

I wish to request further material refuting the 'Da Vinci Code'. I also need 'Where Women Have no Doctor.' I am dealing with a group of women from a rural part and I can assure you the book will be put to good use.

Bro. Gibson A. Azere

KAPTAMA

We have been continuing to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God here at Kaptama Mt. Elgon since the year 1997 until now and baptised many. But what I'm requesting is that you to assist us spiritually because we lack Christadelphian literature and also Gospel News for encouragement and guidance. We have many places to go to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, but here in Kenya we must sacrifice ourselves even if we stay in a poor life. God's reward is great for His faithful, as Jesus told his disciples, 'he who endures to the end shall be saved' (Matt.24:13). I appeal to the brothers, sisters and youths everywhere to arise and preach the gospel and live a spiritual life, as the return of our Lord is at

hand.

Bro. Moses Borter

KITALI

We're happy to receive Gospel News. Could you please send the book entitled Mwalimu Wa Kristadelphian, which will help our friends who are ready for baptism – ten in number. Also we kindly ask for 20 copies of the Bible Companion and the address of CIL. This we hope will help us to request Sunday School material.

Bro. Martin Chemiati

KITWE

Thank you for the literature which I enjoyed reading. I would be glad if you could please send me 'The Death of the Cross' 'Jehovah's Witnesses, their Doctrines Briefly Tested by Scripture' 'How to grow a Balanced Diet' and 'Do You Believe in a Devil?' booklets. Furthermore, I thank you very much for sending me Middle East Crisis leaflets, as they have given me a clear picture of the situation in which our brethren and sisters stand. We pray our Heavenly Father to soon send His beloved Son to deal with the problems the world is facing.

I am desperately in need of exhortation papers and would like to start Bible Basics lessons with others. My wife is very eager to learn, but in our local language (Bemba). I pray that in the near future there will be lessons in our own local language. We join our hands with my family to pass our heartfelt love to you all. Come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Bro. Willies Simbowe

KWALE

I'm happy to send you this letter to inform you that I am grateful for your assistance to my life. You have helped me with some books like Gospel News, which make me stronger in my belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm a Sister baptised in June 2005. I beg you to kindly assist me with Bible Basics so that I can understand more of the word of God. Your books are very good guidance in Bible study. *Sis. Lydia Maingi*

LOITOKTOK

I write you this letter full of joy in whatever circumstance I find myself, since the book of James tells me to count it joy whenever I face trials, knowing that it is for a short time, and the times we are in are the last days just before the return of Christ, when he will restore order in this troubled world.

I say thank you for the book 'Legalism v/s Faith' as this has assisted me so much in my everyday work, since I can just start from chapter one and have something to tell those who buy my drawings. I had never ever thought or considered the fact that many of Jesus' healings were done on a Sabbath day, but through this book, together with my Bible, it helps me make sense and accuracy in whatever I say and preach.

I have been ill due to Malaria for the last month, but now I am recovered and have regained my health. I have been well informed with Gospel News and very soon I am to go to Tanzania in the hope that I will locate my brothers at Arusha Ecclesia.

Looking at Bible Basics, on page 169 there is a photograph of the snake and the brain of a human being: does it have another meaning apart from what happened in Genesis chapter 3:15? If so, I would be glad to know, i.e. the enmity of the seed of the woman and that of the

serpent. Thank you once again for the literature I have been receiving, and I would be glad to have any other which you feel would help me, e.g. the Statement of Faith. Greet all those who write to you with the hope that one day we shall meet, either in this present troubled world, or in the Kingdom for which we wait.

Bro. Peter Thuo

MAKHONGE

Thank you very much for the wonderful work we have seen you doing in the Lord's Vineyard here in our ecclesia; we enjoy reading the Gospel News magazine and other books you have sent to many of us. Manasseh is my son. About myself, I am a member of Makhonge ecclesia. I am 66 years old and I was baptised in 1981 after I had been a Bible student for some time. Initially, I was a member of an Evangelical group, but the Christadelphian doctrines shed more light to me when I accepted the faith. I am a farmer by occupation. I grow such crops as maize, beans, sunflowers and others in my small garden and farm.

Bro. William Wamamili Buyela

We really appreciate your efforts and generosity in supplying varied literature to enable us to grow spiritually and morally. We are also grateful for the English programme that you have just introduced to our ecclesia. Bro. David lent us a copy and it is so good. Actually, you have killed two birds with one stone: we are able to read and speak English and read the whole of Mark's Gospel too. For those of us who did not get the opportunity to join Colleges and University because of lack of money for school fees, we now have a golden opportunity to learn and advance in English. We would request that, if possible, the programme should be on a continuous basis in our ecclesia. We want the Sisters to learn English grammar and participate fully in the Gospel News, just as the brothers are doing.

Bro. Manasseh and Sis Doricus Wamamili.

Bethren and Sisters after the Memorial Service at Makhonge

MIWANI

We are happy to inform all our brothers and sisters worldwide of the baptisms of Bro Marcelus Otieno and Sis Darnela Adiyu. Praise the Almighty God.

Thank you very much for the assistance CAT gave us to buy Casava hybrid plants – there will be more reports of this later. Thank you also for the books we received. Could you please send me the name and address of our Linkman?

Bro. Peter and Sis. Jane Omuny

Photo shows Brothers and Sisters of the Miwani Ecclesia, our Sunday School children and friends, after the Memorial Service

NALONDO

The youth today must show forth a greater maturity than any previous generation, for they are called upon to pass through the gravest crisis in the history of the world and they must meet their destiny with faith, steadfastness, assurance and reality!

They can have a hope and promise that brings them to the full measure of their destiny on earth. Learn to live according to spiritual discipline and achieve a new balance in life, a balance that is conducive to heroic deeds and to a state of complete devotion, and strive for true spiritual excellence. Our expectant eyes are fixed on them. Remember that youth can move the world! If each of them arises and fully plays his or her part, the key words are discipline, and deepening devotion. LET THEM NOT LET CHRIST DOWN.

God will test them because the rewards are great, so the tests must also be great. And He will prove their sincerity and they should expect that there will be more difficulties. They are the bearers of the word of God in this day, they have been chosen by Him. Let their life be a sacrifice for Him and so eagerly wait for the second coming of His Son to raise the saints to shine as stars in the firmament. If they are willing and if they are ready, let them just arise and say, 'Here we are. Oh Lord, send us out!' Can they hear? Are they responsible? Do they hear this voice of Jesus? If they do, let them act.

Bro. Moses Wanami

The Creator of heaven of earth, the God of Abraham and Isaac, the Giver of life, is a wonderful Deity who controls the whole universe, (Gen 1 and 2). Initially God loved the earth and the first couple, Adam and Eve. It was not His will that mankind should perish but sin intervened which led to death as a penalty (Gen 3). But God is a loving Father. Mankind has an alternative to death by hearing the gospel, and repentance and confession. That is why God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

Bro Samuel Wanga

Thank you for your recent letter with a book about Jesus, which is very interesting. This actually shows how seriously you are working for the Lord to make sure that both judgement and salvation reaches all responsive creatures on earth. How sorry one will be if he/she has given only ten per cent of their life to God's service, contrary to what was promised at the time of baptism. We should remember that it wasn't an agreement made between us and whoever interviewed us, but it was with God.

We have tried to sacrifice ourselves for God's work by sharing spiritual meals with brethren from within our ecclesia and from distant places. For instance, Bro. Moses Borter from Kaptama Ecclesia Bro Andrew Wangila from Nyasi Farm Ecclesia. Bro. Laban and I, both from Nalondo Ecclesia., paid a visit to Sis Wereah Murunga at Kilingani where we enjoyed a Bible discussion with her family, starting from the moment we arrived at 4.00 p.m. to midnight. We rested until morning. After breakfast, they accompanied us to Lurambi where the Bible study was held. We shared scripture with brothers and sisters both from within our ecclesia and those far away. Actually, the day was successful. We parted at around 3.00 p.m. in peace We were very grateful to learn that you have extended your Gospel work to those places which are very far from where we stay. Many of them witnessed how you have enriched them with Bible literature.

We thank God for a Bible study held at Nalondo Ecclesia where two from Nalondo were baptised - Carolyne Nafula and Claire Nanjala are now Sisters with us in Christ. We also thank God for a recent invitation to give sound doctrine to a Pentecostal church at Bukembe. where Bro Laban and I went with two friends, who we are hoping to baptise soon. Bro. Laban spoke about worldliness and I spoke about the Kingdom of God which is to be on earth for fulfilment of scripture prophecy. Indeed, the message was challenging and amazing for them as it was totally different from what they believed. Some asked if we had any relationship with Jehovah's Witnesses. We denied that we had any relationship with them, or that we knew their teachings. We are now waiting for their reaction.

How we pray that God will continue caring for us so that we may take the Gospel to all places where He sends us.

Bro. Nimrod and Sis. Caren Masika

NYERI

Christ will be revealed to the nations on the Mount of Olives (Zech. ch.14). "Behold the day of the Lord cometh and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle and the city shall be taken, the houses rifled and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go forth into captivity and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the East, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half toward the south... The Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with him. But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, and there will be no day nor night. And it shall be in that day that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, half of them towards the former sea and half of them towards the hinder sea; in summer and in winter shall it be".

Rev. 21:3 says, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men. And He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people; and God himself shall be with them and be their God, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes". When Jesus taught about the last days he said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away. Take heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:20-37). No-one knows the day or hour when Jesus will come back to the earth, but we are told to watch. Brethren and sisters, we should watch while reading the Bible daily. Thank you all for your work in printing and sending the Gospel News, the Bible Missionary and Glad Tidings magazines. With the love of God and Christ, you will be helped in this work. Also we pray that this work may continue with our Father's blessing, so that when the word reaches us it will build us up spiritually and we may have understanding. We in Nyeri are glad when we see pictures of different places and we feel happy when reading and seeing brethren and sisters in different countries. God will help each of us to understand His Word. We are still striving to meet Jesus Christ on his return, for the time is at hand.

Sis. Helen Njeri

Since February last year, our post office box was closed, for it was not paid. But after struggling with hard problems God helped Sister Helen with money so she paid the rent of the box last month. Now we have received Gospel News and also some letters from abroad, and the Bible Missionary magazines. Thank you all.

Bro. Alex K. Mwaniki

SINDO

I was filled with great joy to receive your parcel of books. I paid only seventy shillings Kenyan money, but what I gained is more valuable, as it is information about life in our Saviour Jesus Christ and how we can protect and maintain our health, and earn our living, preparing ourselves to welcome King Jesus to take over the kingdoms of this earth. Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one thanked him for the miracle. The books I received with God's love, and I thank you.

Bro. John Owalo Onani

SONGHOR

Thank you very much for the good work done since you started it years back and supplying Gospel New. I have enclosed a photo of the Songhor Ecclesia at their Memorial Service held one

fine Sunday morning.

Bro. Alex Abuya

Charity is dying and the world is cold. The only heat that may really warm it before it destroys itself is the word of God and the faith that Christ is soon coming.

Charity is dying and the world is cold: cold with the hatred that brother kills brother. In many parts of the world, men kill men like themselves, the earth cries out in fear and trembling and abhorrence at having to absorb once more the blood shed by the likes of Cain. Charity is dying and the

world is cold. Cold with a lot of suspicion and doubt. Men walk in dark fogs that seem to rise from nowhere but in reality are everywhere. Fogs distort reality and make the real seem unreal. They bring the suspicion and doubt because they bring fear. Fear that blocks out intellect and imagination and makes people neurotic. All this is happening because charity is dying. But why is charity dying? What is charity? CHARITY IS LOVE. And God is love. Charity is dying in the heart of men because they refuse the love of God. In fact they refuse God Himself. They reject Him. Some say they have no need of Him and can live without Him. Some say that God does not exist and has never existed. Charity can be resurrected in the hearts of men if only they will stop and think about love and God. The incredible and true fact is that God loved them first and all they have to do to banish strife, wars, atomic bombs, is to begin to love Him back. Then the light and fire of charity will be so immense that no one will hate his brother.

Bro George Ndiege

SUNA – MIGORI

Thank you for your letter. My only problem is my hearing. We arranged with a Brother when we were at the Nairobi Conference for him to send me money to buy a hearing aid after receiving a letter from the doctor. But after I had sent the letter he referred me to another Brother, but nothing materialised. So I have problems when we gather to hear the Word. Also, my difficulty did not come as a result of meningitis, as stated, but when I was injected with quinine, this affected my hearing. That is why doctors referred me to get that type of hearing aid to help me.

Bro. Samwel Masara

Comment: Whilst not all hearing aids can be used by others, we would like to have any that are surplus, as it may be they may help others with hearing problems. It's worth trying.
MH

Me, my family and ecclesial members are all fine and greet everyone wherever you are toiling in the Master's vineyard. I am very grateful to CAT. for the various publications and ask you to continue with the good work. All these are a sign of the work of the all powerful God who has made us one big family. Disease, ignorance and poverty continue to plague developing nations in the world. Thanks to God who has enabled medical research, which takes many years to develop remedies for some of our common ailments. In medical sociology disease is a deviation from the norm. Definitely this deviation started at the Garden of Eden, where our first parents rebelled (Gen 3:1-11). It was accelerated at the Tower of Babel where languages were confounded (Gen. 11:1).

The Scriptures hold answers to the prevailing ailing situation in the world, beyond any reasonable doubt. Such disasters as the pictures in our papers of earthquakes and volcanoes are clear indications of what is written in 2 Tim3:1-5. 'But mark this, there will be terrible times in the last days, the days preceding the coming of Jesus Christ. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous; without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the

good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Bro. Joseph Onyango

WEBUYE

We fervently continue sowing the seed of the Kingdom in a more organised way since 2005. Our present service area is Mt. Elgon and its environs. One brother and two Sisters were baptised in May this year. One of the sisters, Sis Florence Wasike, is aged 63 years, but can read and understand our Christadelphian literature. We are out of stock of books and booklets on the Truth and would appreciate any assistance.

Bro. Shawn Tyler

news from malawi

CHIKWAWA

Gospel News helps and interests me, it also links brothers and sisters together worldwide as one family. You may send me Bible Basics in Chichewa and the book entitled "Teach me Thy Way

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and ask for the old paths, where are the good ways, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16). Brothers, only a Bible is a crossroads where we can stand and ask for the ancient paths because there are so many books and local Christian beliefs which are not following the true Bible teachings. So we should not let this Book depart from our mouth and we should meditate upon it day and night so that we may be careful to do everything written in it" (Joshua 1:8). A good sign of the true Christian is one who daily practices love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance; against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22).

Bro. Robert Folley

CHITALA

In Matthew 24:24 Jesus warned that false Christs and false prophets will arise. We had our own 'Christ' somewhere in Blantyre in the name of Matiki. He claimed that he was Jesus Christ and had a set of disciples, one of whom had the name of Simon Peter. A mob of youths wanted to lynch him for blasphemy! The police saved him. If this is not an indicator of the last days, I wonder what is.

Bro. Robert Folley's family

Sister Muriel Whitaker sent me video tapes: 1. Conflict in the Middle East. 2. Bible Prophecy is reliable. If you have any other tapes on the Truth please dispatch them. I recently acquired a power generator to complement the solar power supply I have so I can screen tapes as often and as long as needed.

Bro. Ignatius Maluwa

DOMASI

Please keep sending the magazine because it will help me a lot. My hope is to know more about the Holy Book but I cannot unless someone helps me. If possible please send me the book,

Bible Basics, to help me with understanding the gospel.

Bro. Mkwaira

Photo. – Bro. Bernard Kawonga

JALI

I would like to thank you for the present of the Bible you sent me. This is a most wonderful thing which other people cannot do. I received it with great pleasure as it will help my spiritual life to grow well. Warmest greetings in Jesus Christ to all Brothers and Sisters there in U.K.

Bro. Robert Mapersa

Here at my home there are some who want to have the Chichewa Bible Basics if possible. There are newly up coming seeds who are ready to

Basics if possible. There are newly up coming seeds who are ready to become Christadelphian members so I am happy because the house of God is now growing here. So let us pray together because the Lord is coming soon, Isaiah 21:11-12. But who will enter the Kingdom of God. Wake up brothers, we are living in the last days of the coming of Jesus as it is written, Matt. 22:4-14.

Bro. Lucky F. Mbalale

LILONGWE

I am still having problems with my right eye and an operation is the only solution. Also I am concerned I may also lose the sight in the good eye and that will be the end of Bible reading. Now it is the rain season here in Malawi and we have been blessed with rains. We have all the hope this time that God will keep us alive and in good health.

Bro. Clifford Mtisau

I would like to request the following literature – The Judgement to come, Do Christians Need Prophets? 10 Bible calendars 2007 and a Bible in Chichewa or English. I hope that you can send me the required literature. Thank you very much. May the Heavenly Father bless you all in His service.

Bro. Henderson Sosola.

LIWONDE

I enjoy reading the Bible and Gospel News every day. Thanks to CAT for arranging to send me nine books which I enjoy very much and I need more books like those. Please provide me with a glass sometime as my eye is not working much; the size of glass I need is 2.5. We have opened a new ecclesia here at home and we need more materials.

Bro. G. Michael

MIGOWI

One day I was coming from Mozambique with my younger brother. As we were about to reach the Migration my brother's bicycle broke down – eighteen spokes were uprooted. I was very sorry since we had no money for repair. While we were surprised at what to do with the broken bicycle a certain lady got to where we had laid our bicycles. She asked what had happened with the bicycle. "Eighteen spokes have uprooted due to the bump," I replied. She sympathetically urged us to have a sleep at her house since it was night. We were very much obliged for what God had done for us through that lady. I sat down and prayed for such kindness.

Bro Symon Wanyekheya

MWANZA

Whilst some have moved on there are still ten Brethren and Sisters in the instruction and a good number of Sunday School Children. We are in need of some French or Swahili Hymn books.

NENO

I was to have retired age this coming November from the Ministry of Health, but the government has increased the retirement age, so I have five more years to go. We were to retire at the age of 55 but now the government says we are to retire at the age of 60. So if God wills I will be 60 in 2011.

Bro. A.D. Liwawa

SALIMA

I am trying to make necessary arrangements to liaise with the authorities of Chitala Farm Institute so that they may allow me access to their hall for conducting Sunday School prayer services, but first I am endeavouring to hold a two-day Bible Seminar with Bro George and Bro Emmanuel from South Africa as he is used to visiting us once or twice every year. I will come back later to inform you the way forward for our programmes as soon as possible. Thanks for the box of Bible Basics and a copy of Wrested Scriptures. Hence there are already 13 students registered. I see the shocking news concerning the Middle East crisis; it gives me hope and I am sure the prophecies are being fulfilled by the these events.

Bro. Austin Nyirenda

Bro. Venancion Malata Phiri at Zambezi Ecclesia

THYOLO

I write to ask if you could grant me a book with stories of Israel. I am lacking this kind of information; if possible send it in English or Chichewa language.

Bro. Duncan S. Matthews

ULONGWE

First and foremost I thank you for Gospel News. It is very useful to us isolated members, it encourages us to read and write when we read articles by our fellow brothers and sisters from all over the world. With Gospel News we learn how the gospel message is spreading throughout the world and it contains some uplifting and spiritual articles and testimonies. With the help of our prayers God will ever open our eyes to His precious truth as we eagerly and earnestly wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus. We do not know the day nor the hour of his return, but surely natural political and economic troubles, allied to the continually increasing pollution and degradation of the earth, plus the instability caused by instant world-wide communication, demonstrates that the final hour is near. Let us keep watching for him, endeavouring to live holy lives in all godliness and honesty, aiming to grow like our Lord and bearing in mind that our faith must be shown in what we do (Matt. 25:34-40). My wife and a daughter have been in hospital for a month now. My wife is suffering from a disease called Vericella, which is a disease which looks like measles but is not. My daughter is suffering from malaria. I beg you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me so that this problem may pass over for me. May God bless you all.

Outside the Mangombo hall

Front row: Lidia Petro, Edson Makwecha and Be trice Maonga

Back row: John Petro, Ane Mtukwanika, Patuma Petro, Joyce John and Jenipher Joseph

I am so pleased to announce the baptism of some brothers and sisters right here at Mangombo ecclesia. There are four sisters and two brothers who have entered into the family of Abraham and their names are: Peter Robert, Daniel Jackson, Rose Mleso, Pauline Jailos, Jenipher Joseph and (Lucia) Lusiya Jossam. May we pray for them that their faith will be strengthened.

Thank you for 'Where Women have no Doctor'; I find it very helpful to use and it will help us in our community, especially women. I have to inform you that my wife is ill in hospital with TB and I beg you as my brothers and sisters to pray for her that she may recover as soon as possible. Your prayers will help us in our family and will bless you all.

Bro. Edson Makwecha

news from mozambique

This is to report that, Bro Kishobero LucTubalole has attended Bible studies and has been interviewed and baptized by Bre.Adamson Sikelo and Bernardo at Nampula, -Mozambique. Bro.Kishobero is a qualified medical assistant, who is searching for a job opportunity

news from nigeria

ABA

It gives me joy reading about my brethren and sisters all over the world, even as you have been helping our brethren and sisters with low income per annum. I remember you in my prayers. I always pray that

God will strenghten you in your good works. We are all fine here in Aba and anxiously waiting for the return of our great King this year.

Sis Josephine N.W. Onwuchekwa,.

KADUNA

I must not fail to confess that I have been enjoying the Gospel News magazine through Bro. Tony Coker and Sis. Joy Amuchi whom I united in marriage at the CYC camp meeting in Enugu in April last year. The Gospel News has made me know how closely related we are in the Truth and to always feel at home as if we are all living in the neighbourhood, though far and near. Moreover, compliments for the wonderful work well done on the Bible Basics. Please kindly send me two copies, one for myself and one I wish to place in the Kaduna State Library for the benefit of those who may care for the Truth. May the blessings of Yahweh be upon you all who are the instrument through which the gospel is being propagated in these last days.

Bro. Frank Onyemaechi

Recently baptized

Sisters at Aba

A Letter from Bible Education Centre

CAT has been very kind to us at the Yeoville Bible Education Centre in sending us materials.

We want to say how much we appreciate those kind gifts and to give you some news about how

they are being used.

The range of Bible Basics in several languages are now on display, and visitors are impressed with how well the meeting room is stocked. The BEC has two large rooms, and one of them is large enough to have three divisions in it – one for study, one for group discussions (our weekly Bible class for example), and one is a lounge for relaxation in. We have recently been able to afford some display and glass-fronted cupboards and it is these that display the books you have sent. It means that visitors can browse and decide to borrow, purchase, or be given what they see. And we gladly give away appropriate copies of Bible Basics. Your thoughtfulness in sending us a stock of French BBs has enhanced our work there. Bro Martin Munyangai, a Congolese Brother, has been appointed full-time “Education Director”, and he is able to help his Congolese friends with materials in French.

The Calendars have been distributed, firstly to Bre and Sis, but now as classes are restarting to our local visitors. We have put a welcome letter inside each, inviting those who take up the godly discipline of daily

SOUTH AFRICA

readings to let us know and we will form a group to encourage one another.

Because we believe that interest is most effective and long lasting if it is by word of mouth the BEC is taking a little while to take off, but the growth is sure. (We do, of course, also advertise by bill-distribution and newspaper adverts, but that is limited.) Because we also believe that we should be self-sufficient, we have not done the usual appeal to many ecclesias, as we are of the opinion that such appeals can sometimes reduce the personal commitment, especially financially. That does not mean that we do not accept gifts, and yours, as well as the monetary gifts from visitors, are gladly received and made good use of.

Duncan and Cindy’s visit and subsequent article were a great encouragement, and we love to have visitors – if you both would like to visit Johannesburg we would make you most welcome, and we would love to have you as guests. Meanwhile we send our love in Christ Jesus to you all, from those who are running the Yeoville BEC with us. Bro Leon and Sister Joan Shuker, 1008 Agulhas, Kirby Road, Bedford Gardens 2007, South Africa.

news from tanzania

KASULU

I would like to write so much and read but sometimes I do not do what I want to do because I live in an isolated area. In this camp there is no e-mail address or any electronics address except the network of the mobile phone, which I have no possibility of having or buying. I am a learner of the English language here. We are ten people who want to know more how to speak, read and write English very much and we request you to ask for someone or some groups or teachers who can send us books of English like the dictionary of English/French and the English correspondence course. We would be very grateful to know how to speak the English language. *Bro. Wilonja R. Lewis*. Nyarugusu Camp, Village C 3, CL4, PL13, CBM Box 331, Kasulu (Kigoma)

KIGOMA

In Tanzania only 20% understand English and 80% Swahili and so literature in Swahili is much appreciated.

Bro. Edward Musabaha

Photo:

Edward Musabaha, Peter Musabaha, Furaha Edward

LUGUFU 1

We thank our Heavenly Father that we had a nice time holding a Fraternal gathering at our Ecclesial hall attended by 43 (Christadelphians and individuals from the Pentecostal church and Seventh Day Adventist church) around God's Word. The subjects and speakers were:

1. God and Death Anzuluni Makutano

2. Satan and Devil

Bro. Alexandre Lukye

3. The Kingdom of God on earth

Bro. Wabene Ikola

4. Christadelphian Marriage

Fungamali Bulukwe

It is a delight that our non-Christadelphian visitors have seen and understand how far they are astray from Bible Truth. Of course it is a thing for which we always give thanks to our Most High God for His great mercy in enabling you brethren from far and near to help us discover and understand the true hope of life eternal contained in the Bible. It is for that we are confident Christadelphians, so we make it our goal to please God until the return of the Lord. We send our sincere love and thanks particularly to brethren Tim Evans, S. Mike Harris, Ray J. Morse, Marcus Heaster, Steve Stewart, David Emerson, Ron Kidd, Chris Sales, Gordon MacFarlane and Sis. Jo Cottrell for their regular effort of strengthening us in the Truth. Also we thank members of Lugufu ecclesia for their contributions.

Bro. Isodore E. Mwibeleca, Secretary

Bro. Jerome Bukambo and family

Here at Lugufu Camp we face more difficulties and trials. My thanks to our Brethren and Sisters worldwide who remember us in the Word of God, because when someone leaves his country for another country there are more difficulties to be faced. When I read Genesis ch. 39 - 40, I remember the moving story which we enjoy reading. Added to this, we are impressed with the faith and godly life of Joseph when faced with trials of life. His faith is clearly seen when he was about to die in Egypt (read Gen 50v24-26) For us, we pray that we might have this same faith in the Word of God that in all trials and difficulties we might pray to God in faith and God will save us and all trials will end when our Lord Jesus returns to set up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Bro. Amnobe Iyungu

We are glad to send you our ecclesial hall photograph and the following news to print in the Gospel News magazine. We have constructed our hall but we lack paint for internal walls.

Bre. Rehani Pascal, Isidore Mwibeleca, Amnobe Iyungu

MBEYA

With sadness I report the falling asleep of our beloved Brother Kingdom Mwakiswalele. He is now asleep in our Lord Jesus waiting for the glorious resurrection at the second advent of our Master. God willing, I expect to have a trip to a friend in Malawi. I got some CDs for exhortations from GPL. Publications in Australia so I am going to listen to them there for my friend has a computer which is better than a DVD player. Christadelphians are the custodians of the whole truth found in the Word of God. I am very proud of it. Brother, here at our ecclesia we are badly in need of clothes. Would you kindly send some for us; we are thirteen members – three are sisters. I hope you will kindly consider our request, God willing. Lastly, but not least, I thank you for all the generous things you offer to us, plus the good job you are doing in His vineyard by enlightening the world through literature, books and other ways, may God bless you.

Bro. James Mwangomo

Above: Construction of Lugufu 1 Ecclesial Hall.

Below: Lugufu 1 Fraternal Gathering

MUSOMA

I am very happy to read from Gospel News, the Musoma news which was so good and that a Brother from England, who I wrote to three years back could remember me and the names of the children. He managed to send me a letter again which I received today, and I will write back to him. My son Kevin passed his examinations and he is supposed to join secondary school this year. Musoma is doing well and they need six Bible reading planners please.

Sis Monica Achieng

SONGEA

I have received four books recently sent to me. One book entitled "At last True Christianity" by Bro Alan Eyre has been donated to Tanzania National Library. The other three have been stocked in our Ecclesia Library at Ndrima-Litembo to which I serve as recording brother. May our Lord bless us. Bro. *Brown Silwani*

TABORA

Thanks a lot for the glasses to help with my sight. When my friends heard that I had become a Christadelphian they showed great interest to getting a lot of information about us.

Bro. Makenga Reveriano

news from uganda

BUSIA

Love is the reason for redemption. Love came first from God and He sent His son into the world. Love cannot be reduced to a law or considered in terms of rights and earnings. Love is above all, beyond mere meeting for bread and wine alone, or greeting brothers and sisters and merely saying "I'll love him/her". Love is above and beyond all other considerations. Love owes nothing to any goodness or merit in us. Love comes from God who is "merciful and gracious". Before you forgive, you must have love. If you forgive and don't forget it means that you haven't really forgiven and have no love.

One of the secrets of the cross is that it is the source of the forgiveness of sins. The cross is not a debt being settled. It is not a substitutionary offering whereby someone is paid a price so that others might go free. No, the cross is a means of forgiveness, and forgiveness is an act of grace, not of rights or earnings in the settlement of a debt. Oh, brothers and sisters! Do you want to be paid or bought before you forgive? If God forgives freely, what about you? Therefore, our understanding of the redemptive work of Jesus our Lord must allow for the full expression of the love of God and His forgiveness.

The blessings of love and forgiveness flow to us through the channel of faith in the message of the gospel of Christ and by God's acceptance of us through Jesus. Forgiveness comes to a believer when he personally seeks and asks for it in the way appointed by God. Forgiveness is certain but is not automatic. There is forgiveness with God, but it is not bestowed on men

without their knowledge and co-operation. Such a thing would be true if redemptions were the erasure of a debt or a substitutionary transaction which had totally removed the necessity for us to seek forgiveness. Forgiveness comes to the man or woman who believes the gospel, repents and is baptised into the name of Christ (Acts 2:38).

Brothers and sisters, are you able to forgive now?

Bro Wilberforce Wandera

BUSWALE

Jesus Christ teaches us that our relationship with the world should be in it but not of it! Throughout history men and women have lived by Jesus' pattern, those who have kept away from the ways of the world.

Noah could have joined the merry-making of his days but instead toiled to build the ark. Moses could have given in to the murmuring of the people and returned with them to Egypt, but he chose to lead them on through the wilderness for forty years. Jeremiah could have avoided a dank, unpleasant prison by ceasing to prophesy. Paul could have avoided many of his hardships and his final imprisonment by ceasing to preach. All these, and many others, provide telling examples of the practical outworking of the commandments.

We need to carefully consider our own positions. All too easily the world can embrace us as we start to let its influence work on us. Around us there are members of other religious groups who take a much stronger stance than we do on many things. It is salutary to ponder whether they are being too extreme or we too loose. It is always more comfortable to take the easy path.

In contrast, the established churches wallow in a mire of uncertainty as they strive to remain MODERN. They profess the need to adapt to changing times, and so such things as divorce, remarriage, homosexuality and ordaining of women are permitted, contrary to the ways of God. Why? Because the world wants them.

Brothers and sisters, remember: God's ways never change. We must follow them for they give us hope. What hope is there in the world?

We are about 26 in the ecclesia, so dear brother, if you can let us have more copies of 'Gospel News' we shall be grateful. Our new address is PO Box 123, Bugiri, Uganda,

Bro Juma Jophta

BUTACHO

. I am happy with the ministry and the work you are doing to supply me with scriptural materials and Gospel News. I have sent some articles via. Bro. Roy Boyd and I am looking forward to seeing them. It has been a long time since you heard from me but it has been due to an unaffordable situation in life, where my brother died and left me with the children and I have just come out of school therefore I cannot manage to care for them. Sometimes the envelopes you send, are not accepted by the local post office.. I have enclosed photos of our Sunday School children. I would like to request Introducing Bible Basics, Bible Basics and some relevant material. Any assistance is highly appreciated and waiting to hear from you soon.

Bro. Erisania Sifuna Mayende

Butacho ecclesia Sunday School with their teacher and Sis. Catherine Mayende after football.

KASESE

Thank you for "Bible Basics for Moslems". "Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the Lord

delivers him in times of trouble” (Psalm 41:1). We have both physical and spiritual weakness because we are created with different abilities, so David calls us to support one another both physically and spiritually, exhort one another and encourage one another as we race to the Kingdom. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because great is your reward awaiting you” Matt.5:3-11 (NIV).

Baptism alone is not enough to take us to the Kingdom, neither our trust in men, nor CBM activities. There is need to encourage the weak in faith, there is need to exhort them in fellowship rather than casting them out of the race to the Kingdom. Not every one who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of God; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt.7:21). The Bible warns us to be careful on that day when many will tell the Lord, “Did we not prophesy in your name and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty works in your name? The Lord will answer, I never knew you” (Matt.7:22-23). Let us always thank the Almighty God through Jesus Christ our Master for His great grace to have set us out of this corrupt world for His work of preaching the true gospel all over the world. Let us do His will on this earth and manifest the life of Jesus in our mortal flesh as we are running our race to the Kingdom soon to come.

Bro. Isaac Bulea Cox

KIGANDALO

I am 34 years old and have 5 children and God has blessed them all, they are still breathing the breath of life. Before I came to the Truth I did many things I should not have done, but I hearkened when God said to me, “Come now, let us reason together, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” So, my dear and beloved brothers and sisters, as persons we are sinful by nature. However God has been so merciful to us and given His only begotten son, Jesus Christ to die, opening up the way of salvation in order to make us clean, that is why it is stated in the Bible that Jesus was pierced for our sins and also bruised for our iniquities. As Christadelphians and as followers of Jesus Christ, let us try very hard indeed to imitate our Lord and be holy, for he is holy. I was glad to hear from you, to receive Gospel News, Signs of the Times and the booklet. We need 10 Kiswahili Bible Basics to use at our Bible study.

Paul, almost anticipating this very question, confidently said: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom.8:18). In other words, the hardships of today are small and insignificant when compared with the glory that will follow later. Paul actually calls the present sufferings, “light affliction” compared to the “eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor.4:17). Jesus responded to Peter’s original question by saying that those who have “left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands” – or, in other words have been prepared to make difficult decisions to follow him – “will receive a hundredfold and inherit eternal life” (Matt.19:29.RSV). So here Jesus assures us that the investment we make now will generate dividends worth “a hundredfold” in the future Kingdom of God! To comfort us even more, Paul informs us that the faithful will receive “an inheritance” (Eph.1:11), when Jesus returns to the earth. What an exciting prospect

– a personal inheritance – given by Jesus, the future King!

Bro. Colin Bwire

LUMINO

I constantly need to strive against the lusts of the flesh to make my life holy before God, and should not allow myself to be discouraged in this by the attitude of those around me. It is wrong to give way to hasty temper. If I have, I must constantly fight to control it. I must always speak the truth; lying is a great evil. The consequences of the serpent's lie in Eden are still with us, Revelation 22:15. All that I do and say should show that I am a disciple of Jesus. I should always be on my guard against denying him (Luke 12:8). I should acknowledge the Father's control in my life by saying "If the Lord will", "God willing" and "By God's grace", Proverbs 3:6. I should keep Jesus always in my mind especially when faced with difficulty. I should ask myself "What would Jesus do?" John 13:15.

In all things I must aim at purity and holiness and so please my Master in heaven. I believe the coming of my Lord is near, and I must live as one who really believes it, Matthew 10:37,38.

Bro Denis Oguttu Ojara

MBARARA

It is quite some time since we last communicated. Even though we are always together and close in spirit as members of the same family of God. The photograph is of one of our old brothers who crossed over to the main fellowship last year. He is Bro James Tibesigwa, attached to Mbarara ecclesia and was baptised in 1993. I hope you received my request for English Bible Basics, we are indeed lacking them in all the ecclesias in the west. The Introducing Bible Basics you said you sent to us has never reached us. Your brother in patient waiting for our Master's return.

Bro. Godwin Mugasi

NEKUKU

It was nice to hear from you in an encouraging spirit in the Lord's Name. We are worried about North Korea and America because of the nuclear weapons; we pray to God so that He decides what to do. The Bible says He is the only God and there is nobody above Him and He brings peace and disaster on earth. Nekuku Ecclesia needs a dictionary, to help us simplify words and avoid arguments as to their meaning.

Bro. Samuel Mukisa

Thanks for Gospel News and other booklets, they expand our knowledge of God. I was baptised on 18th December 2005. Since that time up to now I have found life so interesting in Jesus Christ. I will never join other churches; our doctrines are so very

Bro. Fredrick Wanyami

I was baptised by Brother Paul Boyd who managed to organise my baptism on 26th October 2006 during his visit to Uganda. I am in need of Gospel News since I am a constant brother of Nekuku ecclesia. Brother, please put me on your mailing list so that this magazine will quickly increase my understanding about God and His Kingdom.

Bro. Nelson Wandera

CHILIZABOMBWE

I would like to thank God for enabling me to write this first letter to you to request a regular copy of Gospel News, so that I can have more encouragement. I was baptized in August 2003 by Bro. Glen Mitchell in Chinsali. I was a Sunday School scholar, then I became a student and am now baptised. I am 21 years of age. I have been looking for a job for a long time but have not found one yet.

First of all I need to thank God for having mercy on me to enable me to grow up in His presence and to give me knowledge of knowing Him as my personal Saviour. Some people have no opportunity to know Him, they are wondering without knowing God, most of them are denying the truth and cling to what has no hope. For the world will pass away but the Word of God is from everlasting to everlasting. But for me, I have known the Lord and the Lord knows me; that's why I have to praise Him and I have confidence in the Lord. I must thank Him very much. Let us lift up our heads because redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28). I say to everyone, watch! love one another, do good to everyone. (Rom. 12:9-21, 13:11-14).

Bro. Lemmy Simwawa

CHIBOMBO

I want to inform you that I am no longer part of Mandona Ecclesia in Chinsali having shifted to Chibombo district after Kabwe town.

I hope I won't have to leave this lovely Christian community in Chibombo. Only death will separate me from the Christadelphian community. Problems are everywhere but the only problem I am facing is wages. I am working on a farm but have not been paid since last October. I am married with four children, so there are great problems over spiritual well-being, and even of life. I look forward to brothers and sisters worldwide praying for me to get out of these bad times, as when God delivered the Israelites from slavery. As they rejoiced I look forward to wonderful times.

However, I am not scared with the present sufferings, they will pass, the real sufferings will be in the future for evildoers. I thank God for keeping me alive and strong during all this time and one day God will deliver us all.

Lastly, I ask everyone who is facing similar problems to be humble and pray to God every day and to remain with a pure heart. One day, God will answer our prayers.

Bro Ignatius Chilekwa

KABOMPO

Being without a helper is a state of being alone. Going to the Bible when God created everything so well, He created Adam and saw that it was not good for him to be alone. What was in the mind of God? Wasn't it love? Adam was lonely, God thought of giving him his comforter. How wonderful it is! Do you have one comforter in your life? Many answers can come out of this question. Adam was given one that could help him. He was very happy because Eve was his special gift from his Maker. (Gen. 2:23-25). God set things in His order. God sets the lonely in families (Ps. 68:6). The love of God is so great. The prisoners are led into singing by his power. Do not worry, lonely people. Pray, pray, again and again, for God is our compassionate Father.

Bro. Amos Chikanda

KABWE

I would like to inform you that my Diploma results are out and the Almighty God made it possible for me to get through. I am just waiting to be employed and posted by the Zambian Government.

The problem is nobody knows when we will be put on the pay roll. I hope and pray it doesn't take more than a year, as I can't bear the situation. This year's rainy season is promising; in fact, I am considering going back to the land to keep me busy and have a little to eat, but I barely have anything for seeds and fertilizer.

Bro. Lapulani Malata

KAZEMBE

I have been travelling here and there through circumstances beyond my control. First of all my mother died on 24.09.06 after a short illness and old age of 84 years. From there our third born in our line, had his first born son die on 6,10.06 in Kitwe, Copperbelt, and then the first born in our family, had his first born also pass away in Lusaka on 21.10.06. Therefore all these movements have disturbed my thoughts and my correspondence with you. Last year wasn't mine, but we can just leave everything in the hands of the Almighty God. May God be with you in everything that you are doing, particularly in proclaiming the Word of God.

Bro. James Mwanda Kambobe

Comment. You certainly had a very sad year last year and have the brethren and sisters sympathy and prayers. May our Master comes this year, when all will be made new, for ourselves and eventually for all the world.

KITWE

I have received the booklet on backyard rabbit farming in the tropics and it is a very interesting book and I have learnt more about rabbit farming. For this cause I have constructed at my farm a stable divided into four cages both in trees and bamboo. I hope to start with a few rabbits and gradually build up stock. Feeding them will be no problem for they will be fed with cabbages from the gardens and other vegetables.

Bro. Robert Mpungu Miwele

I first of all wish to ask for the assistance of a Bible with a concordance (NIV). The one I was given is torn due to the fact that I have many students here in my area, and none of them have Bibles. So I lend any student my Bible when they receive lessons from the UK.

Secondly, I wish to put my testimony of how I became a Christadelphian into 'Gospel News'. I am in isolation, am about 78 km from Kitwe ecclesia. I first of all wish to congratulate the

Almighty Lord God for the true gospel He brought to me through Bro Darkwell Mubanga of Garneton. I spent most of my years in OMML Church and used to work as a church elder at Chisungabalanda CMML Church. Bro Darkwell preached the gospel to me but I did not believe him. I was puzzled because Bro Darkwell and I were in the same church, and used to do the same job of Church Preachers.

However, after a long time I started listening to what he used to tell me and came to believe that what he told me was the truth. Then I started lessons. After learning the true basics of the Bible, I left my former church and was baptised. I started sharing the truth of the Bible with others in Chati Forest community where I stay. I have many students who have even started doing the lessons. We have booked a class room at Fibale Middle Basic School where we gather for studies. I do thank Bro Robert Miwele and Bro Alex Mutale who visited us in Chati. My wife Ahatha Sela is baptised.

Bro Samuel Mubanga

KWE KWE

Christ, the spotless lamb of God, was about to present himself as a sin offering, that he would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies. As he ate the Passover with his disciples he instituted in its place the services that were to be the memorial of his sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established was to be observed by his followers in all lands and through all ages. The ordinance of the Lord's supper was given to commemorate the great deliverance wrought out as the result of the death of Christ, till he shall come the second time in power and glory, this is to be celebrated. (1 Cor.11:23-26).

Bro. Raphael Mutoma

LIVINGSTONE

Livingstone Ecclesia is well I would like to thank you for the wonderful work being done. I received the books on the Truth safely and some booklets on production of some exotic vegetables and conservation farming which are very informative and I will put into practice. It was good to hear from you the evidence against the false claim that Jesus had children. It is true that this world is full of troubles. The Bible has good news, we are now walking towards the last days and the return of Jesus Christ is near. I would also be happy if you could send me an English dictionary as I find it very difficult to understand some words and it will help me so much. Please do not give up sending me books as they are so useful and upgrade our living. The book about Abraham, the father of the faithful is very interesting and nice to read and I am sure my ecclesia will learn more about Abraham, thank you so much.

Bro. Caphes Sikanyika

LUSAKA

Thank you for Gospel News in which I found some inspiring passages which encouraged me so much. Last month I went to the Bible School where I met brothers and sisters in Christ; it was the first time I had attended such a big occasion. The other thing is how I am getting inspired by the daily readings. I am the only Christadelphian in a school of approximately 2,000 pupils and am asking for your support. I am doing Grade 10.

Thank you for the book you sent me some weeks ago, I am so happy for your concern to my request, this shows me that you really care about me. Here in Lusaka I am enjoying being with my brethren on a daily basis when we meet together. I would like to inform you, next year God willing, I will be doing Grade 11 and I thank God for protecting me from all kinds of problems that I have gone through during my junior secondary school education.

Bro. Stephen Siamabi

I have moved from my usual address in Kabompo to Lusaka where I have come to pioneer a place for our next settlement. I want to thank you for the book "Legalism vs. Faith". It really taught me many new things on faith and mere hypocritical worship. I know many are in this category, even some Christadelphians fall into it but how do we truly change to the right attitude of our Christianity? Rom. 8:28-31, indeed many are called but few are chosen. Faith really deals with the inside of a person; how many people know themselves in this way? If you belong to Christ then you are Abraham's seed despite race, colour etc. We are at the moment, as a family, in a very difficult time. We are trying to settle in a new place which is the capital city of the country. We are leaving Kabompo because our contract jobs finished. We are praying that our Lord Almighty God may bless us in the name of Jesus Christ. We believe that our former employers may pay us our gratuities so that we can make use of it to start a living in Lusaka.

Bro. Francis Mukabe

MUFULIRA

If you have to contact your brother, can you love him and draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith? Good, but bring your brother to you and work together with him (1 John 2:10,11).

One command is: “Be subject one to another and be clothed with humility” (1 Peter 5:5). And the framework of understanding is in harmony with other apostolic teaching (Ephesians 5:21). Dearly beloved, be of good courage and comfort your souls with the hope of our high reward. Bear the image of Christ in your mortal bodies that at his coming you may be made like his immortal body.

Bro Charles Daka

MUSOKA

So wonderful to hear from you and I want to acknowledge the information you gave me about the goat project which will actually go a long way in helping to sustain our lives and we hope to try it. It is so important to get in touch even if we cannot do or offer anything for brothers or sisters in need of comfort. But to send a letter can in a way give comfort, or if we pray for one another, this, too, is a wonderful personal service for the Lord. Paul keeps reminding us, and we should therefore keep reminding one another, that our work shall not be in vain, (1 Cor. 15:58) and surely one day a reward for good works shall be granted to us if we keep watch, (Luke 12:35-36). We need to do our best so that we can continue doing according to His will and should not forget to thank Him (1 Cor.15:57).

I am always strengthened when I read so much interesting material from you. It is nice to go through your encouraging letters and Gospel News. One of our sisters, Monde Nyambe, is away at college and therefore has a difficult life in isolation, but sometimes when she has extra money she makes it for the Sunday gathering but it is quite costly. I do not know if you can be sending her any literature to read to keep her loneliness away. Her address is Sister Monde Nyambe, Community Development College, Box 660078, Monze, Zambia. She would be happy to hear from you. I am also happy to let you know that I am just sending back marked work for my two students from Kalomo, Imelddah and Mary who have commenced lessons. One of them has asked me for a Tonga Bible, unfortunately I do not have one, I only have an English Bible which I am using. I hope God will always guide us in His glorious work for the coming Kingdom as we grow spiritually on a daily basis.

Bro. Wilfred Chibomba

NDOLA

I am grateful to acknowledge receipt of the important notes on citrus propagation and rootstocks. I currently have a small portion of an orchard with some oranges, lemons, guava, peaches and paw paws which require important technical information on how best to grow them. Similarly I will make a follow up with Mr. Mvula who has sworn willingness to study the Word of God using the Bible Basics as an introductory study.

Bro. Dennis C. Kombe

What is the purpose of God with the Ecclesias “The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” Revelation 3:21,22. Ecclesia(s), church: a body of people, an assembly, a congregation (Acts 7:37,38; 15:14).

Ecclesias need principles which are applied in a spirit of reconciliation and require persistence in Ecclesias to produce fellowship. What is fellowship? It is what we believe together as brothers and sisters throughout the world (Ephesians 4:1-16). As we journey to the Kingdom, let

us help each other. Thanks be to the Lord God for His love and mercy
Bro Harris N Mulongesha

news from zimbabwe

BEITBRIDGE

The good news is that Christ is working. I have been able to meet brothers and sisters from across the country. It was a blessing to be at CBM Zimbabwe Northern Conference

in early August last year and the Southern Bible Weekend in the second weekend of October and the last weekend of November I was in Chivi blessed to be with Bro. Lovemore Zivanai and the members of the area in Christ. Also Bro. Museba and his sister wife from Masvingo graced the activities.

Bro. Joshua Pakali

BULAWAYO

At school I did Agriculture and I managed to get a "B" after my GEC ordinary level. At school I did many projects like chicken-rearing, rabbit -rearing and even bee-keeping. So I have sent you this five paged paper with some notes on how to rear goats on communal land. I got them from my project notes from school and some I did while I was working in Botswana. I hope this will help you and those who are keeping goats in Africa, Please let me know if you received my first information on poultry production. Very soon I will send you "Rabbit Production". My brother, I have a question on the issue of Ex. 23:8. Please explain to me about bribes in an African context. Could you please explain Daniel 7. I know the fourth beast is Rome but please explain about the little horn and the Ancient of Days.

Bro. Dzingai Sumburera

Comment: We have now printed out these interesting papers on animal husbandry and copies can be obtained direct from Bro Dzingai. c/o CBM, Box 5125, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

CHEGUTU

Thank you very much for the Shona Bible Basics that you sent me; it is going a long way and will be quite useful because right now I have students whom I am helping to do Shona lessons. I have had a discussion, which I must say has been interesting with Stan, a friend of my cousin's brother. He asked me about my religion and I gave him details of what we believe and preach and how we conduct our services and our correspondence courses. He did not understand what happens when we die, the devil, evil spirits and demons. After our talk, Stan then asked me if I had done studies with some college or university to have such knowledge. When I said no he could not believe it. He went on to say that the answers I had given him were some of the difficult answers to questions that had proved difficult to lecturers at the college he attends. Stan is a student at the University of Zimbabwe and he is doing Computer Science and Business Management. He is now an interested person who wants to start on the 40 lesson Course. Meanwhile I had a look at the bulletins of the Gospel Publicity League that you sent to my wife. It is quite amazing to read of so much activity in the Middle East.

Bro. Richard Phiri

I was baptized a couple of years ago and I have always enjoyed Gospel News. It is quite amazing how the nations are re-arming when the Bible in Proverbs 29:25 indicates that man's fear will be his snare. These nations have fear of each other so much that they spy on each other to know of

the advancements of military intelligence hence the re-arming. What does the Bible say to those who have faith in God? The same verse says that whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. I have been having terrible chest pains and a cough since August and I am receiving treatment now and hope, with your prayers and the medication that I am receiving I will be alright soon. I look forward to more information on current world affairs as the coming of our Lord draws near.
Sis. Hlezipi Phiri

CHIPINGE

To see Christ foreshadowed in the lives and circumstances of men like Melchizedek and David is not to suggest that “The Anointed” is simply another in a succession of great figures in Israel’s history. There were many in that long history who were anointed as kings, prophets and priests but this “Anointed” would have unique status above all others: “Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows” (Psalm 45:7).

God had told Moses that He would raise up a prophet “like unto thee, and will put my words in His mouth” (Deuteronomy 18:18). But Christ would speak with an authority that not even Moses could command. The apostle Peter declared that, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power” (Acts 10:38). On a sabbath day 1500 years after Moses, Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read from the prophecy of Isaiah, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:16-19 quoting Isaiah 62:1,2).

However reluctantly, his fellow Galileans in Nazareth, and later in Capernaum were forced to concede that here was a man who spoke as if the Scriptures had been written with him in mind: “And he began to say unto them, ‘This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears’. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth--- And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power” (Luke 2:21,22,32). The Jews were not mistaken in their expectation that their “Messiah” – “The Anointed” - would be their king. Their understanding was, however, incomplete. With the benefit of hindsight, it is possible to see that the Old Testament contains a wealth of detail concerning the Messiah, coming as a prophet, he would “preach good tidings, proclaiming ‘liberty to the captives” (Isaiah 61:1) not those in subjection to the Romans, but those under the domination of sin. At this, his first appearing, he would not be accepted by his fellow Jews. As a result, “the acceptable year of the Lord” would quickly give way to the day of vengeance of our God (Isaiah 61:2). As a priest, he would offer a unique sacrifice – himself - reconciling both Jews and Gentiles to God.

Jesus is now in heaven at the right hand of God and will soon return to the earth as Israel’s king. Sadly, with hundreds of Old Testament passages to draw upon, the Jews of Christ’s day had formed a picture of the Anointed One which could not accommodate their Messiah even when he came to them.

Bro Moses Dhlakama.

CHISAPE

The books you are sending help a lot in making us become spiritually self-sufficient. We should go into all the world and share the good news of the gospel. How did our turbulent world get to this point? Where are we heading? Have you ever asked such questions? Many feel somewhat lost when they look at the world scene. Realities such as warfare, disease and crime leave people wondering what the future holds. Government leaders offer little hope. However a reliable explanation of the distressing days is available from God in His Word. The Bible helps us

to see where we are in the storm of time. It shows us that we are in “the last days” of the present system of things (2 Tim. 3:1). Consider, for example, the answer Jesus gave to some questions raised by his disciples. Three days before Jesus died they asked him, “What will be the signs of your presence and of the conclusion of this system of things?” (Matt.24:3). In reply Jesus told of specific world events and situations that would clearly show that this ungodly system has entered the last days. Things have become worse and not better. Actually this is a strong indication that God’s Kingdom is about to be established.

Bro. Edwin and Sis. Shumirai Katandika

I was so glad when I received the Oct-Dec copy of Gospel News. The articles written by my brothers and sisters are so good, encouraging, informative and comforting in our wilderness journey to the Kingdom of God. When the magazine arrived I was discussing “Where Women have no Doctor” with my wife, Sister Joyce. I thank CAT and the Hesperian Foundation for these medical books and “How to Grow a Balanced Diet”. I am always using these books and they are so helpful in our day-to-day living in my family. God bless. What shall I give back to the Almighty God for me to do likewise to other brothers and sisters. I salute you for the goats project which is a good start up as an agriculturist. 1) They can be housed easily, 2) They are tolerant of most animal diseases, 3) They produce good meat, 4) Their droppings are good for garden and field manure. Sure it is true that 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. My place is well for these animals. I am requesting these books published by CAT: “Wrested Scriptures” and “A Mighty Flame, Love in the Bible” by Mary Eyre, published by the Caribbean Pioneer.

Bro. Stanford Kunzha

Thank you for Gospel News and the book on Job. I enjoy reading the articles written by brethren and sisters worldwide. It is a long time since we had any writing contact but we are connected in Jesus and we always will be. Since my return from Harare God has looked after me marvellously; and four days after arriving back here I got a parcel of books. It was a great moment when I received them.

Sis Joyce Mauge

GURUVE

We must be faithful believers and work together like ants to build the church of God. We are now in the last days and must not be like the Pharisees and Sadducees who had hard hearts.

Do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come to wake up from slumber because our salvation is nearer now than when we believed.

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently as in the daytime, not in orgies or drunkenness, not in sexual debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy (Rom 13:11-14),

Sis Loveness Ngunga

GUTU

Thank you very much for sending the information I requested on how to grow jatiopha plants. I read with much pleasure as the leaflets are very easy to read. I have so far planted some and hope that it will pay me some dividends in the near future. I also received with much pleasure the parcels of Shona Bible Basics. The first parcel I distributed to a school. They were very happy to receive them and are requesting more copies as you will see from the enclosed letter.

Bro. Tarirai Raphael Nyandoro

HARARE

The choice we make determines our eternal destiny. One leads to everlasting life and the other to condemnation. Abram was called to leave his country, his people and his home and go to the land to which God would direct him (Gen.12:1). It is hard to leave your friends, nice house and some of your family to go to a place you have never been to before, but Abram made a choice which determined his eternal destiny by following God's command to leave Ur. He left as the Lord told him and he went with Lot, Gen.12:4-5. Abram's choice was good because he believed in God. As he was to enter Egypt he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are." He said this because he was afraid that he would be killed by the Egyptians and they would take his wife. That is why he said he was the brother of Sarai. The Egyptians treated him well for the sake of his wife and he acquired cattle, sheep, male and female donkeys, menservants and women servants and camels (Gen.12:10-17).

Abram and Lot separated (Gen.13:5-13), Abram told Lot to choose first the land he wanted to have. Lot chose to pitch his tent near Sodom (Gen.13:5-13). "The Lord said to Abram, after that Lot had parted from him, Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land you see I will give you and your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can count the dust then your offspring can be counted." (vs14-16). When Sodom was attacked and Lot was taken, Abraham rounded up his men and went after the king who had taken Lot and his goods and he recovered them (Gen.14:1-21). The choice is ours, brothers and sisters, to choose light or darkness.

Bro. James Zvitete

KARIBA

After reading well part of the Da Vinci Code my mind realized the English proverb, "Many cooks spoil the pot" and this is part of a novel. This type of confusion happened to the 2nd Thessalonians ch.2:3, "Don't let anyone deceive you", Paul warned his beloved. I am very much encouraged by Rom.1:8, nothing more than such words. The mind of man is like a computer. Whatever you feed it, it reflects that. I wish all my best to please God though I may fail in some areas, as Paul said, 1 Thess.4:1-12. When Paul was on his way to Jerusalem in Acts 21:12 what a wonderful courage he showed those with him, v.14.

Bro. David Mhondiwa

KARIBA

Very soon now, God's kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ, will destroy the wicked world and provide a great deliverance for those accounted upright and blameless (Proverbs 2:21,22; Daniel 2:44). All of God's enemies will then perish, and those who love him will be as when the sun goes forth in its mightiness (Judges 5:31). Let us prove to be among the lovers of God by applying what we have learned from the scriptures.

The fundamental truth demonstrated over and over in the book of Judges is this: Obedience to God leads to rich blessings, disobedience to dire consequences (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). How vital it is that we become "obedient from the heart" to the revealed will of God (Romans 6:17; 1 John 2:17).

Bro Davison Mupariwa

KWE KWE

Christ, the spotless lamb of God, was about to present himself as a sin offering, that he would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies. As he ate the Passover with his disciples he instituted in their place the service which was to be the memorial of his sacrifice. The national festival of the Jews was to pass away forever. The service which Christ established

was to be observed by his followers in all lands and through all ages. The ordinance of the Lord's supper was given to commemorate the great deliverance wrought out as the result of the death of Christ, till he shall come the second time in power and glory, this is to be celebrated. (1 Cor.11:23-26; Luke 22:16-18).

Bro. Raphael Mutoma

The offerings presented to the Lord were to be without blemish. These offerings represented Christ and from this it is evident that Jesus himself was free from physical deformity. He was the lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Pet.1:19). His physical structure was not marred by any defect. His body was strong and healthy throughout his lifetime. He was an example of what God designed all humanity to be through obedience to His laws. God had promised to give the firstborn to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household. Christ has power to save the world, if they will have him.

Bro. Melusi Ndlovu

MUTARE

Some brothers or sisters don't gain partners but remain single. This is sometimes a cause for concern but it can be turned to good and the unmarried brother or sister is often a needed and valued member of an ecclesia. Marriage is but a parable of the greater time to come. The ecclesia is the mother, or bearer, of the children of God, who will ultimately be manifested as the sons of Diety. The devotion and love of brothers and sisters like Paul, Epaphras, Onesimus, Mary, Martha, Timothy, Luke, and Tychicus, is an example to every one of us. Their expression of love for Christ enthralled the whole ecclesia without being concentrated on a mortal partner. Paul said, "I am jealous over you with godly jealousy, for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor.11:2).

Bro. Gilber Tevere

TRIANGLE

I am writing to tell you that I was recently transferred by my work from *Triangle Estates to Zimbabwe Sugar Association - 20 km. from Triangle to the transferred place. I acknowledge receipt of the book "Where Women have no Doctor". There have been several applications for the 40 lessons which will be dealt with by Bro. Gordon Ackeroyd. It is amazing and encouraging that there are more brothers and sisters accepting the Truth in Eastern Europe. May God bless them. Where I am now living is reminiscent of Sodom, where I am vexed amidst so many people in error and non-brethren. God willing the seed will germinate in truth and grow and produce fruits.

*Triangle Estates are cane sugar growing estates.

Bro. Kuvarega Mavuvo

ZVISHAVANE

I am very thankful for the work you are doing. The times we are living in are very dangerous as most people are drifting away from the Truth. Wherever you travel people are very much concerned with money issues which cannot give them a hope for the future. My brethren, as much as time allows, let us keep on proclaiming the good news to all throughout the world. We are living under hardships but all in all we depend on the land. I am of the opinion that "until He comes whose right it is" we can temporarily depend on the land's produce, if well tilled it, but all this needs the technical know-how. Brother Marcus, kindly I ask you to send me the book, "How to Grow a Balanced Diet". It is my hope that this book will be of use not to me alone but to all with me here.

Bro. Sibangani Maka

News from Europe / Eurasia

news from austria

I love nature and all the wonderful things given to mankind by our Creator, it's only saddening to see how little regard or respect man has for it. I don't like town life, especially the modern version of it, and if weather and time allow, take myself out of town "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife". But, don't think retreating from the world is my main object in life! My main occupation, and has been for years, is letter writing, especially to the sick and lonely, and they are many. I could spend all day writing. But, one has to be in rapport with the receiver. Yes, I write to Bro. Constantine, and he replies, to my pleasure. I shall write to him this week. I know he did a very wrong thing, but we all have actions worthy of condemnation, and I am not his judge and try to give him courage and the feeling he is not forgotten. Perhaps he is protected from the world in this unhappy way, for it sounds horrible.

The greatest time-consumer is hospital visiting. I visit many who need something beyond medical care, though it is excellent here. I know most of the hospitals around Innsbruck! It has a very subduing effect to see so many in pain or in need, and one returns home humble and thankful. At least, I do. The greatest need, certainly in Europe, is not material, not money, but a kind word, perhaps just a smile. At the moment a friend of many years is in a Therapy Home high in the mountains, round many hairpin bends, for whom I've cared on many occasions. She says that she is anxious to invite me to her home (at 1500m. higher than Snowdon) as she waits for me to come. One year I visited her with my two Siamese cats and almost immediately saw that she was very ill. She refused my phoning her doctor but happily her son arrived, spoke no word but phoned for the mountain rescue team (it was winter) and they took her down the mountain by sledge, leaving me alone to cope with my cats, her two cats, three horses, rabbits, ducks, chickens and a peacock. I managed well alone for 14 days, then had nothing more to eat and was rescued and brought home.

I am in complete isolation here. Happily I have many friends, I told you I go to Esslingen Ecclesia sometimes, but not recently, and have visitors from different parts of the world. This summer I had visitors from Germany twice, from New Zealand, Australia and several times from Britain. I am content and feel very blessed. To be given knowledge of God and of His purpose is surely man's greatest blessing and I often wonder why I am chosen to have this knowledge where millions have not. It was a "happy" accident of birth? I do not know how people live with no belief and no object in life. I think this explains the violence increasing everywhere.

Sis. Mary Knecht

News from the Americas

news from trinidad

I recently had the pleasure of a visit from Bro. Colin and Sis. Cathy Badger who were in Trinidad and Tobago. My hope of getting off death row in the near future was recently terminated when

the case seeking to get us off death row was postponed again. But everything is in God's hands so I will continue to be patient, keeping my trust in Him. I enquired whether a case on my behalf, separate from that one, could be made to try to get me off death row, but I was told by Bro. Sam, who communicates with the lawyer on my behalf, that in that case, lawyers will be requesting that each inmate's case be dealt with separately, instead of asking for a specific time for the life sentence we are supposed to be given, because each person's circumstances are different, so it would not be right to give everyone the same sentence. It will therefore take some time for the whole process to be completed, but if I get my case dealt with separately, God willing, it may be the best thing for me at this point in time. If it is God's will, with my clean past and prison records, this being my first offense, and the fact that I have already spent 15 years in prison, I should be dealt with leniently. Love in Christ.

Bro. George Constantine

news from usa

Gospel News is very encouraging. The letters, which include personal exhortations, pictures and news of brothers and sisters and personal thoughts on passages of Scripture, are unlike any other of our publications. Reading and looking at the pictures of my brothers and sisters brings a personal warmth of love and sharing. So many have troubles I have been spared and most retain their positive outlook with the love of God and His only begotten Son. Yes, we need articles and study helps. Yes, we need books on prophecy. However, it is said, one picture is worth a thousand words and 'seeing' those of like precious faith is like a drink of refreshing water. By the way, for many years I have been in touch with Bro. Charles French of the GPL. I love passing on nice things: I asked him his thoughts on you and the CAT. I doubt anyone could have given a higher recommendation of you and C.A.T. May YAH continue to strengthen you for the work ahead and bless your efforts.

Sis. Eleanor Amerel

News from Asia

news from indonesia

SOLO

The Ecclesia is progressing very well , and they are planning, God willing, to enlarge the hall to accommodate the increase in membership.

Comment. This is tremendous news and may we all pray for the Lord's blessing upon the work in Indonesia.

news from philippines

BANGUI

We rejoice in the visiting exhorters from Pangasinan, Bro. Francisco Espartero and Bro. Luming Arambulo and from Isabe Sis. Mars Jemino and Sis. Luz Arambulo. The small children we contact in other areas look forward to being in God's Kingdom. Thanks always for Gospel News for providing more news, and more in the future, God willing. Please continue your support for Bangui and may God's blessing be with Gospel News that our brothers and sisters may continue to receive and keep it.

Bro. Cerinio Lorenzo

BUGALLON

Warm fraternal greetings in the precious hope we share. The copy of Bible Basics and the Gospel News that we continue to receive do not only truly enlighten us in the Truth but have become our especial spiritual mentors. They also greatly widen our atmosphere of knowledge and recognition of how the Word of God dramatically worked in the lives of men and women designed for the age to come. They add grandeur to our ecclesial library.

Bro. Sergio Bumadilla

Photo below:



The first Bugallon Ecclesia celebrated on 8th September 2005 their 20th Foundation Anniversary at the back of their old hall it was established on 8th September 1985. Bro. Sergio A. Bumadilla and his family were the first converts. The joyous celebration was attended by about 70 brethren and sisters. Sunday School pupils actively participated in the programme. The speakers dealt with Christ's Second Coming and the Day of Judgement. Attendees were truly enlightened and enjoyed the memorable event. Although isolated and "burdens were set over to afflict" their ecclesia, "they blessedly multiplied and grew" stronger in their faithful journey towards the Kingdom of God.

Bugallon Ecclesia held their Outdoor Memorial Meeting on 2nd April 2006 at Maxine Paradise Resort, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, Philippines to ease the heat of the summer. The brethren and sisters and some children enjoyed greatly the serenity of the scenic places and the refreshing, cool breeze fanned from the China Sea.

Below: Bugallon Ecclesia Sunday School pupils enjoyed overwhelmingly their whole day educational tour on 2nd May 2006 along the coastal towns of Western Pangasinan.



News from Oceania

news from cook islands

Thank you for sending Bible Basics and Gospel News which I am happy to read. I have just come back from my 3 month holiday in Australia, in Sydney and Melbourne. Bro. Shane Kirkwood and Bro. Adam Byrars were in Raro preaching. I travelled back with them to Australia and they pushed me in the wheelchairs in the airport terminal. I stayed with my daughter in Miranda, Sydney, and I have been to the Sutherland, Castle Hill, Riverwood, Westridge and Morebank ecclesias. I learnt a lot in those ecclesias; they welcomed me and I also had lunch and dinner with them. Then I moved to Melbourne, accompanied by my daughter Pamela, who was a nurse, and her two boys. I was happy to meet and stay with my two boys in Melbourne, who are doing fine. Pamela and the two boys flew back to Sydney four days later. I have been to Melbourne and Canberra ecclesias. It was an educational holiday for me. It is good to be back home away from the Australian cold and in the warm in Raro. June was our winter in Raro, but still hot, I can feel it because I wear summer clothes all the time. I can see the mango tree flowering; it is the wrong time, it should be in September. Maybe the weather in the world is changing.

What is the secret of Israel today and the future? Yes the weather was changing today, as was man's mind and heart changing too. I saw the news on TV the war in Lebanon, Hesbola and Israel shelling each other; these Arab nations want Israel to disappear from the map of the world. The President of Iran could truly say these words, from Psalm 83:4 "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." This is in the mind of some people in the world today. But we read at the end of the same chapters. 17-18, "Let them be confounded and dismayed for ever; yea, let them be put to shame and perish: that they may know that You, whose name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth."

The children of Israel are the same as Gentiles, they are no different, they sin; they were punished by God for their ignorance of the Law. In AD 70, the Jews were dispersed all over the world and today they are back in their land, today the nation of Israel is again on the map of the world.

The secret of Israel comes to us from, Jer.31:35-37: "Thus says the Lord who gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea when the waves thereof roar; the Lord of hosts is His name. If those ordinances depart from before me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus says the Lord; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, says the Lord." God's ordinance cannot be broken by any man or super power. God will make things happen in His own way according to the scriptures. With the Hope of Israel, may God bless you and Gospel News which lets our brothers and sisters in one part of the world know those in other parts of the world.

Bro. Mata Remuera

The Sinfulness of Man

What is sin? Sin is doing what we know is wrong. It also means leaving undone what is right (James 4:17).

There is a difference between temptation and sin. We must try to understand this clearly. It is not a sin to be tempted to do wrong. We know that Jesus himself was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). We sin only when we do not fight against temptation. Jealousy, hatred and pride can live in our thoughts before they are seen in our actions (Matthew 15:19).

We can sin by our words. They can be untruthful, unkind, impure. We can speak disrespectfully of God's house and laws. This is a prayer in the Bible which all Christians should pray, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth keep the door of my lips" (Psalms 141:3). We can sin by our actions: stealing, gambling and cheating are sins which can be seen. These outward sins make the world dark and unhappy, yet the sins of thoughts and words are just as evil in God's sight. We see, therefore, that sin can be inward or outward. Some people think they have sinned only when they have sinned outwardly. But actions begin with thoughts, the seed is there. Jesus showed that a man has already done wrong in his heart before he does wrong outwardly.

Sin is the most terrible thing in the world. It is the cause of all the unhappiness that men suffer. There are great world evils like war, hatred between nations, hunger and famine. There are evils like drunkenness and gambling. Yet all evils, both small and great, come from the sinfulness and selfishness of men.

Sin breaks the laws of God. The important thing for Christians to remember is that we know about sin because we know about God. It is God's voice in our hearts that makes us conscious of sin. Sin comes between us and God. It breaks the link of fellowship with Him. This is why sin makes us suffer. This is why we say sin offends (or hurts) God (Isaiah 59:2). We can understand the words of David when he said "Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight" (Ps 51:4).

God has set His law in our hearts. His law we call conscience, which warns us against wrong. It makes us glad when we have chosen the right. It makes us miserable and guilty when we have done wrong. A guilty conscience is a heavy burden. Many people carry this burden. Joseph's brothers knew they had wronged him. When they met him in Egypt years afterwards, their consciences were still making them suffer. Judas had such a guilty conscience that he killed himself in despair. All of us can understand these feelings because we have all shared them. The Bible tells us clearly, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Bro Emmanuel Maugeite (Magunje, Zimbabwe)

Remember Lot's Wife (Luke 17:32)

In order to understand what Jesus meant, we must look at the historical background to this woman, so we have made four headings;

1. WHO WAS LOT'S WIFE?

Lot, the son of Abram's brother, had a wife whose name is not given she is known just as "Lot's wife" and this is how Jesus referred to her.

2. WHAT WERE HER PRIVILEGES?

Lot, “that righteous man” (2 Pet 2:8), married her. If there are those who may wish to marry a righteous man, Lot’s wife had that blessing, apart from being married to Lot, she also lived within the blessings of Abram the first one to receive God’s promise concerning His Kingdom. It is obvious that the prayers of Abram and his blessings were not secret to her.

When she and the people were taken captive by Chedorlaomer, she witnessed how God, through Abram, saved them. She ate the bread and drank wine brought by Melchizedek the king of Salem, who was a shadow of the coming King, Jesus Christ (Gen 14:18 –20. Heb 7; 3 –17).

She would have attended on the two Angels sent by God to destroy Sodom. She was encouraged by the two angels in hurrying Lot, her and her daughters from Sodom so that they would not be destroyed, Gen 19:1-3;12-16. If we set our minds on the privileges of Lot’s wife,, she had a lot.

3. WHAT KIND OF SIN DID SHE COMMIT?

We need to remember the word God spoke to them through the angel, “do not turn back” (Gen 19:17). This statement of God to them was very plain with no need of translation. Church goers when they read this verse they ignore this and claim that the sin she committed was very, very small but the Bible does not say so, but we must understand that sin is a transgression of the law of God 1 John 3:4.

Now in order to get the inner meaning of God from this Verse “ Do not turn back” the Bible says, she started the journey with her husband and two daughters to Zoar, she was happy to have the chance to escape from the destruction, while they were on the journey to Zoar the Bible says, “But Lot’s wife turned back” (Gen 19:26). The word “turned back” probably reveals the inner character of Lot’s wife and her life style in Sodom. She was disobedient to God.

She disbelieved and lacked faith in what God had told her and did not appreciate that without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb 11:6).

She set her mind on worldly things and so showed a lack of real love of God. Although she directed her face towards Zoar her heart remained in Sodom. The Bible says where your treasure is, there will your heart be also(Matt 6:21), her heart was in Sodom and “ turned back” and reaped the wages of sin.

4 WHY DID GOD PUNISH LOT’S WIFE?

Our God is a God of kindness, mercy, graciousness and love, and forgives sins and is very patient with us. He gave her many privileges and these should have encouraged her to serve and obey God. God’s kindness is meant to lead to repentance (Rom 2:4). However, those that despise the word bring destruction on themselves (Pro 13:1).

So what did Jesus mean when he said, REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE? Jesus did not say this to the Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes but he told his friends the beloved disciples Peter, John, James etc, and all who will believe him through them. This is the great warning to all of us. Jesus knew that some of his disciples would not reach the end of their journey as they later turned back (John 6:64-66). There are many brothers and sisters who have been missionaries in one country or more but now they have turned back as did Lot’s wife. There are brothers and sisters who supported the work of God in the starting of their journey but now have turned back, like Lot’s wife. There are those who received privileges when they believed but now have turned

back. The Bible say's "what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul" (Matt 16:26).

Lot's wife had many privileges from God, but perished and there are others who will likewise perish because they turned back. Through this warning to remember Lot's wife, we have been given a beacon to life so as to understand about our future and to get prepared, as every one of us shall stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ to give an account of our stewardship (2Cor 5:10).

Bro Jonathan Nkombe (Sumbwanga, Tanzania)

A letter from Australia

"What a great privilege for our family to attend the Winter Eastern European Bible School in Poltava, Ukraine, last January. Coming from Australia, we didn't know what to expect, especially with the language barrier and not knowing anyone at all except Duncan and Cindy. Well, we certainly learned that in Christ, all barriers are broken down and we could feel the love and warmth of these brothers and sisters from many different countries in Eastern Europe. It was a real inspiration to see their love of the Word of God, and how they can apply it to their daily lives. They certainly had some animated discussion over the daily readings each morning, with some very profound thoughts coming from their discussion. This of course was all in Russian, so we thank Cindy for her fast typing on her laptop in English so we knew what was being said.

We had the readings each morning, which often went for over 1/2 hrs, then studies in English (translated into Russian) till 2pm when we ate lunch. Free time then till 5.30pm was a good time for us visitors to visit internet cafes to keep in touch with those at home, and explore the town of Poltava, and we enjoyed these excursions with Bro Matt Blewett from South Africa, another speaker at the Bible School. The weather was exceptionally warm for this time of year, so it was easy to get about with no snow. We then had further studies till 7.30 pm when dinner was served. After dinner, the evening sessions were of a lighter nature, as everyone was tired after a full day, and we especially enjoyed the wonderful concert put on by the brothers and sisters after the baptism of two sisters, Marianne and Luba.

As there were about 80 people at the Bible School, we unfortunately couldn't get to know everyone personally, but for us the highlight was the time we could spend at meals or in the evenings after the studies, getting to know individuals and hearing their stories with a translator of course. We also heard some testimonies from brothers and sisters of how they came to know the gospel, and their personal stories were very touching.

Photo: Brethren from Estonia, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus acting out the conversation of the Ethiopian eunuch.





Above: Sister Danita from Belarus outlining her plans for Sunday School work with local children

Many brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe, have difficult lives, often poor health, and have to work such long hours. They really cherish these times when they are able to get together, often from very long distances, to learn from God's Word and encourage each other, make new friends and rekindle old friendships. Many of them only see each other once a year if they can get to Bible School. The Bible School venue certainly was not luxurious by any standards, but no-one minded, as it was just being together in this wonderful fellowship that mattered. Any money donated to help this cause, was certainly well worth it, to see the joy on people's faces as they met up again, to be able to forget their daily lives for just a short while and enjoy a joyful time around the Word of God. We thank all the brothers and sisters at the Bible School for sharing it with us, for being such an inspiration to us and for making us part of their family. We will remember all of you in our prayers and have wonderful memories of this time with you all."

Dick, Janet, James and Leah Hillhouse.

Abraham's Faith

When Abraham required a burial place for his wife Sarah, he did not possess even enough of that land for that sad purpose, but had to buy a field for 400 shekels of silver (Gen. 23:15-16). Nearly 2000 years later the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, commented on this strange situation: "By faith (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land... For he looked forward to the city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:9-10). The city for which Abraham looked was not one in the sky, although it would be a heavenly city, but a divinely provided political occupation of the very same land that the Lord had promised him and had covenanted to him and to his descendants.

To me Abraham is the prime example of a man of supreme faith. He fully believed the solemn promises that God had made to him of a land and a people, when the land was occupied by others, when he did not have a child and his wife was barren. It is not given to many men to have a faith such as that. But his faith went even further, for he realized that neither he nor his descendants would have that land during his lifetime. His faith therefore was extended to believe that God could and would raise him, up from the dead.

These divine covenants with Abraham are the basis of the 'Hope of Israel' which is the theme that gradually unfolds in the Bible, which takes on a deeper meaning with the advent of Jesus Christ, and which is about to reach its tremendous climax with the second advent of the Messiah, the promised, specific, descendant of Abraham, through whom the whole of the covenant will be completed. Amen.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

Mastering The Weight

The Bible is plain and emphatic that we all have descended from Adam. Therefore being descendants of Adam, we are under the law of sin and death. If all this had ended here we would be pitied, but thanks to our God for His unfathomable love.

Every son of Adam has a 'weight' which without the intervention of God would bring man to an end without any further hope. Now because of what God did through Christ, the weight in man can be mastered. Let us admit we all have weights. The writer to the Hebrews says, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that easily entangles" - The weight that hinders progress in our walk in Christ. It is not my duty to point out the weight or sin of any of us, but if we can take a close self examination of ourselves, we can be good witnesses of ourselves. Jesus made mention of the foot and the eye; if these cause us to sin, it is better to cut them off. The implication is that having established the area of our failings, or weight, we had better stop doing that particular thing which causes us to stumble and fall.

But with our own strength this is quite an impossibility. The sin burden in us has to be surrendered to Christ who is always very willing to relieve us. He said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Yes indeed the burden of sin is wearisome. This is why the writer to the Hebrews says, 'it is a weight which needs to be laid aside', so our progress in the race before us can be won.

Bro. Sylvester Tembo (Mzuzu, Malawi)

Great News from Washington, USA.

"On Sunday 26 November, 2006 Brother Michael Warren of the Vancouver, Washington USA ecclesia had the honor of baptizing Scott and Lisa Ketelsen of Tacoma, Washington.

"Scott and Lisa had been members of a church for ten years in Puyallup, Washington but were excommunicated a year ago for believing that Jesus was the Son of God, and not "God the Son." There were others excommunicated also, whom Scott and Lisa have been in regular contact with, and whom they've shared Bible literature with.

"Scott and Lisa met Brother Warren through an online advertizement he placed on Craigs list seeking other "Biblical Unitarians" who were in isolation or seeking like-minded believers. Scott and Lisa had already come to a basic understanding of the Truth, but were not familiar with Christadelphians. Over the past few months they have spent numerous hours listening to MPR downloads on Bible doctrine, and reading Christadelphian literature.

"Although both Scott and Lisa had been baptized before, they both felt a need to be rebaptized in the name of Yashuah the Anointed One, the Son of God. They believe that the new knowledge they have received over the past year is so important that they wanted to commit themselves to the true God, and His Son, in the presence of like-minded brothers and sisters.

"There were 22 people present at the baptism and at the dinner that followed at the home of Brother Wayne Franklin, and his wife Sister Jill. Many members of the Vancouver Ecclesia, and brothers and sisters from the surrounding area came to witness the baptism, and to fellowship

over a wonderful turkey dinner! "So, we welcome Brother Scott and Sister Lisa to our worldwide brotherhood!"

"The Vancouver USA ecclesia has also been very busy mailing out Introduction to Bible Basics booklets all over the USA and Canada. We mail out hundreds of booklets every month. Sister Jill Franklin should be applauded for her hard work and dedication to this outreach! She spends hours every week stamping envelopes and booklets with our ecclesia's post office box. She also places a form letter in each envelope and mails them! We've begun to get Q&A sheets back from some of the folks who are reading the booklet. Please pray for this Carelinks outreach that we will see a great harvest of souls in this endeavor. Truly, the need is great and the time is late. There is a great harvest to reap, but there are few laborers!

"If you would like to become more involved with outreach here in the USA and Canada, please contact the Vancouver Ecclesia regarding helping out with Bible literature, or with projects you can help support through Carelinks USA. info@vancouverecclesia.net.

In Our Shared Hope,

Brother Michael Warren on behalf of The Vancouver USA Ecclesia, and Carelinks USA."

"Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world" (Rom 10v18)

Free Dictionary / Thesaurus

As part of our on-going programme of endeavouring to help our readers understand the English language, we are happy to send a free Dictionary/Thesaurus to any that send material for publication in Gospel News. The Dictionary has clear definitions of over 40,000 words and the Thesaurus 100,000 synonyms (words that mean the same, sometimes giving a deeper meaning) - listed in word groups of synonyms and related concepts. From: Christadelphian Advancement Trust, 49 The Woodfields, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 OHJ, England.

NOTES TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE ABOUT THE THESAURUS WHICH IS AFTER THE DICTIONARY

The dictionary explains simply what a word means.

The Thesaurus provides each word with a list of words which have a similar meaning but NOT necessarily the same meaning. In English, one word can have several meanings or even a lot of meanings. Words with similar meanings have a comma (,) between them and words with different meanings have a semicolon (;) between them.

Some words in the Thesaurus have many different meanings and have a small figure 1 or 2 which will indicate this. An example is the word 'firm; firm' is an adjective (describing word) and the many words with similar meanings are in 4 groups; firm (small 2) is a noun meaning a company or business.

If you are not sure about the meaning of a word, you may be able to check it in the Dictionary. We hope that you will find the book, and this note, useful.

Is the Bible the Word of God? (brief notes from a talk)

The intricate design of living things and the precise balance of the solar system cry out to us that there must be a grand designer. We start with the premises that there is a God – our Creator.

We would EXPECT such a wise designer and creator to COMMUNICATE with his creation - to let them know why he made them, what he expects of them, and what future they might have.

Where do we look for such a revelation? Man's writings make no serious claim to be from God, and man's opinions often contradict one another. A revelation from God would TELL US and CLAIM that status – that is the first test we can apply. This narrows the field down to a few books claiming divine authority or origin, and the Bible stands out as superior in every way.

Many writers acknowledge that the Bible is unique. One wrote as follows:-

“There is an extraordinary wisdom, sublimity and majesty in the style of the Bible, which is above man. Strange as it may seem, the ancient writers of scripture have produced a book which even today is unrivalled...It stands entirely alone...because there is a strain, a style, and a tone of thought which separates it from all other writings.”

Let us apply some tests:-

1) Does it claim to be God's Word? Yes, throughout! Note 2 Peter 1:21: “Holy men of God spake AS THEY WERE MOVED by the Holy Spirit (the power of God)”.

2) Does it speak with authority? Yes, throughout. One example – Isaiah 8:20: “If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”.

3) Have its prophecies been fulfilled? Yes, time and again, in detail. For example, the whole history of the Jews, their scattering, survival and re-gathering, all foretold in advance, in detail. Likewise Babylon was to perish (fulfilled exactly) Egypt was to remain, but always a third-rate country (fulfilled exactly). Many more examples can be given to convince a fair mind.

1) Is its TEACHING consistent? Yes, for example, from beginning to end it teaches that mankind is MORTAL: death is OBLIVION although there is hope of a future RESURRECTION for those who respond to the love of God.

2) If it is the word of God, we would expect it to have a very important message- does it? Yes, it tells us how we can be saved from the consequences of our own sins and failings – by belief in “the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 8:12).

As we would expect, the message is both important and urgent, calling upon all men and women to ACT, and DO SOMETHING before it is too late. Jesus instructed his disciples like this: “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel (good news) to every creature. HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTISED SHALL BE SAVED” (Mark 16:15,16).

The ultimate proof that the Bible is the Word of God is its message. It gives true teaching on all moral issues and, above all, it tells us what to do to be saved from an eternal grave. Surely this is what we would expect from a book claiming to be the Word of God?!

Bro David Webb (Walton, UK)

The Name of God

Well if we want to learn about someone's life, clearly we must get to know them closely. This is so as far as the life of God is concerned. The Lord Jesus says (John 17:3) "this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent". How then do we come to know God, the great Almighty Creator of all things?

This vital question occupied the mind of Moses and he realized that in order to know God, one had to have a knowledge of His ways. In Exodus 33:13 it is recorded that Moses said unto the Lord, "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee."

"If I have found grace in thy sight". Moses acknowledges that God chooses who his will be (in v.19). With this in mind Moses asks to be shown God's ways that he may thereby come to know Him. Now if we take the terms of Moses' request and also those of divine response, we learn that God's ways are His glory, and that this refers to God's goodness. Furthermore all this – His ways, His glory and His goodness – constitute His Name.

Here then in this brief summary of God's characteristics, is a proclamation of His Name – what He is known for – His glory, His ways, His goodness. There is an added attribute in v.14 of chapter 34 where we are told that "the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God". The actual Hebrew names that are used here (translated as "LORD" and "God" in the English) add an important dimension to what we are being told. It is not simply that this is what God is like (though that is true). This proclamation uses two Hebrew titles: "the Lord" (Hebrew: YAHWEH, meaning HE WHO WILL BE), "God" (Hebrew: MIGHTY ONES). All in all it means WHO WILL BE MIGHTY ONES which are to manifest the characters shown to Moses.

Bro. Moses Dhlakama (Chipinge, Zimbabwe)

The Seven Steps to Salvation

The Bible teaches that sin is transgression of God's law. All people who know the difference between right and wrong have sinned and our sins separate us from God. The punishment for sin is death, "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23).

God loves us. He does not want us to perish, therefore He has provided a way to be forgiven, "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). In order for us to be forgiven of our sins, and therefore receive eternal life, we must accept the salvation which Christ has made possible. There are five steps which we must take to receive this salvation:

HEAR

First, we must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). One is not a Christian because his parents are. Faith cannot be inherited (Eze 18:20). Each person must believe in Jesus Christ for himself. Christianity is a religion of teaching, Matthew 28:19,20. Unless one has heard the gospel and learned that Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose from the dead, he cannot be saved, 1

Corinthians 15:1-4. The apostle Paul wrote, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14. One must first hear the gospel before they can believe it.

BELIEVE

Second, one must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus said, "If you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins" John 8:24. The jailor at Philippi asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They told him to, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:30,31). Jesus also said, "He who believes and is baptised will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). One comes to believe in Jesus Christ when one hears the gospel he taught. Faith comes only by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). This is the reason it is so important that the gospel be preached to the whole world (Mark 16:15).

REPENT

Third, one must repent of his sins in order to be saved (Acts 17:30,31). Jesus commanded that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). Repentance is the result of being sorry for one's sins. When the Jews on the day of Pentecost learned from Peter that they had crucified the son of God, they were "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). They wanted to be forgiven of their sins, so they asked "What shall we do?" They were told to "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:37,38). When one repents, he turns away from his sins (1 Thessalonians 1:9). He shows he has repented by doing good works (Mark 3:8).

CONFESS

Fourth, one must confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This great truth is the very foundation upon which the church of Christ is built. Jesus said that we must be willing to confess him before men if we want him to confess us before the Father (Matt 10:32,33). The apostle Paul wrote, "But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is the word of faith which we preach) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:8-10). When Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, the eunuch asked, "What hinders me from being baptised?" Philip told him he could be baptised if he believed. The eunuch then confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God" (Acts 8:35-38). We must make this important but simple confession also in order to be saved.

BE BAPTISED

Fifth, one must be baptised in order to be saved. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptised will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Please note that baptism follows belief. One who does not believe the gospel cannot be truly baptised. Therefore babies cannot be baptised for they are too young to (1) Have sin (2) Hear the gospel. (3) Repent of sins and (4) Confess that Jesus Christ is the son of God. Baptism also followed repentance on the day of Pentecost: Peter told those who asked what to do to be saved to "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised" (Acts 2:38). One cannot be truly baptised who has not truly repented.

Baptism is a burial in water (Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12). Therefore sprinkling or pouring are not proper baptisms. Baptism is in order to be saved. One is not saved before baptism. Baptism is for the remission (forgiveness) of sins. Just as Jesus shed his blood for remission of sins, (Matthew 26:28), so we are baptised in order to receive remission of sins. In baptism, the sinner's sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus (Acts 22:16, Revelation 1:5).

What does one have to do in order to be forgiven of one's sins? One must (1) Hear the gospel of Christ (2) Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (3) Repent of all sins (4) Confess that Christ is God's Son (5) Be baptised for the remission of sins. When a person does this, he is added by the Lord, to his church, ecclesia. He/she is then in Christ where all spiritual blessings are to be found (Ephesians 1:3). In short, they are Christians (1 Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26; 26:28). In summary, have you taken these simple steps to salvation? If not, why not start today?

Bro Mayende Erisania Sifuna (Busia, Uganda)

A Correlation - A Sister's Role in the Family

Every now and then someone would ask, 'What can we do to attract our young people. Are our talks catchy enough, or we divulging the right information, what can we do to keep them?' On the one hand there are some who feel that our kids are spoilt; they can sit for three hours and watch a movie without once getting up, but can't sit still in the meeting for one hour, so it's all a matter of discipline; they should know that 'church' is important and be expected to rally out.

On the other hand - some feel that kids should be allowed to make their own decisions, if they are not interested in a religious way of life then maybe one day, when they are older, they will develop an interest. In the meanwhile we should try and keep them entertained, going to all lengths, even if it means relaxing some of the scriptural principles.

And not only the kids, but we as adults, do we require various forms of 'entertainment' to keep our attention at the meeting, or to bring us to the meeting for that matter. I was thinking of possible reasons when it would be okay to miss a meeting. Some of the 'good' ones are, Oh I have to prepare a talk, after all, it's a Bible class I have to prepare and so it is okay if I stay home today and get my talk done.

Or, A close relative is getting married and they would be very upset if I did not go to the wedding. In some parts of the world weddings are still done on a Sunday by some religious groups. And so the reasoning is, Well, since they are only getting married once, (well so they say) then I can skip the meeting this week. Some not so good reasons, Well my non-religious relatives are over, and I cannot leave them to go and serve God! Or perhaps you just wake up late and simply cannot make it!

The young people are watching us! They will emulate what they see. This is what I have seen growing up in the truth. When I think about all the families that I have been around, either at the meeting or in their homes, I see a startling correlation between the spiritual dedication of the female leader in the home and the attitude of the children to ecclesial life.

By no means am I attempting to excuse the male, he could be an excellent brother, does his Bible study, gives good talks, is even an arranging brother; however, when he does not have the support of a sister to help him to motivate the children in a spiritual direction we see less and

less of the children and, in some cases, the grandchildren appear. I know we frown upon our young females when they fall into this pattern, however since boys do not get pregnant, they escape that predicament.

But back to our mothers. In almost all of the families that I have known, where mom was completely behind the kids - bringing them to the meeting from birth, not distracted by the annual awards event at school, not giving in to the whines about not feeling well today - those little boys and girls are assisting in nurturing their meetings and are fully supportive of all their activities.

On the other hand, where the mom is more concerned about whether Sam will get into Harvard, or the extra lesson on a Sunday or during the mid-week Bible class, so that Raj can top his county, or allowing Sandy to miss Sunday School because it's her grand performance at the Majestic Piano Finale, that is exactly where the kids are today - not at the meeting but everywhere else. Of course there are exceptions to the rule, and by no means am I trying to lay blame solely on the mother. I am simply pointing out my observations over the years. And I cannot help but notice a strong correlation between these two factors.

Perhaps it's because children tend to gravitate towards mom's feelings more so than towards dad's. So, since we live in an age where females are becoming more and more influential, may I suggest that following the advice of Paul in 1 Tim. 5.14 our mothers bring and keep the future brothers and sisters at our meetings.

Bro Ben Drepaul (New York, USA).

A Refugee's Personal Testimony

I am aged thirty-five years and my wife Sister Mwashite Kotongo thirty-one years, live with our six children in a four bedroom house in Boston, in the Mass Housing program of the USA. Both my parents were United Methodist in my country of Congo, and both were killed during the 1990 war there. I put on the saving name of Jesus Christ at Maputo, Mozambique, on October 1st, 1999, in the Ruvuma Hotel when Bro Duncan Heaster baptised me, assisted by Sister Leonie Verster of South Africa and Brother Caotan Cohello; there were other Brethren and Sisters and friends from Congo and Burundi. It was a time of much joy, because on the same day four others were also baptised by Brother Duncan in the Indian Ocean of Mozambique.

We all learned the truth from Bro Paul and Sis Leonie Verster and Bro Caotan of South Africa, They travelled each month to instruct us and bring items for those of us living at the Bobole Refugee Camp.

Since my baptism I strive to keep in the way of salvation and know that my sins are covered by the work of Christ. My aim in life is to attain to the Kingdom of God's grace. I try to let other people know the way of truth. I also read and learn from my Bible every day and I pray God to help me with my family in the future. I get much encouragement and see the Kingdom getting closer. Let us all be of one mind, purpose, faith and love, because we are born of the same seed (1Peter1:22,23). I thank God and you so much for helping me find resettlement in the United States of America; Again my thanks to the US Government and UNHCR Mozambique, and Mozambican Government for together enabling this program for allowing refugees resettlement

in the USA; may God bless them. Finally thanks so much from me and my big family to the Boston Ecclesia for the making us so happy and the tremendous help they have given us.

Brother Jean-Claude Asende Bembeleza (Boston USA).

5 Minutes to the Nuclear Doomsday

On January 17th, 2007, the Directors of the symbolic Atomic Doomsday clock advanced it from seven to five minutes nearer to a nuclear holocaust because of the increasing dangers of nuclear weapons being used. They use the clock as the analogy of the human race being at a time that is “minutes to midnight” where midnight represents destruction by nuclear war. This information comes from the January, 2007, ‘Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ (a group of prominent nuclear scientists) who see the dangers of a nuclear apocalypse as greater than the environmental disaster. They said, “The dangers posed by climatic change are nearly as dire as those posed by nuclear weapons”.

Russia and the United States have 27,000 nuclear weapons, many of which are primed and ready for instant use. The report says, “It’s important to realize 50 of today’s nuclear weapons could kill 200 million people”. Five on England could kill half the population – leaving the rest to ultimately die from the effects.

Already the USA’s high security system has been hacked into – a nuclear disaster could easily be instigated by such acts or terrorist activity or one of the newer nations using them and so activating the nuclear defence systems, which at the press of a button could cause unimaginable destruction – virtually the genocide of humanity.

The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons, costing trillions, are called ‘defensive weapons’ which means that when a nation is attacked it can/will use them in defence.

The Bible speaks of a form of destruction which some think sounds like the effects of nuclear weapons in the coming battle for Jerusalem. The Message Contemporary Language Bible renders Zech. 14:11-13,

“Never again will Jerusalem be totally destroyed. From now on it will be a safe city. But this is what will happen to all who fought against Jerusalem: God will visit them with a terrible plague. People’s flesh will rot off their bones while they are walking around; their eyes will rot in their sockets and their tongues in their mouths; people will be dying on their feet! Mass hysteria when that happens – total panic!”

This all seems to happen after Christ’s return to the earth and so true believers will escape the effects of this catastrophe, and inherit the earth for ever. MH

Life-Giving Water

Water, a colourless and odourless liquid that covers about 70% of the earth's surface, is the most widely used solvent by nearly all creatures that inhabit and roam the earth.

No wonder the whole Israelite community, having camped at Rephidim during their wilderness journey, quarrelled with Moses when they found out that there was no water there to drink. Moses, the meekest man on earth at the time, was astounded, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" he implored. "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?" they roared back at him. This was the third time the people were grumbling against Moses. The first time was at Marah where the water was bitter and they couldn't drink it. Moses was shown a piece of wood which he threw into the water and the water became sweet. The second time was when the community was between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they came out of Egypt. Here the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Moses told them that, in effect, they were grumbling against the Lord and not against him (Moses).

The ever-loving and caring Lord gave them quails to eat in the evening and manna in the morning. The manna, which was bread rained down from heaven, was under the layer of dew around the camp in the morning. When the dew was gone, they beheld thin flakes like frost on the ground scattered all over the desert floor around the camp. They did not know what these things were! Moses told them to gather and eat it for it was bread from heaven. Again dew, a form of water, was vital here in bringing down daily bread to the Israelites in their wilderness journey.

The deliverance from Egypt was intensely disappointing for the people. They were poor slaves expecting to be supplied with the good things of the flesh. God's point of view was that they had been under the influence of idolatry and needed purging and instruction before entry into the Promised Land. They still had with them the presence of God's pillar of fire by night and cloud by day – a daily and nightly reminder of His presence and guidance. The discernment of the recent bondage in Egypt seemed to fade in their minds, and looking back seemed to become a sort of paradise to them – much preferable to the future promised land. God made promises to them (Exodus 6:5,6), that He would deliver them and bring them to the land. But every promise of God is two-fold: of God's faithfulness which He was now showing, but also of the people's faith. And this was sadly lacking.

What about us? When confronted with possible infirmities of the flesh, due to old age or poverty, do we look back with longing to the days of physical fitness or when we had enough to eat, wear and spend, and fail to count our many blessings, with our Promised Land and returned Saviour near at hand? We, too, must learn to trust God and His word, whatever trials come to us, and depend on His goodness.

At Rephidim the people had plenty of water: that same water that gushed out of the rock which was struck by Moses' staff. That same staff with which he struck the Nile to turn the water into blood. That same staff which was changed into a snake to try to soften Pharaoh's heart so that he would let the Israelites leave Egypt. Paul, in his well-known words in 1 Corinthians 10, interpreted these events and reminded them and us, "and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and the rock was Christ" (v 4). Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our infirmities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed (Is 53:4,5). But Paul also reminds us of the privilege and responsibilities of the people who "drank from the spiritual rock"

– even as we have. “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us.”

Numbers 2:10 brings us to the sad event nearly forty years later when Moses, in his vexation, struck the rock twice saying, “must we bring you water out of this rock?” This spoiled the type, for in Hebrews we find that “Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many”, (9:28) and that there is a ghastly penalty for those who “crucify the Son of God all over again” (Heb 6:6). Moses, the meekest man on earth (Num 12:3), became angry, broke God’s commandment and as a punishment was not allowed to lead the nation into the Promised Land.

As we have seen, water itself is essential for life. One can do without food for quite a long time, but death will fall upon one relatively soon if water is withheld. Water is symbolic of the Word of God, which brings the promise of eternal life and without it we would die spiritually now and eternally later.

John 4:10 records the discourses between Jesus and the woman at the well of Samaria regarding the life-giving water, where Jesus said, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water”. And continued, “Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst ... will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”, and then tells her of salvation and of worshipping God in Spirit and in truth.

So this living water is the Word of God, preached by Christ, and it is vital to life. In Jeremiah 2:13 God laments that His people had forsaken Him, “the spring of living water” and that they had dug their own cisterns that held no water. God, in His pleasing words in Isaiah, invites the people, “Come all who are thirsty, come to the waters...listen to me, and your soul will delight, I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David”.

What a privilege for us to have heard and responded to this invitation! What comfort we also have in these words in Isaiah 49:10! “They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the heat of the sun scorch them; He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them besides springs of water”.

Being so privileged and with such a glorious hope before us, we must be careful each day not to fall into the habit of murmuring and grumbling at any seeming inconvenience or hardships that may come our way, but with cheerful and appreciative hearts acknowledge the abounding goodness of God to each one of us.

Bro Justin Mwakasege (Ipinda, Tanzania)

An Ambition

“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. Rather as it is written. Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand. This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you” (Romans 15:20-21)

The Old Paths are the Right Ways

“Stand ye in the ways, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16-17).

God in His mercy was to establish Israel as an instrument of divine revelation in the world and constitute her a witness amongst the contemporary pagan generation, one true and living God (Deut. 7:6-8). God therefore told them: “Take care to follow the commands, decrees and law I gave you today.” (Deut. 7:11-12). But Israel rebelled and sinned against the Lord God.

About five years after King Josiah instituted his reform in Jerusalem, the prophet Jeremiah received a divine call to prophesy to the people of Judah and the surrounding nations. (Jer. 1:9, 20:9, 1:6). Jeremiah concentrated upon warning the nation about the imminent disaster from the north (Jer. 1:13) and denouncing the various corruptions of contemporary life. Jeremiah like other prophets was sent by God to lead Israel with knowledge and understanding (Jer. 3:15). But despite the stubbornness of their hearts God in his kindness asked them to return to him if only they acknowledged their guilty heart (Jer. 3:12-13). Therefore God wanted them to live. He clearly told them “to stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

God had recalled the nation to remember about his undying love achieved in the Israeli’s history, prophecy and the Law which represented the good ways. That means to take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws which are the ancient paths of the Mosaic tradition best to practice because they are true. Through these they would be saved. But they refused to walk in them and were engaged in the “work of flesh” (Deut. 9:12). The prophets were God’s sentinels over the nations (Isa. 52:8, Ezek. 3:17, Hab. 2:1).

The trumpet blast was a signal to escape the disaster (Amos 6:1, 3:6). But they hardened their hearts despite all the warnings, the people refused to flee from the wrath to come. God called the Gentiles to witness the sentence of destruction that would come to them because the nation had ignored God’s word and rejected the covenant with him (Jer. 6:18-19). For that reason the nation suffered a severe persecution because of their sins.

So for us today God’s love proves to us that he does not show favouritism (Rom. 2:11). Jews and Gentiles alike are under sin. All have turned away and become worthless (Rom. 3:9-18). It was because that God had compassion towards all mankind that he sent His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

The Bible today is our trumpet blast which warns us of the coming disaster in this world. Jesus Christ is the new covenant who made us able to approach God on an individual basis rather than as members of a historically-covenanted group. Walking in the ways of God is to learn, understand and practice His promises in Christ Jesus and appreciate our heavenly Father for the value of the precious hope of life eternal He sets before us freely if only we repent. Jesus Christ is to come in this world suddenly and will judge the world..

There is time for any person to repent and be healed while God’s wrath is tempered with mercy. “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him (Ps. 103:11). Dear brethren and sisters, let us not engage ourselves in the work of the flesh nor in worldly things that are to pass away at the appearing of Christ Jesus. Let us be firm in the Truth; patient, gentle and compassionate to exhort and praying for those who are out of God’s ways

while the time remains. Why lose courage?
Bro. Isidore E. Mwibeleca (Lugufu 1, Tanzania)

Questions and Answers

Did the people in the Old Testament have forgiveness of sins? If they did, why was it necessary for Jesus to die?

Briefly, the godly people in the OT could have forgiveness in the prospect of Jesus' sacrificial death whereas we can have forgiveness in retrospect of Jesus' sacrifice.

Jesus' death is the all-sufficient and only means of forgiveness for all, no matter when they lived. So it is efficacious for all sins – those which were committed before he came and those which continue to be committed since his death.

Regarding the past, Paul says in Romans 3: 25, 26:

“God presented him (Jesus) as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” (NIV).

The King James' version puts it:

(Jesus) “whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God...that he (God) might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus”.

So in the New Testament and Christian era, we get (Luke 24: 47):

“and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his (Jesus') name to all nations”.

In the Old Testament era, we get:

- the rather enigmatic verse, Genesis 3:15, which promises a descendant of Eve who would deal a mortal blow to the sin power.

- the promise to Abraham that in his seed (singular) all nations would be blessed (Genesis 22:18) – of no consequence to Abraham if it didn't work for him too! This promise was repeated to Isaac and Jacob.

- all the elaborate ritual of the Law of Moses, teaching that every sin had to be atoned for through the offering of a perfect sacrifice. Clearly, God didn't want a perfect animal but a perfect human being. No man could offer himself as this and so the faithful in the OT recognised that God would provide the means of satisfying this requirement. And so their forgiveness and salvation would come through him. That is why, in John 8: 56, Jesus says to the Jews, “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad”. And why Paul in Galatians 3: 8 said, “The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’”

Two points are worth pondering:

- God knows the end from the beginning (we don't) and knew that giving human beings free will would result in disobedience (sin) requiring a saviour. Therefore God planned, from the beginning, to send Jesus to be a sacrifice for sin. So Jesus is referred to in Revelation as the 'Lamb slain from the foundation of the world' (Revelation 13: 8).

- God cannot just ignore or turn a blind eye to sin. It is abhorrent to Him and must be dealt with. God demands perfect righteousness and He cannot compromise his holiness. Thus the problem – how can God be just and yet justify sinners? The solution He devised: accepting the offering of the perfect life of Jesus (one of us) and granting forgiveness of sins and imputing righteousness to those who believe and are baptised into Christ.

Bro Leon and Sis Joan Shuker, (South Africa)

What Is Meant To Be “In Christ”?

There are four things that we share in Christ. These are faith, love, hope and unity. The word unity means a lot to us: it means oneness in Christ. I can underline the word oneness. We share suffering with each other: we encourage one another spiritually. We are together in the cup we share, which means we love each other. We are not boastful and we show trust. That means that we do not keep records of those who do wrong. Paul describes the real love that we must have in 1 Corinthians 13.

When we separate ourselves from the darkness to the light, we begin to walk with the same faith, love and hope that unites us all in Christ. We must know Christ's suffering, resurrection and fellowship (Philippians 3:10). What we must do is to mature from childhood (Philippians 3:15,16). We must not be like a political person who claims agreement in one meeting and afterwards goes his own way. To be a Christian we are joined together with Christ.

Why do we compare what we are doing with what others are doing? Look at the workers in the vineyard who looked at the times others had been working? They all agreed payment of one denarius. We are all working at God's work. Why do we point at the faith, love and hope of others. Let us look at God's big picture: He chose one nation, He gave it one land, one tabernacle and one covenant. That was to demonstrate how to be one body. So why do we look upon our differences. While we are in God's field, are the crops different? I say that to mix crops would not be good farming. If the crop is maize, the field should have merely maize. On harvesting day, only maize meal will be harvested. Look again. God redeemed Israel as one family. By the death of Christ, we are redeemed as one body (Amos 3:1; Ephesians 2:16). When Paul said that we are God's fellow-workers, should we look at what others are doing or should we continue as fellow-workers as in the time of Jesus. He knew that Judas was going to betray him, but did Jesus throw him out?

As fellow-workers we must work according to the commandments of Jesus. Let us not receive the word of God in vain. If we are all sheep in the same flock, we all hear the same voice (Exodus 34:5). We are all Christadelphians united with Jesus and sharing the same cup. We must love and trust each other with love that does not keep records of bad things. We must not take God's work as a commercial company. If we changed God's ways into our ways, that would be our own ungodly desires (Jude 19). God said "Your ways and thoughts are not mine" (Isaiah 55:8). Note what the ecclesia at Corinth was. Many of us are like them. Divisions are still with us. Paul said,

“God is the only one who makes things grow” (1 Cor3:7) and each one shall be given his/her reward according to their labour (v8).

We must not use philosophy or a carnal mind to run the vineyard of God. Mark the fact that Romans says that we have all been grafted into the same olive tree, and we are all branches (Romans 11:17). Christ is the only trunk, so why are we judging others and saying that they are not so good? Are we political parties that have factions? 1 John 4:20 warns us that while we say we love God, how can we hate our brothers? Jesus Christ teaches us that we must love in oneness, as he washed the feet of his disciples (John 13:14). Let us be in unity to uplift God in the world. If our house is divided it will finally fall (Matt 12:25). Remember that Christ is not divided. If we are among those who look after God’s sheep or work in the vineyard with a carnal mind, beware, we shall be in the class of the son of Nebat. Why do we put limits on God’s work? If we do, we would oppose Christ’s command (Matthew 28:19).

Bro Dzingai Submerera (Bulawayo, Zimbabwe)

Teach Us To Pray

As a Christian, praying is essential in our daily lives. We have many prayers written in the Bible, and we may learn to pray from them. Praying is talking to God through Jesus our mediator. Praying to God may mean that we are lacking something which we need to assist us in our daily life.

First of all, when praying, we should thank God for His security in our lives and for the things we have received, then we should pray for forgiveness for our daily sins. Then we should pray for the things we need in our daily lives, and for the sick in hospital and all people in general. Before we end our prayer, we should remember our brethren and sisters for the hard work they do in the Lord by preaching the gospel worldwide. We should end our prayer by asking God to send Jesus soon, to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. We may need to add other things, but prayer should include these things.

A daily

O God our father in heaven, the God of Israel, through Jesus we come to thank you for your daily guidance in our lives, and for the good things you have done for us. We know that we are sinners in our daily walking and talking. We may stumble at any time without knowing, but we ask for forgiveness for whatever we have done wrong. Forgive us our sins and lead us not into temptation. We ask for your guidance in our lives. Give us our daily bread. We have none beside you as a refuge. You are the only one whom we should seek for anything we need and to whom we should run as our refuge. We pray for the sick, for their pains to be relieved, and for the oppressed to be helped. We pray for our brothers and sisters wherever they are to be guided in what they do. Give them strength to disperse your word of truth to the ends of the earth. We pray for our government that we may have peace. So send Jesus our Saviour to save the world, so that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

All these we pray through Jesus Christ our Saviour and King. Amen.

Bro Isaac Kapa (Tongaren, Kenya)

Peace

PEACE: We must value and cherish peace with God above every other consideration, and must carefully avoid, or immediately correct, anything in our lives and conduct that jeopardizes that peace.

Arithmetics

ARITHMETICS: “We know that God’s arithmetic is somewhat odd. When you subtract by giving away, you get more.” Desmond Tutu.